

**HB 645 Election Law - Electronic Ballot Return System - Study and Request for Proposals**  
**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**  
**Elizabeth Landry, Favorable with Amendment**

February 28, 2023

Committee Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Landry. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am here in support of HB 645, and I want to thank Delegate Feldmark for sponsoring this bill. I am a Maryland voter living abroad in Sweden, and I vote in Frederick.

I was born, raised, and received my Nursing degree in Salisbury. At the end of 2018, my partner and I moved abroad to Sweden for their work. Maryland voters like me living abroad are dependent on mailing in our ballots.

In 2020, postal systems around the world were upended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With so much uncertainty around the length of time postal mail would require, I ended up paying a courier service to make sure my ballot was returned by the deadline – this cost over \$50. Having to pay this much just to vote was a modern-day poll tax.

Having the ability to electronically return my ballot would save me money and stress of worrying whether or not my ballot will make it back to Maryland. I am grateful for the study outlined in SB 488, and my position is Favorable with an Amendment requesting the inclusion of a public forum available online so that Maryland voters living overseas can give input on how such an electronic ballot return system would improve their ability to vote from their host countries.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to the committee and for your time.

Respectfully Yours,

Elizabeth Landry

RESIDES IN: Malmö, Sweden

VOTES IN: Frederick County Voter (District 3)