

Position – Support HB0022 submitted by Delegate Long

“Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirements and Verification”

Written Testimony:

It is in the interest of all citizens of Maryland that the voting process be as free from fraud as possible. This Bill puts into law a crucial requirement that will help dissuade electoral fraud.

I have personally experienced a situation at a large, assisted care facility where residents were “guided” to vote for certain candidates on their mail-in ballots, by staff personnel, without understanding for whom they were voting. By requiring the voter’s signature and name of the witness, the applicable board of elections can assure that an individual is not submitting votes in large numbers.

A free and fair election involves political freedoms and fair processes leading up to the vote, a fair count of eligible voters who cast a ballot and steps that will discourage electoral fraud, and voter disenfranchisement.

It is crucial that election results are as free from electoral fraud as is humanly possible. This will enable the acceptance of election results by all parties and all citizens.

The steps included in this HB0022 bill can help to assure that citizens of the great state of Maryland can rely on voter counts and resulting election results.

Respectfully submitted by,

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