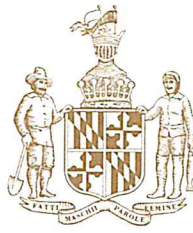


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and State Personnel Oversight

Joint Committee on Pensions

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 627—Courts - Prosecution for Election Law Violations – Limitation

February 11, 2020

Sponsor Testimony

Chairwoman Kaiser, and Honorable members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 627—Courts - Prosecution for Election Law Violations – Limitation. HB 627 changes and modifies current law – from three years after an offense was committed to five years after an offense was committed – the time within which a prosecution must be instituted for (1) the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor violation of the State election laws or (2) the imposition of a civil fine for an unknowing violation of campaign finance laws and certain other election laws.

Currently, a prosecution must be instituted within three years after an offense was committed (1) for the commission of or for the attempt to commit a misdemeanor constituting a criminal offense under the State election laws or (2) to impose a civil fine for an unknowing violation of campaign finance laws and certain other election laws.

However, as further reiterated by the State Board of Elections and the Office of State prosecutor who are both in support of this bill; the current statute of limitations is unfair to Maryland voters and unfair to the majority of elected officials and individuals who run for office and follow the rules. Therefore, an increase would greatly benefit and aid in the enforcement of election laws and allow for more detailed investigations into bad actors. This is simply a good government bill! Thus, we respectfully request this committee's swift favorable report.