

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers
1014 Dockser Drive
Crownsville, MD 21032

February 24, 2023

Maryland General Assembly
Members of the Ways and Means Committee
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB 899-State Administrator of Elections – Removal From Office

Dear Delegates,

We oppose HB 899 and respectfully request that you vote against it.

The fact that this bill repeals:

1. A requirement that the removal be for incompetence, misconduct, or other good cause.
2. A requirement that, prior to removal, SBE set forth written charges stating the grounds for dismissal and afford the State Administrator notice and an ample opportunity to be heard.
3. The authority of the State Administrator to continue to serve, subsequent to a valid vote for removal, until a successor is appointed and confirmed by the Senate of Maryland.

This bill leaves cause for removal from office wide open to the whim of anyone who wants them out. This is unjust, unfair, completely bogus, and we believe that it paves the way for politically motivated changes in Board of Election leadership that could turn elections to the favor of one party. The position successor could also be manipulated by the appointee to “do their bidding” regarding policies and other election anomalies.

In light of the election fraud in our country, we feel that this bill would provide more opportunities for fraud in our State.

We strongly oppose this bill and ask that you vote against it.

Sincerely,

Christine Hunt and Jay Crouthers