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HB 410 Election Reform Act of 2023
FAVORABLE
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Good afternoon Chair Feldman and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. My name is Jim Campbell, a former member of the House of Delegates and a former member of this committee and now state president of AARP Maryland. AARP MD supports HB 410 Election Reform Act of 2023. We thank Delegate Rosenberg for introducing this bill.

AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security. AARP strongly believes that all individuals have the right to be self-reliant and live with dignity in retirement.

HB 410 prohibits a local board of elections from voting to change the location of a polling place unless the local board first holds a meeting to discuss the proposed change and provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to testify when a polling place changes.

As someone, like many of you, who has worked polling places on election day, I applaud the sponsor for attempting to improve the election process. We want all citizens to exercise their right to vote, it is important that citizens know where to vote. Polling places should be located equitably across neighborhoods. This gives everyone equal access to the polls. This is especially important when a neighborhood does not have enough polling places to accommodate the number of voters, and lines are especially long.

AARP believes that voting-rights laws should address the needs of people, improve access to registration and polling places. AARP also believes that when a polling place changes or is about to change, the changes need to have community input. AARP also believes that better outreach to older adults and people with disabilities is essential during any election especially when there are changes.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report for HB410. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302- 8451

