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Health Committee

Subcommittees

Elder and Long-Term Care

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 4, 2026

Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Chair Delegate Melissa Wells

Vice Delegate Kenneth Kerr

142 Lowe House Office Building

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

For the record, I'm Delegate Teresa Woorman representing District 16. Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1083, Montgomery County Board of Elections – Membership, MC 6-26.

Montgomery County's Board of Elections operates under the leadership of Election Director Boris Brajkovic and a strong bipartisan board. They have handled high-turnout elections, mail-in ballot processing, and recounts with professionalism and transparency. I've seen their work up close during the 2022 primary canvass and recount. It is serious work, and they take it seriously.

This bill addresses a structural issue. Montgomery County currently has two substitute members on what is otherwise a five-member board. Those substitute members attend every meeting, participate in ballot canvasses, complete the same training, and receive the same compensation as regular members. The only difference is that they can vote only when a regular member is absent and they cannot serve as officers under the Board's bylaws.

In practice, they are already doing the job. The statute just hasn't been updated.

Since 2011, twenty-two counties have converted their substitute members into regular members through local legislation. Only Montgomery County and Prince George's County still operate under this structure. This bill applies only to Montgomery County and carries a zero-dollar fiscal note.

The substitute members were vetted through the same process as every other Board member — reviewed by the local central committee, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. They are already carrying the workload. This bill ensures that going forward, their authority reflects that responsibility.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1083.