

2026 SB0567 Testimony For 2026-02-25.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: FAV

Testimony For SB0567

Honorable Senators

Please enter a favorable report for SB0567.

I support

- Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring
 - the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or
 - a valid non-government-issued photo identification, and
 - a current bill,
 - statement, or
 - check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity;
- requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and
- prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

From what I have read, a majority of Marylanders support supplying a photo ID when they vote, and they find it insulting when opponents of this bill (and the Federal equivalent) state that people of color and married women will not be able to obtain photo IDs. This bill would even allow the few who do not have a photo ID or forgot their photo ID to cast a provisional ballot. Thus, no one would be disenfranchised as opponents claim. The rest of my testimony is copied from the Secure the Vote Website.

The proposed Voter ID bill is a vital step toward ensuring the integrity, security, and transparency of Maryland's elections. By requiring all in-person voters to present a valid photo identification, this legislation strengthens election security, helps prevent voter fraud, and reinforces public confidence in the democratic process. Voter ID laws are a common-sense safeguard supported by most Americans and reflect standard practices used in everyday life—from cashing a check to boarding a plane. Notably, Maryland is one of only 14 states that currently do not require photo identification to vote, leaving our elections more vulnerable to inconsistencies and errors. This bill addresses those concerns while also ensuring accessibility by requiring the State Board of Elections to provide free voter photo identification cards to any registered voter upon request. With clear guidelines, compassionate exceptions, and practical implementation strategies, this proposal ensures fair and equal voting standards across the state while protecting every eligible citizen's right to vote.

Why voter identification requirement is essential to accurate and trustworthy elections:

- **Enhances Election Security:** Requiring photo identification helps ensure that only eligible voters cast ballots, reducing the potential for voter impersonation and fraud.
- **Promotes Public Confidence:** Voters are more likely to trust the integrity of the electoral process when measures like photo ID requirements are in place.
- **Widely Accessible IDs:** Photo IDs are commonly used in daily life for activities like banking, travel, and accessing government services, making compliance straightforward for most voters.
- **Safeguards Against Errors:** Photo ID verification can help reduce clerical or administrative errors in identifying voters at polling places.

Testimony For SB0567

- **Consistent Voter Identification:** Establishing a uniform requirement ensures equal standards across all voting locations, preventing discrepancies.
- **Supports Accurate Outcomes:** By verifying identity, photo ID requirements help ensure that only legitimate votes are counted, protecting the integrity of election results.
- **Broad Public Support:** Polls consistently show that most Americans, across political affiliations, support voter ID laws as a common-sense measure. *Maryland is one of only 14 states not to require photo identification to vote.*

OVERVIEW:

The below text outlines the requirements for photo identification to vote in person in Maryland including a new requirement for the State Board of Elections to provide, upon request, a Voter Photo Identification Card.

It specifies acceptable forms of ID, verification processes, provisional ballot procedures, and exceptions for those unable to provide ID due to religious objections, reasonable impediments, or natural disasters.

It also details the review process for exceptions and the purpose of the ID requirement.

*Finally, the selected text outlines the procedures and regulations for issuing voter photo identification cards in accordance with Maryland Election Law **§ 10-315**.*

Photo Identification Required to Vote

- Voters must present a valid photo ID to vote in person.
- Acceptable IDs include MD driver's license, special ID cards, US passport, MD voter photo ID, student and employee IDs, out-of-state driver's licenses (if registered within 90 days of the election), military IDs, Veterans ID cards, tribal enrollment cards, and government-issued IDs for public assistance programs.
- Expired IDs are acceptable for voters aged 65 or older if the ID was valid on their 65th birthday.

Verification of Photo Identification

- Precinct officials will compare the photo on the ID with the person presenting to vote.
- If there is a dispute, a challenge will be conducted, and the voter can vote unless all election judges unanimously agree the ID does not resemble the voter.

Provisional Ballot Required Without Photo Identification

- Voters without acceptable ID can cast a provisional ballot, which will be counted if they present an acceptable ID to the county board of elections by the deadline.
- Voters will receive an information sheet on acceptable IDs and the deadline for submission.

Exceptions

- **Religious Objection:** Voters with religious objections to being photographed can complete an affidavit and cast a provisional ballot.

