



TESTIMONY FOR SB0255
Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Counties and Municipal Corporations

Bill Sponsor: Senator Sydnor

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0255 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

SB0255, the Voting Rights Act of 2026 prohibits any county or municipal corporation from imposing or applying an election method—including practices that result in vote dilution—that impairs the ability of members of a protected class to elect candidates of their choice or to influence other ballot outcomes.

These protections are essential to ensuring that local elections—where decisions most directly affect residents’ daily lives—are fair, equitable, and reflective of the communities they serve. As demographic shifts continue across the state, SB0255 ensures that local governments cannot adopt or even maintain systems that weaken the voting strength of minority communities.

SB0255 supports the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition, which promotes legislation in education, environment, public safety, healthcare, and social justice to improve the lives of all Marylanders. This bill facilitates our work and strengthens a more inclusive democracy by ensuring every Marylander has an equal voice in their government.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0255.