



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**HB 759 - Election Law - Risk-Limiting Audits Workgroup**

**POSITION: Support**

**BY: Lois Hybl and Richard Wilson – Co-Presidents**

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The League of Women Voters supports measures to ensure accurate counting of all votes and to protect election systems against attack. We commend Maryland's election administrators for implementing strong systems to protect voting systems from attack and to detect and remedy any errors.

HB 759 requires the State Board of Elections to conduct a study of "risk-limiting audits" for Maryland elections and submit draft legislation to the General Assembly for consideration. This would begin the process of replacing certain of the existing requirements for auditing of election systems with a more modern risk-limiting audit. A growing number of states are requiring risk-limiting audits and the positive experience demonstrates the value of such audits for ensuring the integrity of the electoral process.

The current requirement for auditing a fixed percentage of ballots is inefficient as errors could often be detected by an audit of a smaller sample. Risk-limiting audits calibrate the size of the sample to be audited according to the margin of victory in each contest and are therefore more efficient.

Finally, HB 759 requires that the plan ensure public transparency for conducting such audits. These measures will help to maintain public confidence in the integrity of Maryland's elections.

We urge a favorable report on HB 759.