



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 23, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

SB0488: Information Only

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry. I am the Election Director in Carroll County and the chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. MAEO represents the local boards of elections throughout the State of Maryland. I am writing today to represent MAEO with information regarding Senate Bill 488: Election Law - Electronic Ballot Return System - Study and Request for Proposals.

We, the Local Boards of Elections, recognize the importance of updating and adapting our election systems and processes to meet new realities. To better serve our voters, we support any measures that can achieve this goal. Therefore, we respectfully request that MAEO be included as a member of the study group in the proposed bill. Our input is crucial as we will be responsible for administering the proposed electronic ballot return system.

We would also like to emphasize the need for adequate funding for this significant update, as our current Voter Registration system has been in use for 17 years since its implementation in 2006. Such funding is necessary to ensure a higher level of security for the new technology that may be required.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410)386-2958 or Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.