

HB 1265: Election Law - Candidate Truthfulness - Oath: Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Government, Labor & Elections Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **SUPPORT HB 1265**, *Election Law - Candidate Truthfulness - Oath*.

HB 1265 highlights potential consequences, including perjury charges, candidacy disqualification, or removal from office, for knowingly spreading deliberately false statements about key personal matters such as employment history, legal record, or organizational/religious affiliations.

In an era of increasing misinformation and distrust in politics, this measure promotes greater honesty and transparency from those seeking public office. It targets verifiable factual claims about a candidate's background—areas where deliberate falsehoods can mislead voters and undermine fair elections—without infringing on protected speech like opinions, policy positions, or rhetorical flourishes common in campaigns. Requiring this oath encourages ethical campaigning and gives voters clearer insight into candidates' commitment to truthfulness.

This straightforward reform strengthens election integrity and public confidence without imposing undue burdens. Maryland voters deserve candidates who are willing to stand behind the accuracy of their factual representations.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to **vote in favor of HB 1265** and help restore trust in our electoral process through greater candidate accountability.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals