



Maryland Occupational Therapy Association

PO Box 36401, Towson, Maryland 21286 ♦ mota-members.com

Committee: House Ways and Means

Bill Number: House Bill 781

Title: Election Law - Polling Place Procedures - Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)

Hearing Date: February 18, 2025

Position: Support

The Maryland Occupational Therapy Association (MOTA) supports House Bill 781 – *Election Law - Polling Place Procedures - Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters With Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)*. The bill will require 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. The bill will also require election judges to be given instruction on best practices for assisting elderly voters and voters with disabilities, as defined in the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.

Occupational therapy practitioners work to increase accessibility for patients in all aspects of everyday life. Voting is an important right that should be accessible to all Marylanders. Although voting centers in Maryland have a variety of aids, there are currently no requirements like those in this bill, including expedited lanes and priority seating for those who need such accommodations. Providing accommodations for elderly voters and voters with disabilities will go far in allowing more people to vote in Maryland.

We ask for a favorable report. If we can provide any further information, please contact Michael Paddy at mpaddy@policypartners.net.