

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee
Chair
Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair
Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

□ *Annapolis Office*
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

□ *District Office*
4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

in Support of

House Bill 410

Election Reform Act of 2023

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Imagine the polling place where you have voted for years being moved to a new location – one without parking.

That happened during the last election cycle in my legislative district, frustrating voters and disrupting the election process.

House Bill 410 seeks to prevent such incidents from hindering voters in future elections. This bill would prohibit a board of elections from changing the location of a polling place without providing an opportunity for affected individuals and organizations to be heard at a public meeting.

Further, the bill would require local boards of elections to submit a polling place plan to the State Board of Elections at least six months before each statewide primary election. If a local board proposes reducing the number of polling places more than 5% below the level available in the 2018 general election, it must demonstrate that the plan would not negatively impact access to voting in historically disenfranchised communities.

This legislation would also extend the existing prohibition on using illegal means to influence – or attempt to influence – a voter’s decision whether to go to the polls to include voting by mail or drop box. This component of the bill provides a common-sense update to our current election laws to reflect those increasingly popular avenues for voting.

Lastly, this bill would also move the 2024 Primary Election Day to May 14, as the originally scheduled date conflicted with Passover and Ramadan.

Together, the changes proposed by this bill will eliminate a number of potential impediments for Maryland voters, increasing the chances that they will be able to vote. After all, our democracy is stronger when everyone has the chance to have their voice heard.

I urge a favorable report on HB 410.

March 28, 2023