

**TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE
HB 542 - Election Law - Citizens Who Live Overseas - Right to Vote**

POSITION: Favorable

BY: Elizabeth Landry

HEARING DATE: February 14, 2023

Committee Chair Atterbeary and Distinguished Committee members,

My name is Elizabeth Landry. Thank you for allowing me to share my story with you today. I am here in support of HB 542. I live abroad in Malmö, Sweden, and I vote in Frederick, Maryland.

I was born and raised in Salisbury, and received my Nursing degree from Salisbury University. Some years later, love took me to Frederick. I've worked in Maryland and DC as a Critical Care Registered Nurse until injuries forced me away from bedside care. In 2018, my partner and I made the leap and moved abroad to Sweden for their work.

As it turns out, there are many Americans abroad, and I found a home in making sure they knew how to vote in our elections back home. In the four years since our move, I have learned many things, including an entirely new language and culture, and that I took my vote in Maryland elections for granted.

When I received my 2020 ballot, some of the races I was used to voting for were not there. No Board of Education, no statewide or county initiatives. I asked why this was, and was distressed to learn that many Maryland voters abroad can only vote in Federal offices. In 2022, I was only more devastated to not be able to vote for offices such as Governor or County Executive.

While in Sweden, I am disenfranchised as a Marylander and US citizen to fully vote as I did while living in Frederick. Important decisions are made at the State and Local levels on issues I care deeply about - healthcare, education, affordable housing, and more. Please vote YES for HB 542, so that my voice as a US citizen in our government is the same whether I live around the corner or across an ocean. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Beth Landry, BSN, RN

RESIDES IN: Malmö, Sweden

VOTES IN: Frederick County Voter (District 3)