

Sam Kinch Draft Testimony in Support of SB 727
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 25, 1:00 p.m.

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sam Kinch. I am a resident of Crownsville, Maryland. I'm testifying as a 30-year veteran of United States military and as a cyber security expert who spent years leading the integration of all National Guard cybersecurity forces into U.S. Cyber Command.

As a military veteran, I know personally how difficult it can be to exercise the basic right to vote when you're stationed overseas. Far too many service members deployed abroad do not vote—not because they lack commitment, but because the process can be slow, complicated, and unreliable. When stationed overseas I never knew whether my ballot was actually counted.

I was skeptical whether mobile voting could provide a solution. I spent my career defending critical cyber systems and identifying vulnerabilities. As a veteran and cyber security professional, I could not support mobile voting unless it had strong systems integrity.

However, after years of thorough review, I believe mobile voting can be secure and transparent. Technology and Security systems have evolved rapidly. We can now expand access without sacrificing integrity. The new technology is transparent and assumes bad actors are everywhere. If there's a problem, the system is designed to fail loudly and ensure that problems can be corrected, which is not the case with other forms of voting.

SB 727 provides Maryland municipalities the opportunity to use a responsible tool that has demonstrated a 300% increase in voter participation, encourages our deployed military members to vote, creates additional resilience in our electoral processes, and strengthens voter trust."

I respectfully urge a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.