



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

January 26, 2021

Delegate Anne Kaiser, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 211 – Opposes

Delegate Kaiser and Committee Members:

My name is Stuart Harvey. I am the Election Director in Frederick County and the co-chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. MAEO represents the local boards of elections throughout the State of Maryland. I am writing today representing myself and MAEO in opposition to HB 211 – Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Days of Operation.

HB 211 extends the early voting period beyond the current eight days to ten days, through the Saturday prior to Election Day.

MAEO opposes the bill for a number of reasons.

First, the extended early voting time period might not allow sufficient time for the electronic pollbooks to be updated prior to Election Day with early voting information. This current process prevents someone who has cast an early vote from voting a regular ballot on Election Day; if someone does attempt this, the pollbook forces them to vote a provisional ballot. The State Board of Elections is currently looking to replace the existing pollbooks for the 2022 elections, but we are uncertain at this time how the process might change.

Secondly, election staffs are already stretched to the limit in shifting from early voting until Election Day, and two additional days of early voting will exhaust not only election staffs, but could jeopardize the work that is needed to be completed for making Election Day successful.

For these reasons, we would urge the committee to give HB 211 an unfavorable report.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please call me at 301-600-1007, or via e-mail at sharvey@frederickcountymd.gov.