Testimony For SB0567

- Reasonable Impediment: Voters with reasonable impediments preventing them from obtaining an ID can complete an affidavit and a reasonable impediment declaration form to cast a provisional ballot.
- Natural Disaster: Voters affected by a natural disaster within 100 days before the election can complete an affidavit and cast a provisional ballot.

Reasonable Impediment Declaration Form

- The form includes options for lack of transportation, disability or illness, lack of required documents, work schedule, family responsibilities, lost or stolen ID, ID applied for but not yet received, and other reasonable impediments.

County Board Review of Exceptions

- The county board will validate provisional ballots cast due to inability to provide ID if the required affidavit is submitted, unless there are grounds to believe the affidavit is false.

Purpose

- The purpose of the ID requirement is to confirm the voter's identity, not their residence, which is determined by other means.
- **10-315. Requirement for Photo Identification to Vote in Person**

(a) Photo Identification Required to Vote.

When a registered voter presents to vote in person, the voter shall produce any of the following forms of identification that contain a photograph of the voter:

(1) Any of the following that is valid and unexpired, or has been expired for one year or less:

- a. A Maryland driver's license.
- b. A special identification card for non-drivers issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).
- c. A United States passport.
- d. A Maryland voter photo identification card issued by the State Board of Elections.
- e. A student identification card issued by a college or university in Maryland, provided the card is issued in accordance with the rules established by the State Board of Elections.
- f. An employee identification card issued by a state or local government entity in Maryland.
- g. A driver's license or special identification card for non-drivers issued by another state, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory, but only if the voter registered within 90 days of the election.

(2) Any of the following forms of identification, regardless of whether the identification contains an expiration date:

- a. A military identification card issued by the United States government.
- b. A Veterans Identification Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- c. A tribal enrollment card issued by a federally or state-recognized tribe.

Testimony For SB0567

d. An identification card issued by a federal or Maryland state agency for a government program of public assistance.

(3) Any expired form of identification listed in this subsection, if presented by a registered voter who is 65 years or older, provided that the identification was valid on the voter's sixty-fifth birthday.

(b) Verification of Photo Identification.

Precinct officials shall compare the photograph on the identification with the individual presenting to vote. If the officials dispute the voter's identity based on the photograph, a challenge shall be conducted in accordance with Maryland Election Law § 10-312. A voter shall be allowed to vote unless election judges unanimously agree that the photo identification does not reasonably resemble the voter.

(c) Provisional Ballot Without Photo Identification.

If a voter cannot produce photo identification as required, they may cast a provisional ballot. The ballot will be counted if the voter presents acceptable photo identification to the local board of elections by the close of business on the day before the canvass of provisional ballots. The State Board of Elections shall provide the voter with information on deadlines and acceptable forms of identification.

(d) Exceptions.

(1) Religious Objection.

If a voter cannot provide photo identification due to a religious objection to being photographed, they may complete an affidavit under penalty of perjury at the voting location affirming their identity and religious objection. Upon completion of the affidavit, the voter may cast a provisional ballot.

(2) Reasonable Impediment.

If a voter cannot provide photo identification due to a reasonable impediment, they may complete an affidavit under penalty of perjury and a reasonable impediment declaration form, affirming their identity and the nature of the impediment. Acceptable impediments include:

- a. Lack of transportation.
- b. Disability or illness.
- c. Lack of necessary documents.
- d. Work schedule.
- e. Family responsibilities.
- f. Lost or stolen identification.
- g. Identification applied for but not yet received.
- h. Other impediments as described by the voter.

(3) Natural Disaster.

A voter affected by a natural disaster declared by the President of the United States or the Governor of Maryland within 100 days of the election may complete an affidavit to cast a provisional ballot.

(e) County Board Review.

If the local board of elections determines that a provisional ballot was cast due to the lack of photo identification and the required affidavit was completed, the ballot shall be considered valid unless the board has reason to believe the affidavit is false.

Testimony For SB0567

(f) Purpose.

The purpose of photo identification is to confirm that the individual presenting to vote is the registered voter on the voter rolls. The address on the identification is not determinative of residence for voting purposes. Residency for voting is determined pursuant to Maryland Election Law § 3-202.

In addition, we believe in order to strengthen this bill and dispel any resistance to the voter id requirement based on access to proper identification, we encourage an additional required duty of the State Board of Elections to provide, upon request, a voter photo identification card to all registered voters.

Here's our best attempt at the language we might use to add the requirement of the BOEs to issue, upon request, Voter Photo Identification Cards to all voters.

- - **§ 3-205. Voter Photo Identification Cards**

(a) Issuance of Voter Photo Identification Cards.

The local boards of elections in each county, in accordance with this section, shall issue voter photo identification cards upon request to registered voters without charge. The voter photo identification cards shall:

1.
 1. Contain a photograph of the registered voter, the name of the registered voter, and the voter registration number of the registered voter.
1.
 1. Be used solely for voting purposes.
1.
 1. Expire 10 years from the date of issuance.

The expiration of a voter photo identification card does not affect the validity of the voter's registration status, nor shall a voter's registration be rendered inactive solely due to the expiration of the voter photo identification card.

(b) Equipment for Voter Photo Identification Cards.

The Maryland State Board of Elections shall provide the necessary equipment for printing voter photo identification cards to the local boards of elections. The local boards of elections shall be responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment.

(c) Secure Database Maintenance.

The local boards of elections, or the Maryland State Board of Elections, shall maintain a secure database containing the photographs of registered voters taken for the purpose of issuing voter photo identification cards.

Testimony For SB0567

(d) Procedures for Issuance of Voter Photo Identification Cards.

The Maryland State Board of Elections shall adopt rules to ensure the following minimum procedures are implemented:

1. **A registered voter seeking a voter photo identification card must provide their name, date of birth, and the last four digits of their Social Security number.**
2. **Voter photo identification cards shall be issued year-round, except during the period beginning at the close of early voting for a primary or general election and ending on election day.**
3. **If a voter loses or damages their photo identification card, they may request a duplicate card without charge from the local board of elections. Requests may be made in person, by telephone, or by mail.**
4. **If a voter's name changes and the voter updates their voter registration to reflect the change, the voter may request a replacement card. The request may be made in person, by telephone, or by mail and requires the voter's date of birth and the last four digits of their Social Security number.**
5. **All voter photo identification cards shall include the following disclaimer:
*"Expiration of this voter photo identification card does not automatically result in the voter's registration becoming inactive."***

Ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of a voter photo identification card, the local board of elections shall notify the voter of the impending expiration.

Source, see [Voter ID - Secure The Vote MD](#)

Please enter a favorable report for SB0567.

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net
February 23, 2026

SB567 FAVORABLE WRITTEN TESTIMONY.pdf

Uploaded by: David Hafer

Position: FAV

FAVORABLE WRITTEN TESTIMONY

SB567

I submit this favorable written testimony is support of SB567. In every facet of life, one must have some form of valid identification. Just to get into this building where this hearing is being held, one must have valid identification. Air travel, the purchase of liquor, checking into a hotel, accessing medical care, everywhere you look, an ID is required. Everywhere, except for voting in the State of Maryland and a handful of other states. Last time I looked, it was just 13 states that did not require an ID to vote. The idea that disadvantaged groups of people do not have the ability to obtain an ID just does not withstand the lightest of scrutiny and is frankly insulting to these groups. Disadvantaged people by their very nature are on some sort of public assistance. How do they access this? With a valid form of identification. Further, the claims that voter ID requirements are disadvantageous to women also does not bear the slightest of scrutiny. Voter rolls are not updated any faster than a marriage certificate can be produced.

We know that valid identification to vote is a common sense requirement. Please favorable consider SB567

David Hafer

Mechanicsville, MD 20659

SB567VoterID.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

SB 567 – Elections – In Person Voting – Proof of Identity

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

Senate Bill 567 is common sense legislation that would require voter ID but expands the types of identification that can be used.

One of the main concerns expressed about requiring voter ID is that there are individuals do not possess a government-issued ID. Senate Bill 567 deals with this by including a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government-issued document; a voter notification card; or the sample ballot mailed to the voter by a local board.

There are now 36 states that request or require ID to voteⁱ. In our one-person-one-vote system, having intentional but reasonable security measures instills confidence in the sanctity of our votes and our system of government. There have been many cases in which people registered in multiple states vote multiple times, cases in which deceased voter cast a ballot, or is a non-citizen. Senate Bill 567 will give voters the confidence that all who vote do so legally.

