

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB567 AND SB750
ELECTIONS – IN-PERSON VOTING - PROOF OF IDENTITY

MARCH 14, 2023
SENATE EEE COMMITTEE

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Dear Committee Members,

I am reaching out to you, as leaders, to reinstate a simple request that would greatly restore integrity, or the perception of integrity, to our election process. That is the showing of a photo identification card when you go to vote.

As a long-time voter and an election judge, many people still want to show a personal ID card. As you are aware, gone are the days when people don't have one as over the years they have become easier to obtain, and required for more transactions. It is in the best interest of people to have a photo ID for many reasons, such as being identified if injured or for proving who you are for travel, legal, financial or property transactions.

I have not heard of this being a reason for people not voting in MD for many years. Yet, people still do not vote. We have offered no-excuse absentee ballots, early voting, expanded early voting and now mail-in voting. Yet people still do not vote. I don't think the problem is lack of an ID card.

Since over the years the General Assembly has reduced or eliminated the cost of getting a photo ID, this would help election judges confirm identity, and it is in the best interest of a person to have one for their own needs, I, and many, many others (from all parties and persuasions) request your support of these common sense, low cost, easy to implement bills.

Please re-institute this small request that will reap huge rewards by eliminating a cause for concern in our election process.

Thank you very much.