



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
MARYLAND

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From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: Senate Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee to give a favorable report to SB0670. This bill gives the authority to regulate behavior in the polling places to local board employees rather than to a local police officer. Local election employees will know more than the police officer about whether the voters or people watching over the elections are obeying the rules. The election officials undergo specialized training and are closer to the situation, making a better evaluation.

Persons with disabilities, including the blind, may wish to use the Ballot Marking Device rather than writing on a paper ballot. Sometimes, misunderstandings arise because the Ballot Marking Device has not been properly set up for use. Local election officials are more qualified to handle situations and calm parties and restore order.

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB0670. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.