



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

January 21, 2025

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

HB274 - Support

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is the professional membership organization representing local election officials and Election Boards across all 24 jurisdictions in the state. Our members are dedicated to ensuring the smooth and effective administration of elections, and we are deeply committed to making Maryland elections accessible, secure, and fair.

The Maryland Association of Election Officials supports House Bill 274, as it addresses key areas that will improve election administration in Maryland. Specifically, we are in favor of the bill's provision to unlink polling place numbers from the 2018 statewide election and instead base them on the most recent census data. This update will ensure that polling place plans are aligned with the current population distribution, reflecting demographic changes and ensuring better voter access.

Furthermore, the bill's new requirement for local boards to submit one comprehensive election plan—rather than separate plans for polling places, early voting centers, and ballot drop boxes—will streamline the planning process. It provides a more coordinated approach to election logistics, reducing redundancy and ensuring all aspects of the election are considered as a unified whole.

The bill also shifts the timeline by making the plan submission deadline one month earlier. While this change does not provide additional time for local boards to prepare their plans, it does allow for more time between submission and the election for the State Board of Elections (SBE) to review the plans and for local boards to make any necessary adjustments.

We respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 274.

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