



NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF THE BLIND
MARYLAND

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From: Ronza Othman, President
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To: Senate Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee to give a favorable report to SB0100. This bill requires buses operated by a county on fixed local routes to allow passengers to disembark at the entrances of early voting centers.

Voting is one of the most important responsibilities that Americans can have. Anything that makes the voting process easier, such as stopping the bus at the entrance of an early voting center, should be done. Voters who are blind would particularly benefit from this bill because it would make disembarkation easier when attempting to vote at a local polling location, a place the voter is likely not visiting very frequently; thus having an easier getting to the polling location will enable a blind voter to be more motivated to vote, and will also allow them to vote independently.

This bill does not create additional burdens because it states that “each bus operating on that route shall, to the maximum extent practicable and consistent with accessibility requirements, allow passengers to embark and disembark at the entrance of the early voting center”

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on SB0100. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.