



Barbara Noveau, Founder, DoTheMostGood

Committee: Ways and Means

Testimony on: HB0645- Election Law – Electronic Ballot Return System – Study and Request for 2 Proposals

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 28, 2023

Bill Contact: Delegate Jessica Feldmark

DoTheMostGood (DTMG) is a progressive grassroots organization with members across Montgomery County as well as a number of neighboring counties. DTMG supports legislation and activities that protect the fundamental rights of all Maryland residents, and which promote equity across all our diverse communities.

DTMG supports HB0645- Election Law – Electronic Ballot Return System – Study and Request for 2 Proposals. This bill would authorize a study in Maryland to evaluate creation of an electronic ballot return system.

There are significant drawbacks in existing law that require ballots delivered electronically to be returned in paper 17 form. This requirement particularly impacts voters with disabilities and absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters. Additionally, due to current voting systems, all ballots delivered to voters electronically and returned in paper form must be transferred to forms that can be read electronically. This slows down vote processing and creates unnecessary opportunities for errors.

In sum, DTMG believes that every step that can be taken to improve our voting systems and processes will bring Maryland closer to ensuring that every voter can cast their vote and know that their vote will count.

DTMG strongly supports HB0645 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report on the bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Noveau", is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

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