

Testimony Against HB0221

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report on HB0221

I oppose proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution authorizing a voter to change the voter's political party affiliation at an early voting center or a precinct polling place during a primary election and vote the ballot for the voter's new political party affiliation.

Unaffiliated voters or voters from any other party, have plenty of time to formally switch their registration to vote in the primary. The last day to change affiliation before the primary is June 2 and the first day of early voting is June 11.

This bill seems to be designed for those unaffiliated voters who wait until early voting begins to decide that they want to vote in the primary, show up, and then are told they cannot do so. Instead of passing this bill, perhaps the State Board of Elections should run ads in May reminding unaffiliated voters they have until June 2 to register with a party if they want to vote in the Primary (some unaffiliated voters who just moved to Maryland from states with open primaries may not be aware that they will not be able to vote in our primary).

Please enter an unfavorable report on HB0221

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, Maryland 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745