



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
SB 567: Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity
March 14, 2023
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. People with developmental disabilities and their families lead the DD Council. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes HB 35 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires a voter to present government or nongovernment-issued photo identification or other documents that state the voter's name and address to vote a regular ballot.
- Requires election judges to refer a voter for a provisional ballot if they cannot provide identification.

WHY is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult, burdensome, and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely not to have photo identification.
- It creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities, who are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting location accessibility issues.¹

Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process. HB 35 is a step in the wrong direction. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes SB 567.**

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

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