



## Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SB 772: Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

February 16, 2024

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates changes to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. People with developmental disabilities and their families lead the DD Council. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes SB 772 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

### WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires a voter to present a voter registration card, driver's license, or other government issued identification
- Requires a voter to provide a written signature at the time of voting that matches the signature on the identification

### WHY is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely not to have government-issued photo identification. In addition, voters with disabilities are more likely to need accommodations to have functional handwriting. As evidenced by testimony from previous years, people with disabilities in Maryland feel like this requirement impacts their right to vote.
- It creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities because:
  - People with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting location accessibility issues.

Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process. HB 772 is a step in the wrong direction. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes SB 772.**

Contact: Dr. Stephanie Dolamore, Deputy Director, [SDolamore@md-council.org](mailto:SDolamore@md-council.org)