



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Ways & Means Committee

HB 113: Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity

January 25, 2022

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. The DD Council is led by people with developmental disabilities and their families. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes HB 113 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do:

- HB 113 would require that an individual seeking to vote must present government-issued identification and a second form of government documentation that demonstrates the voter's name and address.

WHY is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely to not have government-issued photo identification.
- The bill creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities, who are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting location accessibility issues¹.
- The two-factor provision of government documents at the polling place is unnecessarily burdensome on voters with developmental disabilities.

HB 113 would be a step in the wrong direction for ensuring that voters with developmental disabilities have access to, and can effectively participate in, the electoral process. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes HB 113.**

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¹https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/voters/Disability_and_voting_accessibility_in_the_2020_elections_final_report_on_survey_results.pdf