



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee

SB 929: Workgroup on Mail-In Ballot Accessibility

March 25, 2025

Position: Support as Amendments

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. From this position, the Council supports SB 929 as amended.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- This bill establishes a workgroup to **look at the accessibility of the State's** mail-in ballot return system including the impact on voters with disabilities.
- The workgroup will collect information about current practices for accessible alternatives to paper mail-in ballot return, and evaluate the alternatives for people with disabilities.

WHY is this legislation important?

- Voting is a fundamental right that Marylanders with developmental disabilities want and need to access. However, people with disabilities participate in the electoral process at a lower rate compared to people without disabilities due to accessibility barriers.
- Voting remains inaccessible for many people with disabilities. The U.S. Election Commission found that 20% of voters with disabilities had trouble on Election Day due to accessibility compared to 6% among voters without disabilities.
- More accessible voting systems benefits all Marylanders. When one group is served more efficiently, all voters are able to vote more efficiently. This means voters who are busy moms, college students, low-income families, and more can all expect a better experience at the polls. Everyone deserves to a smooth voting process during every election cycle.

Contact: Dr. Stephanie Dolamore, Deputy Director, sdolamore@md-council.org