

Subject: favorable HB1097

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To: House Ways and Means Committee

Please vote in favor of HB1097, a bill that creates a workgroup to study the mail-in voting process and its impact on persons with disabilities. This workgroup must give its recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by the end of 2025.

I am forced to use the mail-in process to vote because I must travel for my job as an assistive technology instructor and marketing expert. Last year, I made over thirty trips across the U. S. going to conferences to market screen readers, Braille displays and various low vision devices. I offer training classes on how to use these products to both teachers of blind students and other blind people who need these devices for employment.

Some Maryland citizens may use the mail-in process as a convenience.

I use it because I have to if I want to vote. My employer expects me to travel, I must face discrimination. I do not have a secret ballot and lose independence and privacy. In today's advanced technology, surely Maryland can fix this problem if it has the will to do it.

Please vote yes on HB1097 and end discrimination against the blind.