I respectfully request a favorable on Senate Bill 567.

ⁱ National Conference of State Legislatures. *Voter ID Laws*. July 2025. [Voter ID Laws \(ncsl.org\)](https://www.ncsl.org/voter-id-laws)

SB0567 In-person voting - proof of identity FAV.pd

Uploaded by: SHARON CARRICK

Position: FAV



February 23, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chairman
and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Maryland Senate, Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Chair Feldman and Members:

RE: **SB0567**– In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity -- **SUPPORT**

The 1,300 members of the Maryland Federation of Republican Women strongly support SB0567 to require proof of identity for in-person voting in all elections. Polls show that **an overwhelming majority of Americans support voter ID**:

- Pew Research Center (August 2025) -- 83% of U.S. adults strongly favor or favor “requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote”
- Rasmussen Reports (January 2025) -- 77% of likely voters said requiring photo ID is “a reasonable measure to protect the integrity of elections”
- Gallup (October 2024) -- 84% of U.S. adults favored “requiring all voters to provide photo identification at their voting place”

The right to vote is one of Americans’ most precious rights. Ensuring that the person who appears at the polling place is, in fact, the voter whose name is on the registration record is a sacred duty. The most reliable method of ensuring that the person voting is the registered voter in the poll book is to **show a valid government-issued photo identification**.

Requiring that the election official view the photo ID not only aids in preventing fraudulent voting, it also avoids mistakes that can occur when a person states their name. It reduces the chance that the wrong voter could be checked off on the poll book when the election official both sees the voter’s ID and hears the voter state their name and address. Securing a valid government-issued photo identification is not difficult. **Most citizens currently possess a government-issued photo ID**. Photo identification cards are issued free of charge by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration to individuals who do not have a driver’s license.

SB0567 provides several **reasonable accommodations** for a voter who does not possess a government-issued photo ID, including use of a non-government-issued photo ID along with a utility bill, a check or other document that states the voter’s name and address. The bill also provides that if the person does not have a photo-identification, they can vote a provisional ballot.

It is important that only American citizens vote in our elections. All citizens should be able to vote and to have that vote counted. When a non-citizen votes, it negates the vote of a citizen. This is unacceptable.

Please give a **FAVORABLE** report for **SB0567**.

Sincerely,

Ella Ennis
Legislative Co-Chair
(443) 295-3989

Sharon Carrick
Legislative Co-Chair
(301) 464-1954

HB 462_SB 567_ Elections - In-Person Voting - Pr

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FAV

HB 462/SB 567: Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity: Please vote **TO SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to express my **strong support for HB 462/SB 567**, the *Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity* legislation.

This bill takes a **commonsense approach to strengthening election integrity** by requiring voters to present valid proof of identity when casting a ballot in person. Ensuring that the person seeking to vote is a registered voter is fundamental to maintaining **public confidence in the democratic process** and protecting the value of every lawful vote.

Requiring identity verification at the polling place helps guard against fraud and reduces opportunities for mistaken or improper voting, while still **preserving full access for eligible voters** who bring appropriate documentation. Approximately 80% of American voters are in favor of this type of requirement and this reflects its *broad appeal as a means to safeguard the integrity of our elections* and reassure voters that Maryland's electoral outcomes are accurate and trustworthy.

Importantly, **this bill does not restrict any citizen's ability to vote** — it simply asks voters to show identity documents that are already widely used in everyday life. For those who lack a traditional government-issued ID, the bill provides reasonable alternative documentation options, ensuring that the policy is both **secure and inclusive**. We have to provide ID for everyday things like driving a motor vehicle, purchasing alcohol, cigarettes/tobacco and cannabis, opening bank accounts, renting an apartment or a rental car, etc. Providing an ID for voting is no different.

Marylanders deserve elections that are **transparent, secure, and beyond reproach**. **HB 462/SB 567** helps ensure that every ballot cast in person is lawful, valid, and reflects the will of the people.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **support HB 462/SB 567**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

SUPPORT FOR SB0567.pdf

Uploaded by: VINCENT GISRIEL, JR

Position: FAV

I am writing in support of SB0567, Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity. When you consider all the things in life when photo ID is required such as banking transactions, health services, buying alcohol and tobacco products, entering Senate and House buildings in Annapolis, and on and on; there is no valid reason that we should not do the same to vote.

Voting should require the same degree of security as any other important thing we do. Most Americans agree.

Please give a Favorable Report to SB0567. Thank you.

Vincent Gisriel, Jr.

14008 Sailing Rd

Ocean City, MD 21842

410-251-1360

SB 567 - Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of I

Uploaded by: Joanne Antoine

Position: UNF

February 25, 2026

Testimony on SB 567
Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity
Education, Environment, and the Environment Committee

Position: Unfavorable

Common Cause Maryland opposes SB 567, which would require proof of identity to vote.

Voting is celebrated as the most fundamental form of civic participation in a democracy, a means by which all voices are counted on an equal basis. Restrictive and burdensome photo identification requirements undermine this goal because they prevent eligible voters from participating, impose enormous and unjustified costs on states, and do not achieve the goals they claim to work towards.

Studies show that those without ID are disproportionately likely to be Black, Latino, young or elderly, come from a low-income household, have a disability, or be part of the LGBTQ+ community. For many of these eligible persons, it is no simple matter to obtain the necessary ID — the hurdles involved can make doing so difficult or impossible.

One of the documentation requirements to obtaining an ID from the DMV is a certified copy of your birth certificate. However, many people (and especially members of vulnerable communities like people of color, people from low-income households, LGBTQ+ people, etc.) do not have their birth certificate, have lost it, or never had one in the first place. Even if an individual has a copy of their certified birth certificate, the lack of a driver's license or access to reliable transportation keeps many eligible voters from accessing DMV offices which often have long wait-times and restricted operational hours.

The risk of disenfranchisement is far greater than the evidence of voter fraud in Maryland. Millions of citizens residing in states that have enacted these restrictive and burdensome laws do not currently possess the requisite photo ID needed to vote. And while there is anecdotal evidence of voter fraud, there is no proof that fraud is occurring on a scale that would necessitate this type of measure – or outweigh the risk these laws pose to eligible voters from vulnerable communities.

SB 567 would roll back basic protections that allow all registered voters to engage in our democratic process, and for those reasons we urge an unfavorable report.

Testimony on Senate Bill 567 – Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Kaelin Delaney

Position: UNF

Testimony on Senate Bill 567 – Unfavorable
SB567 – Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 23, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaelin Delaney, and I am a resident and homeowner in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. I am writing in opposition of Senate Bill 567 (Proof of Identity).

We live in a time where many public officials are alleging election fraud that countless studies have consistently proven is not happening. The Brennan Center for Justice has compiled a series of resources in their recent report, “The Truth About Voter Fraud,” demonstrating that claims of election or voting fraud are overstated and only serve to decrease voter participation from legitimate, legal voters.

“Politicians at all levels of government have repeatedly, and falsely, claimed the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections were marred by large numbers of people voting illegally. However, extensive research reveals that fraud is very rare, voter impersonation is virtually nonexistent, and many instances of alleged fraud are, in fact, mistakes by voters or administrators.” - Brennan Center for Justice

Studies from a number of reputable sources back up this claim. For example, “The Politics of Voter Fraud” by Lorraine C. Minnite, Ph.d. Assistant Professor of Political Science at Barnard College and Columbia University, explored allegations of voter fraud. She found that “[m]ost voter fraud allegations turn out to be something other than fraud” and that “[v]oter fraud is extremely rare” with an average of 8 people annually being convicted of federal voter fraud between 2002 and 2005. Most notably, she found that, “The more complex are the rules regulating voter registration and voting, the more likely voter mistakes, clerical errors, and the like will be wrongly identified as “fraud.”

This last point is most compelling when reflecting on this bill. This bill is designed to address something that is a political talking point and NOT a demonstrated problem with our electoral system. All it serves to do is limit the number of legal voters at the polls by raising the amount of proof needed to demonstrate you live in the state. This is because it increases the illegitimate basis for creating more laws like this, by creating more situations where people can be denied the right to vote and accused of trying to commit fraud through this denial.

