

## **HB0781 – Favorable**

Honorable Delegates

I support:

- requiring the State Board of Elections to establish guidelines for the local boards of election to implement a process to accommodate and expedite voting for elderly voters and voters with disabilities at each early voting center and polling place;
- requiring the local boards to implement the guidelines and collect feedback on the process from elderly voters and voters with disabilities so they can make immediate adjustments to the process.

Based on the bill, I meet the definition of elderly, but currently, not the definition of being disabled.

So far, my age has not hampered my ability to stand in line and process my ballot at a voting station. However, recently, I have had my mobility restricted temporarily from a broken foot and a sore back. Fortunately, neither injury occurred during the latest election period. However, if the injuries had occurred during the November 5 election, it would have been beneficial if there had been a place for me to sit until it was my turn to check-in, and to sit until a voting station was open.

According to the Fiscal Note, local government expenditures are expected to increase beginning in fiscal 2026 depending on each county's approach to implementing the bill's requirements of an expedited process for elderly voters and voters with disabilities. Of the counties that provided responses, some counties indicated that the bill's requirements can be implemented at little or no cost while others expect to incur costs for additional election judges and for the signs required by the bill.

I also believe that this bill (HB0781) may be a better approach to assist the elderly and disabled in voting than the bill that would pilot curbside voting (HB0317). HB0781's approach would not have the technological issues of moving and securing voting equipment outside. Also, HB0781 and SB0066 would create an expedited process to reduce the wait, which is what many who testified for curbside voting said would be an advantage of curbside voting. Unlike curbside voting, this bill would allow the elderly and disabled to vote inside like everyone else.

Assuming that the local boards have the voting site logistics and funding to make the changes required by this bill, please enter a favorable report for HB0781.

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