



**Maryland Developmental  
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

**Ways & Means Committee**

**HB 91: Election Law – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity**

**January 28, 2024**

**Position: Oppose**

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD 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. People with developmental disabilities and their families lead the DD Council. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes HB 91 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

**WHAT** does this legislation do:

- Requires a voter to prove their identity by presenting either:
  1. A government-issued photo ID that includes a signature; or
  2. A valid photo ID not from the government with a signature AND an official document with their name and address (e.g., current utility bill, pay check, etc.)
- Requires a voter to provide a written signature at the time of voting that matches the signature on the identification

**WHY** is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely not to have government-issued photo identification.
- It creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities because:
  - People with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting location accessibility issues.
  - People with disabilities are more likely not to be able to provide a written signature.

Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process. HB 91 is a step in the wrong direction. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes HB 91.**

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