



BILL: HB0153

BILL TITLE: Election Law - Elections by Mail

BILL SPONSOR: Delegate Ivey

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: FAVORABLE

January 26, 2021

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0153

Cristi Demnowicz, Chair

Represent Maryland

This testimony is in favor of making mail-in voting the norm for Maryland state and federal elections. Ballots can and should be mailed to all registered in advance of an election, with clear instruction on how to fill them out, and clear timelines for returning them.

The 2020 primary election was primarily held via mail-in voting, and although there were some problems, overall it was very successful for a rushed, last minute solution to voting during a pandemic. The state should learn from that process and make mail-in voting permanent as it allows more people to engage and participate over all. From a working class standpoint, being able to mail-in a ballot means there will be no income loss to vote.

That said, we do not believe mail-in voting should be a voters *only* option and would like to see a hybrid system with regional in-person voting centers offered in addition to the mail-in system.

Many other countries have been doing this for a long time. It's time Maryland does too.

Sincerely,
Cristi Demnowicz
Chair
Represent Maryland
Maryland Voter-LD07

Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation.

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