



**Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change**

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**SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**February 26, 2025**

**SB 323 – Election Law – Statewide Voter Registration Application –  
Prepaid Postage**

**Position: SUPPORT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the Protection & Advocacy agency in Maryland, federally mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM works to increase opportunities for Marylanders with disabilities to be part of their communities.

DRM supports Senate Bill 323, which requires statewide voter registration applications to include a return envelope with prepaid postage, facilitating the return of the application to the State Board of Elections. Individuals with disabilities often encounter barriers that impede their ability to engage fully in the voting process. By providing additional support for individuals registering to vote, this bill will facilitate the participation of individuals with disabilities to exercise their fundamental voting rights.

The inclusion of prepaid postage eliminates a potential financial barrier and simplifies the registration process, particularly benefiting those who may find it challenging to obtain postage due to mobility constraints or other disability-related limitations. This measure aligns with the principles of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandates equal access to public services and accommodations for individuals with disabilities.

SB 323 also promotes greater civic engagement by making voter registration more straightforward and less burdensome. This is especially crucial for individuals with disabilities, who are often underrepresented in the electoral process. For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 323. Please do not hesitate to contact me BradenS@DisabilityRightsMD.org or 443-692-2485.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney  
Disability Rights Maryland