



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 525

March 31, 2021

TO: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 525 – Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and State Board of Elections – Centralized Booking Facility – Ballot Drop Box

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 525.

SB 525 seeks to provide inmates at the Baltimore City Centralized Booking Facility with increased access to voting. It would require the local board of elections in partnership with the state board of elections to (1) provide and monitor a drop box for eligible voters, (2) disseminate written notifications to each eligible voter, and (3) provide necessary materials and guidance to the Facility.

It is critically important to ensure all individuals, whether or not they are held in a detention facility, are provided with the opportunity to exercise their right to vote in a timely manner for an election. In support of this principle, the BCA worked with the Sponsor to ensure that SB 525 achieves those goals while avoiding logistical and cost challenges for implementation that might undermine its success.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 525.