

People on the Go of Maryland



House Bill 35

Election Law-Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof Of Identity

Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid nongovernment-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

Position: Opposed

January 31, 2023

Sponsored by Delegate R. Long

Assigned to House Ways and Means

Written by Mat Rice

Executive Director - People On the Go of Maryland

Honorable chairperson members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

People on the Go of Maryland (People On the Go) is a statewide self-advocacy organization ran for and by those with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (IDD). People On the Go provides this written testimony and respectful opposition to House Bill 35 which would require under certain circumstances that a voter provide in person proof of identity through the submission of a valid form of identification as stated above. This presents problems for many marginalized groups including people of color and individuals with disabilities. Many individuals with disabilities live with their families and do not have an identification card or a bill in their name. Many people who live in residential settings faced similar issues, additionally the documentation requirements to obtain a valid form of identification pose significant hardships to individuals with disabilities, and their families or others who may support them. Such as the cost and not to mention transportation may pose a

significant barrier as well as many people regardless of circumstance simply may not be able to get to a motor vehicle administration or a medical professional for proper documentation. Until we can ensure that everyone has access to identification, People On the Go holds the belief that this is not an appropriate measure at this time and may pose a barrier to eligible voters in being able to cast their vote. Should the sponsor and or the assembly wish to pursue this we would recommend that a fiscal impact study be done on what it would take to get every eligible voter access to proper identification. Thank you for your consideration we strongly urge an unfavorable report for HB 35.

Should you have any questions. Please contact Mat Rice.

Thank you,

Mat Rice, Executive Director

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