

**Favorable  
House Bill 219  
Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026- Voter Intimidation and Suppression**

**Government, Labor, and Elections Committee  
February 11, 2026**

**Paul Lemle  
President**

The Maryland State Education Association strongly supports House Bill 219. This legislation seeks to enhance voting rights by prohibiting voter intimidation and deceptive practices, inhibiting local government actions that create inequalities for protected classes, and strengthening public notice for policy changes.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Voter intimidation and suppression undermine our democracy. Growing efforts on the federal level to create obstacles to voting silences the voices of citizens and disenfranchises entire communities. Underrepresentation at the federal, state, and local levels has a profound impact on communities, affecting access to local infrastructure, health care, environmental protections, investments in public schools and universities, and so much more. Strengthening and ensuring every citizen's access to the ballot box strengthens our democracy and ensures an equal voice in shaping our nation's future. House Bill 219 aims to ensure that every citizen has equal access to the ballot box and in turn the opportunity to choose representatives who will fight for the issues and policies they care about.

**We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on House Bill 219.**