

SB 949/HB 1069: Election Law - Canvassing of Absentee Ballots - Preemption by Federal Judicial Action: Please vote to OPPOSE this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 949/HB 1069**, concerning *Election Law – Canvassing of Absentee Ballots – Preemption by Federal Judicial Action*.

While clarity in election administration is important, this legislation raises significant concerns regarding the balance of authority between state law and federal judicial intervention. Maryland's election procedures, including the canvassing of absentee ballots, are carefully established through statute to promote consistency, transparency, and predictability across jurisdictions. Altering these procedures in response to federal judicial action may create uncertainty and undermine uniform application of state election law.

Election processes should be governed by clear legislative standards rather than reactive statutory adjustments that could introduce confusion for election officials and voters alike. Frequent or automatic changes tied to federal litigation will create inconsistent timelines, administrative burdens, and potential disputes regarding which standards control in a given election cycle.

Additionally, absentee ballot canvassing requires strict adherence to chain-of-custody protocols, verification requirements, and established deadlines. Any ambiguity in authority or procedure could weaken public confidence in the integrity and finality of election results. **Maryland's voters deserve a system that is stable, transparent, and insulated from unnecessary procedural uncertainty.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 949/HB 1069**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals