



---

**Statement of the Maryland Federation of  
National Active and Retired Federal Employees  
Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee Hearing,  
February 5, 2025  
On SB 466 - Election Law – Polling Place Procedures –  
Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters with Disabilities  
(Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland) )**

**(Position – FAV)**

To: Chairman Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Committee Members

I am pleased to provide you with this statement on behalf of the State Legislative Committee of the Maryland National and Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE), representing approximately 317,000 federal annuitants and employees in Maryland. For the continuing and benefit of all Maryland seniors and disabled persons – our members and all others -- we support and ask you for a favorable report on SB 66, Election Law – Polling Place Procedures – Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters with Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland). We thank Senator Arthur Ellis for introducing this Bill.

Clearly, the right to vote, a foundation stone of our Democracy, is more important than ever. SB 466 will provide remarkable help in that regard.

We have no doubt that election judges and election workers at Maryland polling places have done their best to help voters who need special assistance because they are elderly or disabled. But there are still instances where someone will fall through the cracks. I saw this at an early voting polling place in Anne Arundel county last year when several older voters faced long lines without getting any opportunity to sit down to wait for the line to catch up to them, and were very discouraged, some to the point of leaving to come another day.

In thinking about and researching this Bill, I noted some unsuccessful bill in past years which would have required the State Board of Elections (“SBE”) to specify in election judge training materials the methods an election judge may use to assist or accommodate elderly and disabled voters in voting at a polling site, and would also require SBE to develop and post signage at polling places identifying these methods to voters. I am not sure why these Bills did not pass.

I think SB 466 is a better path to help seniors and disabled persons make voting easier than the earlier unsuccessful bills. It will require the SBE to establish guidelines for the local boards of election to implement special procedures for elderly voters and voters with disabilities at each early voting center and polling place and requires the local boards to implement the guidelines. As important follow-up, the SBE will submit a report to the General Assembly after each election discussing any challenges to its guidelines, and a summary of feedback received by local boards on the effectiveness of the new guidelines.

When the SBE begins the work to establish these guidelines, we at MD NARFE expect and look forward to participate in whatever public rulemaking process the SBE should implement to achieve the requirements of SB 466.

We respectfully ask that you give a favorable report to SB 66.

Thank you.

Robert M. Doyle, Co-Chair  
Maryland Federation – NARFE  
State Legislative Committee  
4226 Carvel Lane  
Edgewater, MD 21037  
[bdoyle47@verizon.net](mailto:bdoyle47@verizon.net)  
H (410) 798-0079  
C/Text (301) 693-1774