

# Testimony Against HB0253

Honorable Delegates

Please vote against HB0253.

How will the Board know that a registered voter in the pretrial detention facility will receive the absentee ballot and that the intended recipient actually has voted? Will prevent an employee or another prisoner from intercepting the ballot, vote and sign the intended recipient's name. With no signature verification requirement, who would know the difference? Additionally, what would prevent someone else from doing the voting and coercing the prisoner to sign it, even if the prisoner had had no intention of voting and would not have requested the ballot if it was not automatically delivered?

What is the registration process for changing the address of a voter from his/her previous address to a detention facility address? How long does it take the Board to process the change of address and what, if any verification process of the request is done? It took weeks before my change of address was processed and I received my new voter ID card.

How long do these voters stay in the pretrial detention facility and how many might be released or moved elsewhere before the ballot arrives? What happens to the ballot if the voter is no longer at the facility? Will you have someone from the Board and the facility to describe the controls over this process?

The road to hell is said to be paved with good intentions. While no one wants to deprive eligible persons from voting because they are in a difficult situation, we need to make those persons actually are the ones who are voting. If the voters can process a change of address while at the facility, why not let them request an absentee ballot at the same time? Why resort to an automated issuance instead of only send ballots to those who request them?

Until you are sure that there are sufficient chain of custody controls and voter integrity controls at the facility for this process, please vote against HB0253.

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