



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Ways & Means Committee

HB 115: Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter 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 115 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do:

- Requires a voter to present a voter registration card, driver's license, or other government issued 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.¹

Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process. HB 115 is a step in the wrong direction. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes HB 115.**

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¹ <https://cdce.umd.edu/sites/cdce.umd.edu/files/pubs/Voter%20ID%202023%20survey%20Key%20Results%20Jan%202024%20%281%29.pdf>