

Subject: SB 66 Favorable With An Amendment

Date: February 5, 2025

From: National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

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To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

The National Federation of the Blind of Maryland favors the following amendment: On page 3, after line 4, insert “The elderly or disabled voter shall be given a choice of whether to use the special procedures.”

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to vote in favor of the amended SB66.

The state Board of Elections will promulgate guidelines for the local boards to use concerning special procedures for elderly and disabled voters. It is most important for these voters to be given a choice about which procedures they need or if they need any procedures. Persons who are elderly and persons who have disabilities have a variety of needs, and they are the only ones who can determine those needs. The choice must be specifically mentioned as part of the guidelines because it will not occur if it is not mentioned. These voters should be treated with respect, and their dignity should not be compromised in any way.

SB66 is a very good bill. It will encourage the elderly and disabled voters to exercise their right to vote because their needs will be recognized and met by the election officials. Please vote in favor of the amended SB66.