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February 15, 2022

To: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General

Re: HB 702 – Elections – Training and Signs – Accommodations for Voters in Need of  
Assistance – Support

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The Office of Attorney General (the "OAG") urges this Committee to favorably report HB 702.

House Bill 702 would require the State Board of Elections ("SBE") to specify in election judge training materials the methods an election judge may use to assist or accommodate elderly and disabled voters in voting at a polling site. It would also require SBE to develop and post signage at polling places identifying these methods to voters.

The in-person voting process may be difficult for elderly voters or voters with disabilities. Anything that can reasonably be done to provide information to such voters about the kinds of assistance that may be available to them is worth pursuing. This bill would provide additional means for communicating this information to voters—first by arming election judges with the knowledge that they can then give to voters, and second by requiring signage at polling places explicitly containing such information. And it does so in a manner that appears to impose minimal additional cost or administrative burden on SBE or on the local boards of elections.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 702.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee