



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

January 22, 2021

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

RE: HB355 - Support

Delegate Kaiser and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry. I am the Election Director in Carroll 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 here today representing myself and MAEO with support of HB355 Election Law – Registered Voter List Security and Electronic Signature Requirements for Petitions.

When petitions are brought to SBE or an LBE for verification, many manual processes must take place. Traditionally, people hand write their name and address before signing their petition line. Some people do not write clearly, so there is difficulty interpreting the voter's information. Allowing for everything to be completed electronically takes away some of the time-consuming nature of verifying signatures in our offices.

We ask that you give this bill a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at 410-386-2958 or Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.

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