



Testimony - HB 1043, Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2025 - Voter Suppression and Vote
Dilution
Favorable
House Ways & Means Committee
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Honorable Chairwoman Atterbeary & Members of the House Ways & Means Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents over 23,000 workers across Maryland. Our members are politically engaged because politics often touches every aspect of not just their lives but their livelihoods. And, like any other American, they hold their right to vote as both civic duty and sacred right. It is for these reasons we express our strong support for House Bill 1043, the Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2025. This bill is a critical step toward ensuring that all Marylanders, regardless of race, language, or disability status, have equal access to the ballot and a fair opportunity to participate in our democracy.

HB 1043 strengthens voting rights in several key ways:

- Prevention of Voter Suppression and Vote Dilution – The bill prohibits election policies or practices that result in disparities in voter participation among protected classes, ensuring that all communities have equal access to the ballot box.
- Stronger Protections Against Discriminatory Election Policies – By addressing racially polarized voting and requiring remedies for election systems that disadvantage protected classes, this legislation ensures that minority voters are not disenfranchised by unfair districting or voting methods.

- Enhanced Transparency and Accountability – The bill mandates that local governments provide clear public notice before making changes to voting procedures, preventing last-minute rule changes that could suppress voter participation.
- Legal Recourse for Affected Voters – HB 1043 gives individuals and organizations the ability to challenge discriminatory voting policies and practices in court, ensuring that voter suppression is met with swift and effective remedies.

In an era where voter suppression tactics continue to evolve, Maryland has the opportunity to lead by example in protecting the fundamental right to vote. By passing HB 1043, we can reinforce our state's commitment to fair and inclusive elections. When our federal government fails to lead because of partisan deadlock and an administration that seeks to roll back the past 60 years of civil rights progress, it falls on you in this room to lead the way.

We urge this committee to give HB 1043 a favorable report. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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