

HB1027 RichardKaplowitz_FAV

02/25/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#1027- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Election Law - Telephone Voting System - Requirements

TO: Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor and Elections 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 in support of HB#1027, **Election Law - Telephone Voting System – Requirements**

This bill is submitted to make voting easier for those individuals who have a disability that interferes with the exercise of their ability to vote.

The bill defines for those persons “accessible format” meaning braille, large print, audio, or digital text that is used by blind or visually impaired individuals or individuals with a print disability. It defines “print disability” meaning a condition that prevents or inhibits an individual from reading, holding, or processing standard printed materials in the original format.

The solution to these identified barriers to certain voters will be, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the state board, in consultation with the local boards, shall select and certify a telephone voting system for absentee voting by eligible voters who have attested to having a print disability that meets the requirements of this bill.

This bill will require the State Board of Elections to select, certify, and acquire a telephone voting system for absentee voting by certain voters who have attested to having a print disability that meets certain requirements; defining "print disability" as a condition that prevents or inhibits an individual from reading, holding, or processing, standard printed materials in the original format; providing for the eligibility of a voter to use the telephone voting system; etc.

Every person who can cast a legal ballot should be given every opportunity to do so in Maryland.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1027.