

**Favorable with Amendments – HB0022 Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Signature Requirements and Verification**

I'm in favor of having the election judges not open ballots that are not properly signed.

However, is an election judge an expert in signature comparisons? I believe this bill should require signature verification by a signature verification forensic expert before those ballots can be opened.

Second, with respect to the uniformed voter, they should also be required to have the witness signature. There is no reason why they should be exempt from the witness signature. They usually have a whole battalion of other military personnel with them who can witness, and without it can open the doors to thousands of absentee votes entered into the system fraudulently. (The witness signature is not really going to prevent this, but will become a deterrent.)

The most important part of my recommendations is the signature verification. Judges are not experts on signature verification, nor should they be expected to be.

I'm in favor of this bill and strongly urge the legislators to also consider my testimony, make the recommended changes and support this bill.

Thank you.

**Nelda Fink**  
**MD District 32**