

Senate Bill 605 Hearing: March 14, 2023
Election Law – Citizens Who Live Overseas - Right to Vote
Maryland Senate Education, Energy & Environment Committee
Elizabeth Landry, FAVORABLE

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Landry. Thank you for allowing me to share my story. I vote in Frederick, but I am joining today from Sweden to share my enthusiastic support for SB 605.

I was born, raised, and received my Nursing Degree in Salisbury. Years later, love took me to Frederick. In 2018, my partner and I made the leap and we moved abroad for their work.

As it turns out, there are many Americans abroad, and I found a home in making sure they knew they could vote in our elections back home. In the four years since, I have learned many things, including an entirely new language and culture, and that I took my vote in Maryland elections for granted.

When I received my 2020 ballot, some races I was used to voting for were not there. No Board of Education, no statewide or county initiatives. I asked why this was, and was distressed to learn that many Maryland voters abroad can only vote in Federal offices. In 2022, I was only more devastated to not be able to vote for offices such as Governor or County Executive.

While in Sweden, I am disenfranchised as a Marylander and US citizen to fully vote as I did while living in Frederick. Important decisions are made at the State and Local levels on issues that impact me. For example, I am non-binary, and my future Maryland driver's license will be able to accurately reflect my gender thanks to legislation passed.

Please vote YES for SB 605, so that my voice as a US citizen in our government is the same whether I live around the corner or across an ocean.

Thank you again for the opportunity and for your time.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth "Beth" Landry, BSN, RN

RESIDES IN: Malmö, Sweden

VOTES IN: Frederick County Voter (District 3)