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House Bill 0462
In Opposition Of
Elections – In-Person Voting – Proof of Identity
Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Hearing: February 11, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.

Dear Honorable Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair, and Honorable Delegate Kenneth Kerr, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

The Maryland Retired School Personnel Association opposes HB 0462.

We strongly oppose this legislation because we believe it will be a detriment to voters. When a citizen registers to vote s/he is required to provide a government-issued photo identification or a valid non-government-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address proof of identity. The voter's identifying information is then put into the state database of registered voters. Requiring the voter to re-present his/her identification on election day is redundant. It also places a hardship on those who, for whatever reason, are unable to access their identification on election day.

This legislation also requires a voter to present a "valid" photo ID. Many elderly people who do not travel nor drive anymore do not renew their expired passport/driver's license. We do not require voters getting a mail-in/absentee ballot to show an ID to receive their ballot. We should not then require a voter who votes in-person to show an ID either. When a voter presents him/herself to the election judge they are required to give their name, address, and birthday. If that person is a registered voter, this information will be verified in the voter registration database, and the voter will then be allowed to vote.

There have been only 10 proven instances of voter fraud in the state of Maryland since 2012, according to the Heritage Foundation's Election Fraud Map, www.electionfraud.heritage.org. This legislation is trying to fix a problem that does not exist. It also places a burden on the elderly who may not have a valid, government-issued photo ID. For these reasons, there is no need to require additional proof of identity.

On behalf of the almost 12,000 members of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association, we urge an unfavorable report on HB 0462.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elizabeth H. Weller'.

Elizabeth H. Weller
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Virginia G. Crespo'.

Virginia G. Crespo
Legislative Aide