This bill could limit voting opportunities for a number of legal voters, including:

- People with insecure or inconsistent housing

- People who recently experienced a major life event like moving or getting married
- People who are dependents on others, like a parent or partner, and therefore don't have financial proof tied to their current living situation

This is a non-exhaustive list of people who may not be eligible to vote should this bill pass, because they would struggle to prove their legitimacy despite the fact they are a resident of the state and county they say they are. And this is not an accident—this bill is an intentional ploy to deny people the right to exercise their legitimate right to vote. We should not be creating additional barriers to voting on the basis of false claims of fraud.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to issue an **unfavorable report on SB567**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Kaelin Delaney
Upper Marlboro, MD
20772
delaney.kaelin@gmail.com

testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 567 in pers

Uploaded by: Mat Rice

Position: UNF



Education, Energy, and the Environment

FROM: People on The Go Maryland

Written by: Mat Rice

Senate Bill 567 Elections In-Person Voting Proof of Identity

Date: Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by:

Senators Ready, Bailey, Carozza, Corderman, Folden, Gallion, Hershey, Jennings, Mautz, McKay, Salling, Simonaire, and West

POSITION: Opposed

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 567

Honorable Chair Person and Members of the Committee,

We are People on the Go Maryland, a statewide self-advocacy and systems advocacy organization run by and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are writing today to respectfully ask you to oppose Senate Bill 567.

Voting is one of our most important rights as Americans. It is how we make our voices heard and how we participate in our democracy. But Senate Bill 567 would make it much harder for people with disabilities, people of color, and new Americans to vote. This bill would create barriers that many of us simply cannot overcome.

Why This Bill Hurts People with Disabilities

Many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities do not have a driver's license. We may not drive, or we may use other forms of transportation. Getting a state ID card is not easy. It means going to the Motor Vehicle Administration, which can be far away and hard to get to. It means filling out complicated forms. It means finding documents like birth certificates that we may not have or know how to get.

Research shows that many people with disabilities do not have the kind of photo ID this bill requires. In fact, voter turnout among citizens with disabilities is already 11 percentage points lower than people without disabilities. This bill would make that gap even bigger.

The bill says we could use two other documents instead of a photo ID, like a utility bill or bank statement. But many of us do not have these documents in our own names. Many people with disabilities live in group homes where the utilities are in the name of the organization. Many of us do not have bank accounts or get paper statements. Many of us do not get paychecks because we are not working or we use direct deposit. This means the "alternative" option is not really an alternative at all.

If we cannot show the right ID, this bill says we have to vote using a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are more complicated. We would have to fill out extra paperwork and may need to provide documents later for our vote to count. Many provisional ballots are rejected for technical reasons. This creates a two-tier system where some people's votes are treated as less important than others.

Why This Bill Hurts Communities of Color

This bill would also create serious barriers for Black, Latino, and other communities of color. Research shows that 21% of Black Americans and 23% of Hispanic Americans do not have a driver's license, compared to only 8% of white Americans. This is not an accident—it is the result of historical discrimination and ongoing inequality.

Getting the documents needed for an ID costs money. Birth certificates can cost \$50 or more. For families living paycheck to paycheck, this is a significant burden. Many elderly Black Americans were born during segregation and were never given birth certificates because they were born at home or denied access to hospitals. These historical injustices make it impossible for some people to get the ID this bill requires.

Studies show that strict photo ID laws widen the racial turnout gap. In states with these requirements, Latino voter turnout dropped by more than 10 percentage points. This is voter suppression, plain and simple. It echoes the poll taxes and literacy tests that were used to keep Black Americans from voting during Jim Crow.

Why This Bill Hurts New Americans

Naturalized citizens—people who came to America and became citizens—are full Americans with the same right to vote as anyone born here. But this bill would make it harder for them to exercise that right.

When someone first becomes a citizen, they may not yet have a driver's license or state ID. Getting these documents takes time. Their naturalization certificate may not be accepted under this bill. Many new citizens live with family members or sponsors, so utility bills are not in their names. They may use money transfer services instead of banks, so they do not have bank statements.

Names can also be a problem. Someone's name on their naturalization papers may not match exactly with other documents because of marriage, cultural naming practices, or how names are translated from other languages. This bill could cause election officials to reject valid identification because of small differences in spelling.

