

**HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

**February 4, 2026**

**HB 115 – Election Law – Individuals Released from State  
Correctional Facilities – Automatic Restoration of Voter Registration**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the Protection & Advocacy agency in Maryland, federally mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to increase opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities to be part of their communities through voting. DRM supports HB 115, which requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to automatically restore the voter registration of individuals released from incarceration who were registered to vote in Maryland prior to their incarceration.

HB 115 creates a requirement for the Department of Public Safety to provide the SBE on a weekly basis with the names and addresses of individuals released from incarceration. SBE is then responsible for automatically restoring each individual's voter registration at their new address and notifying them by mail of their active voter status.

DRM strongly supports this bill and recognizes its significance for formerly incarcerated Marylanders with disabilities, who often face barriers when reintegrating into their communities. Protecting their fundamental voting rights by removing obstacles in the voting registration process is essential to ensuring full civic participation.

In Maryland, approximately 16,000 people are unable to vote due to currently serving criminal convictions.<sup>1</sup> This disenfranchisement disproportionately affects underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities. Nationally, approximately 38% of incarcerated individuals have at least one disability, highlighting the significant impact of voter

disenfranchisement on this population.<sup>2</sup> HB 0115 marks a significant step forward by requiring the Department of Public Safety and State Board of Elections to collaborate in restoring voting rights for individuals upon release, significantly reducing uncertainty for those incarcerated for felony convictions—many of whom have disabilities—about the registration and restoration process.

**For these reasons, DRM requests a favorable report on House Bill 115.** Please do not hesitate to contact me at [BradenS@DisabilityRightsMD.org](mailto:BradenS@DisabilityRightsMD.org) or by phone at 443-692-2485 with any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sentencingproject.org/fact-sheet/why-we-must-restore-voting-rights-to-over-16000marylanders/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/disabilities-reported-prisoners-survey-prison-inmates-2016>