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—  
*Vice Chair*  
Education, Energy, and  
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—  
Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB864: Election Reform Act of 2023**  
Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee  
Friday, February 24, 2023 1PM

Improvements to Maryland’s election processes are necessary so that our residents can fully participate and ensure that those who run our elections can do so safely and efficiently.

[SB864](#), the Election Reform Act of 2023, features pragmatic solutions to some of the problems and inconsistencies I observed while monitoring election canvasses over the past several years. These solutions include:

- Expanding protections for election employees against threats, violence, and intimidation;
- Replacing “faithless electors;”
- Manufacturing equipment in the United States or disclosing its country of origin;
- Allowing unaffiliated voters to participate in nonpartisan Circuit Court judge elections;
- Defining what constitutes a “stray mark” and ensuring that a “stray mark” is not the sole basis for invalidating a ballot;
- Reducing usage of Internet-delivered ballots;
- Establishing a mail-in ballot delivery deadline; and
- Compiling data on the reasons that voters need provisional ballots.

These eight provisions will make needed changes to our elections systems.

**I urge a favorable report on SB864.**