

February 5, 2025

Testimony on SB 18
Election Law – Early Voting Days – Number of Days
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Unfavorable

Common Cause Maryland is in opposition of SB 18, which would reduce the number of early voting days

Democracy works best when all eligible persons are able to participate and make their voices heard. Early voting allows more opportunities to get to the polls – easing or eliminating problems for those who cannot make it to vote on Election Day.

Early voting has proven to be tremendously popular in Maryland. Data released by the State Board of Elections shows that, during the 2024 General Election, we broke the state record for single-day turnout surpassing the previous unofficial single-day early voting record (set during the 2020 General Election). We expect the program to grow more popular as the number of early vote center locations increase and become more accessible.

As the state strives to engage more voters in our elections, it is important that we continue to provide opportunities for voters to cast their ballots at a time and on a schedule that works with busy lives, long work hours, and other barriers to voting on Election Day.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge an unfavorable report from the committee.