



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 757– Election Law - Voting Systems - Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities

SPONSOR: Senator Lam, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2020

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 757**, which establishes certain voting requirements to ensure that voters with disabilities are provided specified access to voting that is equivalent to access afforded voters without disabilities. Each voter is required to use a ballot marking device that is accessible to voters with disabilities to vote at an early voting center or an Election Day polling place. In addition, a ballot cast by a voter with a disability may not be set apart or distinguishable, in size and form, from a ballot cast by a voter without a disability.

The Prince George's County Human Relations Commission (HRC) seeks to eliminate discriminatory practices within the County in various areas, such as public accommodations. With that purpose in mind, the HRC believes it is most beneficial for voters with disabilities to have equal access to voting, whether that includes the time and place of voting opportunities or a modified system that makes it more accommodating to cast a ballot.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 757** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.