

HB 153
HB 274
Ways and Means Committee
Oppose

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Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide my written testimony. I strongly oppose HB 153 and HB 274. Voting in-person on election day worked for hundreds of years. The system isn't broken and does not need to be "fixed."

These bills undermine the public's faith in the election system. When a voter places their ballot in a secure location on Election Day or during early voting, they know their ballot is secret and will be counted. They have no such assurance when voting by mail. Marylanders expect to know election results on election night or at least by the next day. Delays in vote tabulations for weeks reduces confidence in the election results. That is what happens with ballot canvassing. In addition, it would become nearly impossible for poll-watchers to observe vote counting over several weeks.

Mass-mailed ballots are subject to being "harvested" by removing them from mail boxes or from trash cans. Harvesting groups can unfairly pressure voters, particularly elderly and young voters. Mass mailing ballots also opens the door to abuses such as deceased people voting or people voting who no longer live in the state. These problems in turn are due to the lack of proper vetting of voters lists.

Please deliver an unfavorable report on these two bills. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Sincerely,

Amy Waychoff