

SB0236 RichardKaplowitz_FAV

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Richard Keith Kaplowitz

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TESTIMONY ON SB#/0236- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#/0236, **Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology - Regulations, Review, and Evaluation**

The Brennan Center has documented the need for this legislation. ¹

Most states use electronic voting and tabulation systems that are at least a decade old, and many are no longer even manufactured. Election officials report that they must go to eBay to find replacement parts, which in itself poses a security threat. Registration databases are similarly antiquated, frequently running on unsupported software, which may not receive regular security patches and may be more vulnerable to the latest methods of cyberattacks.

Maryland must undertake these actions because the Federal Government is abandoning its role in protecting the security of our elections. Cyberscoop.com reported: ²

As feds pull back, states look inward for election security support - Secretaries of State are scrambling to replace cybersecurity services once provided by CISA and other federal agencies.

As CyberScoop and others have reported, CISA [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency] has scaled back its election security support – in some cases [shuttering](#) work on topics like disinformation — while firing or [sidelining](#) election security specialists at the agency. The administration is also pursuing voter data from all 50 states, an effort that has [been called](#) “unprecedented and illegal” by one court.

Maryland can, through this bill, remediate these problems that now exist by requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations for the review, certification, and decertification of election-supporting technology and to review and evaluate election-supporting technology on or before January 1 each year; and requiring that the regulations be adopted by December 1, 2026.

¹ <https://www.brennancenter.org/election-security>

² <https://cyberscoop.com/cisa-election-security-cutbacks-states-trump-administration/>

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB#/0236.