



Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change

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**HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
HB 263: Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Bus Stops
February 4, 2026
POSITION: SUPPORT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM, formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the Protection & Advocacy agency of Maryland, charged with defending and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. DRM submits this testimony in support of House Bill 263.

DRM supports HB 263. This bill improves access to early voting centers by requiring local fixed-route buses to stop at or near early voting sites, making it easier for voters to reach polls using public transportation. Many voters with disabilities rely on local transit for daily activities. By allowing passengers on local buses to board and disembark at or near the entrance of early voting centers, the bill expands accessible travel options and strengthens electoral participation for people with disabilities.

While DRM supports this bill, we note that it is unclear as to the impact on paratransit riders. Paratransit is federally required under the Americans with Disabilities Act to operate within three-quarters of a mile of fixed-route service. Accordingly, this bill should ensure that paratransit riders are able to also board and disembark at the entrances of early voting centers. All benefits extended to fixed-route riders in this bill should be made available to paratransit riders.

Overall, this measure directly reduces transportation barriers for people with disabilities, making voting more accessible and enabling fuller participation in the democratic process.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 263. Please do not hesitate to contact me at GillianJ@DisabilityRightsMD.org or by phone at 443-692-2498.