

SB 948: Election Law - Internet-Delivered Absentee Ballots - Information and Receipt Limitation: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE SB 948**, *Election Law - Internet-Delivered Absentee Ballots - Information and Receipt Limitation*.

While I appreciate the bill's intent to add some safeguards—such as requiring a detailed modal box explanation and affirmative voter confirmation for internet-delivered absentee ballots—the measures fall far short of addressing the serious security and integrity risks associated with delivering blank absentee ballots via the internet.

Internet delivery of ballots, even blank ones, introduces unnecessary vulnerabilities, including potential interception, alteration during transmission, or exploitation through phishing or malware. Unlike traditional mailed ballots, **electronic methods lack robust chain-of-custody protections** and can compromise voter privacy by linking identifiable information to ballot access in ways that paper systems do not. **Experts in election security have long warned that any internet-based ballot handling increases risks of hacking, coercion, or errors that could undermine public confidence in our elections.**

The bill's main restrictions—limiting permanent absentee voters to internet delivery for only one election cycle and requiring them to switch methods afterward—do not eliminate these risks; they merely delay or redistribute them. Voters on permanent status (often those with disabilities or mobility issues) may still face barriers if forced to change methods repeatedly, while the core problem of internet vulnerability remains unaddressed.

Maryland's current absentee voting system, centered on secure mail delivery with signature verification and tracking, already provides accessible, auditable, and verifiable options for all voters. **We should prioritize strengthening and expanding proven paper-based systems rather than expanding or perpetuating internet-delivered options.**

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote against SB 948** and support alternatives that enhance election security without relying on internet transmission of ballots.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration to this important matter and for your service to Maryland voters.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals