

**HB410\_fav\_AARPSenate.pdf**

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**HB 410 Election Reform Act of 2023**  
**FAVORABLE**  
**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. My name is Jim Campbell, a former member of the House of Delegates and a former member of this committee and now state president of AARP Maryland. AARP MD supports HB 410 Election Reform Act of 2023. We thank Delegate Rosenberg for introducing this bill.

AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security. AARP strongly believes that all individuals have the right to be self-reliant and live with dignity in retirement.

HB 410 prohibits a local board of elections from voting to change the location of a polling place unless the local board first holds a meeting to discuss the proposed change and provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to testify when a polling place changes.

As someone, like many of you, who has worked polling places on election day, I applaud the sponsor for attempting to improve the election process. We want all citizens to exercise their right to vote, it is important that citizens know where to vote. Polling places should be located equitably across neighborhoods. This gives everyone equal access to the polls. This is especially important when a neighborhood does not have enough polling places to accommodate the number of voters, and lines are especially long.

AARP believes that voting-rights laws should address the needs of people, improve access to registration and polling places. AARP also believes that when a polling place changes or is about to change, the changes need to have community input. AARP also believes that better outreach to older adults and people with disabilities is essential during any election especially when there are changes.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report for HB410. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at [tbresnahan@aarp.org](mailto:tbresnahan@aarp.org) or by calling 410-302- 8451



# **Testimony HB-130\_Rosenberg\_Senate.pdf**

Uploaded by: Samuel Rosenberg

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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

in Support of

House Bill 130

**Election Law – Foreign Manufacturer of Electronic Systems –  
Notification and Termination of Contract**

*“The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.” - Congressman John Lewis*

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

As we have seen in recent election cycles, the possibility of interference with an election by a hostile foreign government is a looming threat to our democracy. While such threats may take a variety of forms, House Bill 130 focuses on ensuring the safety and integrity of our election equipment.

This legislation would require election service providers to alert the State Board of Elections if components of their election systems are either manufactured or modified abroad. In particular, election service providers would be required to report on the nature of any manufacturing or modifications to election systems or components, the country in which the work was done, and any measures taken to protect the security of the equipment while it was abroad.

If the State Administrator of Elections receives a report from an election service provider that components were modified or manufactured abroad, the administrator must forward the report, within five days, to the State Board of Elections, the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Attorney General, and the Department of Information Technology.

If the administrator determines that “a foreign national has the ability to control, influence, or direct the manufacturing of an election system in any manner that would compromise or

influence, or give the appearance of compromising or influencing, the independence and integrity of an election,” the administrator can terminate the contract with the election service provider in question.

Should this occur, the administrator would have seven days to notify the parties listed above of the contract termination and the reasons for the termination.

HB 130 is vital to safeguarding the security of our elections. Even the possibility of interference with election components undermines faith in the democratic process. This bill addresses the real and perceived fears of foreign intervention in our voting systems.

This bill has passed the House of Delegates for four consecutive years. It is derived from H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2021. The lead sponsor of that federal legislation, Congressman John Sarbanes commended this legislation as a “common-sense reform to ensure the integrity of Maryland election systems.”

I urge a favorable report on HB 130.

March 22, 2023