



BILL: HB0341

BILL TITLE: Election – Absentee Ballot Canvass – Start and Release of Tabulation

BILL SPONSOR: Delegates Lehman

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: FAVORABLE

January 26, 2021

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0341

Cristi Demnowicz, Chair

Represent Maryland

Honorable Chair Kaiser, Vice-Chair Washington, and members of the committee-

Beginning the tabulation of cast votes earlier will have a number of positive impacts on our electoral system. We saw, in the 2020 elections, that votes recorded after election day led to conspiracies about voter fraud and fraudulent elections. Beginning the count earlier is a common sense way to prevent these sorts of conspiracies from taking hold in society.

Additionally, having more time means the workers doing the count will feel less pressure and be able to be more thorough in their work, another win for everyone.

Last, because the numbers aren't actually released to the public, this change won't have any effect on election outcomes, and will make them run smoother moving forward.

Please find HB0341 favorable.

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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Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T Miller, Treasurer
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