

SB 901/HB 1027: Election Law - Telephone Voting System - Requirements: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee & Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose SB 901/HB 1027**, concerning *Election Law – Telephone Voting System – Requirements*.

While ensuring access to voting for all Marylanders is important, this bill would require the State Board of Elections to select, certify, and acquire a telephone voting system specifically for absentee voting by voters who attest to having a print disability.

There are serious concerns about the **cost, security, and administrative complexity** associated with implementing a new telephone voting system. Mandating a separate system for a specific group of voters may divert limited election funds and staff resources from other essential election administration tasks, such as improving existing absentee and early voting systems, training poll workers, and enhancing cybersecurity protections.

In addition, any voting system involving telephones or remote access raises **security and verification challenges**. Ensuring voter identity, ballot integrity, and resistance to fraud or technical vulnerabilities is difficult with telephone systems, and creating a new system may introduce risks not present in current paper-based or verified digital alternatives. Proper safeguards may be expensive or impractical to implement.

Finally, any expansion of voting methods should be carefully evaluated for potential unintended consequences, including inconsistencies across election jurisdictions and unequal access. Strengthening existing methods that already comply with federal accessibility requirements may be a more efficient way to support voters with disabilities without the cost and uncertainty of creating a separate mandate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose SB 901/HB 1027**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals