



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 398
Election Law – Time Off for Employee Voting**

This bill would ensure that shift workers in the State of Maryland are afforded paid time off to vote.

State law currently allows workers up to two hours of paid time off to vote on Election Day if they are scheduled to work the entire time the polls are open. However, only people who are currently registered to vote may take advantage of this provision.

With the recent implementation of same day voter registration in Maryland, this provision of state law needs to be updated to include anyone who is eligible to vote, even if they aren't currently registered.

This legislation would also allow workers to take time off to vote during either early voting or on Election Day; state law currently limits paid time off to Election Day.

Additionally, this bill would take the important step of barring employers from taking retaliatory action against a worker if they exercise their constitutional right to vote.

This bill passed the House last year.