The Problem This Bill Claims to Fix Does Not Exist

The supporters of this bill say it is needed to prevent voter fraud. But in-person voter fraud—where someone pretends to be another person at the polls—is extremely rare. A comprehensive investigation in Georgia looked at 25 years of elections and found zero cases where non-citizens successfully voted. A study in North Carolina found that out of 4.8 million ballots cast, only 41 were cast by people who were not yet citizens, and this did not affect any election results.

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. It would block thousands of eligible voters from casting their ballots to prevent a type of fraud that almost never happens.

Recommendation

People with disabilities fought hard for the right to vote. The Americans with Disabilities Act says we must have equal access to voting. People of color fought and died for the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act was passed to protect that right. And naturalized citizens earned the right to vote when they became Americans.

Senate Bill 567 would take us backward. It would create barriers that many of us cannot overcome. It would make our democracy less inclusive and less fair. It would silence voices that need to be heard.

We respectfully recommend you to oppose this legislation. We respectfully recommend that you do not support Senate Bill 567. Please stand with people with disabilities, communities of color, and all Marylanders who believe that voting should be easier, not harder.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Director

Mat Rice

Phone: 401.925.5706

Email: mat@pogmd.org

2-25 SB 567 Election Law - Proof of Identity.pdf

Uploaded by: Nikki Tyree

Position: UNF



TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SB 567 Election Law - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

POSITION: Oppose

By: Linda Kohn, President

Date: February 25, 2026

The League of Women Voters was founded on the concept that voter participation is an essential element of a thriving democracy. Our organization has worked for over 100 years to ensure the right to vote for every citizen. We oppose efforts to create new barriers that block citizen participation and, therefore, oppose a requirement to present identification to vote.

Pursuant to the federal Help America Vote Act, Maryland requires a voter to provide a verifiable driver's license number or the last four digits of a Social Security number at the time of voter registration. In the case of a voter unable to provide this information, other identification and residency proof are required, and a unique identifying number is assigned to the voter.

Additionally, a voter who submits a voter registration form by mail is required, at the first instance in which he or she votes, to present identification. Expansion of voter identification requirements beyond what the Help America Vote Act mandates will suppress voter turnout and be burdensome to voters and election officials.

Furthermore, photo identification requirements disproportionately impact those least likely to have current government-issued photo identification: the elderly, young people, rural voters, minority citizens, and people who experience poverty.

In [Resources on Voter Fraud Claims](#), the Brennan Center compiled more than 30 studies and analyses of voter fraud. It concluded, *"The consensus from credible research and investigation is that the rate of illegal voting is extremely rare, and the incidence of certain types of fraud – such as impersonating another voter – is virtually nonexistent."*

The Brennan Center's seminal report on this issue, [The Truth About Voter Fraud](#), found *"that most reported incidents of voter fraud are actually traceable to other sources, such as clerical errors or bad data matching practices. The report reviewed elections that had been meticulously studied for voter fraud and found incident rates between 0.0003 percent and 0.0025 percent. Given this tiny incident rate for voter impersonation fraud, it is more likely, the report noted, that an American "will be struck by lightning than that he will impersonate another voter at the polls."*

We urge you to issue an unfavorable report on SB 567.



SB567.DD Council.Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Rachel London

Position: UNF



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

SB 567: Election Law – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity

February 25, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. People with developmental disabilities and their families lead the DD Council. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes SB 567 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires a voter to prove their identity by presenting either:
 1. A government-issued photo ID that includes a signature; or
 2. A valid photo ID not from the government with a signature AND an official document with their name and address (e.g., current utility bill, pay check, etc.)
- Requires a voter to provide a written signature at the time of voting that matches the signature on the identification

WHY is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities because they are nearly twice as likely not to have government-issued photo identification.
- It creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities because:
 - People with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting location accessibility issues.
 - People with disabilities are more likely not to be able to provide a written signature.

Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process. HB 462 is a step in the wrong direction. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes SB 567.**

Contact: Rachel London, Executive Director, RLondon@md-council.org

217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 1300 • Baltimore, MD 21202 • 410.767.3670 • md-council.org

Dee Sapp, *Chairperson* • Rachel London, Esq., *Executive Director*

Testimony opposing SB0567 - Elections - Proof of I

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: UNF

SB0567_RichardKaplowitz_UNF

02/25/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON SB#0567 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony opposing SB#0567, Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity

This bill seems to be supporting the falsehood surrounding whether there is fraud being committed in voting in Maryland. It makes additional work for election workers when helping a voter to vote. The prohibition of voting under false pretenses is already a crime in Maryland and that has not been shown to be insufficient in prevention of the voter assuming a false identity to vote. It might prevent voting by any unhoused individuals who do not have the required identification but do have a mailing address within a social services component.

