



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 1047 – Mail-In Voting Enhancement Act

POSITION: Favorable

BY: Lois Hybl & Richard Willson, Co-Presidents

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports voting by mail for Maryland elections. As the 2020 elections demonstrated, mail-in ballots can be a popular and convenient option.

HB 1047 would implement many of the best practices we recommend for voting by mail, including the following:

Ballot drop boxes must be adequate in number and have equitable allocation, timely installation, safe and accessible design and placement, and improved security measures.

Ballot tracking would be enhanced, enabling voters to follow the progress of their mail-in ballot and learn when their ballot request application was received by the BOE, when the ballot was sent out, when the BOE received their returned ballot, when/whether that ballot was accepted for processing, and so forth.

Multiple options will be offered for **ballot curing**, in which voters who failed to sign the oath will be contacted by the BOE to correct that problem in a timely manner.

Mail-in voting was used extensively and for the most part successfully in the 2020 elections; however, many of the procedures were implemented on an emergency basis. HB 1047 builds on the lessons of 2020 and establishes a strong foundation for increased mail-in voting in future years. Its provisions will increase voter confidence, improve accessibility, and make our election system fairer.

The League of Women Voters urges a favorable report on HB 1047.