

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

February 11, 2025

**HB 624 – 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 House Bill 624, 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.

HB 624 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 HB 624. Please do not hesitate to contact me BradenS@DisabilityRightsMD.org or 410-929-6859.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorney
Disability Rights Maryland