



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 22, 2022

Committee: House Ways and Means

Bill: HB 939 - Elections – Absentee Ballots – Mailing of Unrequested Ballots

Position: Oppose

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League opposes House Bill 939, which prohibits municipal governments, as well as the State and county boards, from mailing election ballots to someone that did not request a mailed ballot.

The State has largely authorized municipal governments to operate their elections in a manner that allows for the process to fit the wants and needs of each individual community. As a result, municipalities have different election dates, eligibility requirements, and processes.

Municipalities in Maryland already have the authority to mail ballots to registered voters regardless of whether they requested a ballot or not. Several municipalities had robust vote-by-mail procedures in place years ago, but after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the logistical difficulties that followed, many more municipalities established some form of vote-by-mail for their elections. This bill usurps that local decision-making authority and mandates a one-size-fits-all framework for the administration of vote-by-mail elections.

For these reasons the League respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 939 with an unfavorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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