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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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SPONSOR TESTIMONY

HB 1283 – ELECTION LAW – MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS – VOTER QUALIFICATIONS

Summary

HB1283 would implement a citizenship requirement for all voters in municipal elections.

Background

Maryland law, Election Law 301-2, requires citizenship. Article I, Section 1 of the Maryland Constitution explicitly authorizes that “every citizen of United States” is entitled to vote.

It has been widely reported that multiple municipalities that administer their elections independently from the State Board of Elections, do not require citizenship.

Rationale

The state law and the Maryland Constitution establish requirements for voting in Maryland.

HB1283 would reinforce our state law and Constitutional standards by making them supreme for all elections.

Conclusion

We respectfully request a favorable report from the Committee and thank you for considering this important legislation.