

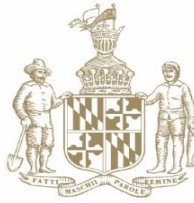
WILLIAM WIVELL  
Legislative District 2A  
Washington County

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

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**HB1172, Election Law – Absentee Ballot Envelopes – Party Affiliation.**

Madame Chair and Honorable members of the Ways & Means Committee:

I am pleased to present HB1172. This bill is in the same format as HB746 that was passed out of this Committee in the 2021 Legislative Session. The bill stalled in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee last year. This year, the bill is cross-filed in the Senate with SB989. HB1172 simply removes the party affiliation from the ballot return envelope. My original intent was to block all of the voter information exhibited on the exterior of the envelope; however, in my discussion with the Election Board, I was advised that much of this information was actually needed to process the ballot while retaining the confidentiality of the vote itself.

It is a very simple bill and I ask that you again render a favorable report on HB1172.

Thank you.