The Maryland State Board of Elections documents all the steps they take to insure we have safe and valid elections, and this bill would contravene some of the secure measures that are primary methodology in voter protections.¹

This bill is unnecessary and only serves to respond to political falsehoods around the conduct of elections that do not occur in any number that would affect a Maryland election.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on SB#0567.

¹¹¹ https://www.elections.maryland.gov/about/election_security.html

2-25-2026 Unfavorable SB0567 Voter Identification.

Uploaded by: Ronza Othman

Position: UNF



Live the life you want.

From: Ronza Othman, President
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
15 Charles Plaza, #3002
Baltimore, MD 21201 president@nfbmd.org

To: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the Senate Education, energy, and the Environment Committee to give an unfavorable report to SB0567. This bill would require an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid non-government-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; require a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibit a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

The bill as written presents a significant barrier to voting for blind and low-vision voters. In order to acquire a state-issued form of photo identification, blind voters must have such identification issued by the department of motor Vehicles. Because they primarily serve drivers, DMV offices are not always accessible to blind voters, as they are not on public transportation routes. These voters must therefore incur a significant amount of planning and expense in order to obtain this identification. While the bill also permits a non-state-issued photo ID, these can also be difficult to obtain unless the voter is or has been a student, member of the military, or another individual with a status that requires or confers such identification. Adding the requirement that the voter also provide proof of their address presents an additional barrier. Blind voters cannot read printed utility bills or other documents that could be used to prove their address. Often these individuals do not receive paper bills at all, as these bills are inherently inaccessible to them, and pay their bills online or over the phone. Furthermore, they do not have printers to generate paper copies of bills or receipts. Finally, in-person voter fraud, which is the only kind of voter fraud this bill could theoretically prevent, is virtually nonexistent, as established repeatedly over the years by various studies.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on SB0567. For questions, please contact me at President@nfbmd.org or at 443-426-4110.

National Federation of the Blind of Maryland

Ronza Othman, *President NFBMD* | 15 Charles Plaza, #3002, Baltimore, MD 21201 | 443-426-4110 | www.nfbmd.org

SB567.VoterID.26.pdf

Uploaded by: Virginia Crespo

Position: UNF



8379 Piney Orchard Parkway, Suite A • Odenton, Maryland 21113
Phone: 410.551.1517 • Email: mrspa@mrspa.org
Website: www.mrspa.org

Senate Bill 567
In Opposition Of
Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Hearing: February 25, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Senator Feldman, Chair, Senator Kagan, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association opposes SB 567.

We strongly oppose this legislation because we believe it will be a detriment to voters. When a citizen registers to vote s/he is required to provide a government-issued photo identification or a valid non-government-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address proof of identity. The voter's identifying information is then put into the state database of registered voters. Requiring the voter to re-present his/her identification on election day is redundant. It also places a hardship on those who, for whatever reason, are unable to access their identification on election day.

This legislation also requires a voter to present a "valid" photo ID. Many elderly people who do not travel nor drive anymore do not renew their expired passport/driver's license. We do not require voters getting a mail-in/absentee ballot to show an ID to receive their ballot. We should not then require a voter who votes in-person to show an ID either. When a voter presents him/herself to the election judge they are required to give their name, address, and birthday. If that person is a registered voter, this information will be verified in the voter registration database, and the voter will then be allowed to vote.

There have been only 10 proven instances of voter fraud in the state of Maryland since 2012, according to the Heritage Foundation's Election Fraud Map, www.electionfraud.heritage.org. This legislation is trying to fix a problem that does not exist. It also places a burden on the elderly who may not have a valid, government-issued photo ID. For these reasons, there is no need to require additional proof of identity.

On behalf of the almost 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge an unfavorable report on SB 567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Elizabeth H. Weller".

Elizabeth H. Weller
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Virginia G. Crespo".

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide