



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 781 Election Law – Polling Place Procedures – Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)

POSITION – Support

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active citizen participation and that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed by law.

The League of Women Voters supports public access to voting and registering to vote.

HB 781 requires 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; local boards will collect feedback on the process from elderly voters and voters with disabilities and make immediate adjustments to the process; a training program for election judges to include instruction on best practices for assisting elderly voters and voters with disabilities; and generally relating to in-person voting by elderly voters and voters with disabilities.

The League of Women Voters understands that Maryland Election Judges' training includes best practices to meet the needs of all voters, including elderly voters and those with disabilities. However, the League also believes targeted training and voter feedback can enhance the support available for these groups.

The LWVMD, representing concerned citizens throughout Maryland, urges a favorable report on HB 781.