

SENATE BILL 929

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5l3198
CF 5l3100

By: **Senators Brooks, West, and Muse**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility; and
4 generally relating to the Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility.

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
6 That:

7 (a) There is a Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility.

8 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

9 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
10 the Senate;

11 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House;

13 (3) the State Administrator of Elections, or the State Administrator's
14 designee;

15 (4) the Secretary of Information Technology, or the Secretary's designee;

16 (5) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee; and

17 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

18 (i) one representative of Common Cause Maryland;

19 (ii) one representative of the League of Women Voters of Maryland;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (iii) one representative of the National Federation of the Blind,
2 Maryland;
- 3 (iv) one representative of the Arc of Maryland;
- 4 (v) one representative of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities
5 Council;
- 6 (vi) an expert in voting accessibility;
- 7 (vii) an expert in election security; and
- 8 (viii) an expert in cybersecurity.
- 9 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.
- 10 (d) The State Board of Elections shall provide staff for the Workgroup.
- 11 (e) A member of the Workgroup:
- 12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Workgroup; but
- 13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
14 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.
- 15 (f) The Workgroup shall:
- 16 (1) examine the current processes and procedures in the State relating to
17 mail-in ballot return;
- 18 (2) assess the impact on voters with disabilities of requiring mail-in ballots
19 to be returned in paper form;
- 20 (3) collect information about current practices and standards for accessible
21 alternatives to paper mail-in ballot return in other jurisdictions;
- 22 (4) evaluate alternatives to paper mail-in ballot return for individuals with
23 disabilities, including each of the following considerations:
- 24 (i) accessibility;
- 25 (ii) security, including options for mitigating security concerns;
- 26 (iii) the potential for discrimination against voters with disabilities;
- 27 (iv) the ability of voters with disabilities to vote privately and
28 independently; and

1 (v) the cost and feasibility of implementation; and

2 (5) consult with additional subject matter experts as needed.

3 (g) On or before December 31, 2025, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
4 recommendations, including any recommended statutory changes, to the Governor and, in
5 accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
7 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
8 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
9 abrogated and of no further force and effect.