



Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change

The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Maryland

1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211

Phone: 410-727-6352 | Fax: 410-727-6389

DisabilityRightsMD.org

HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR, AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 100: Election Law – Early Voting Centers – Bus Stops
April 1, 2026
POSITION: SUPPORT

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM, formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the Protection & Advocacy agency of Maryland, charged with defending and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. DRM submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 100.

SB 100 improves access to early voting centers by requiring local fixed-route buses to stop at or near early voting sites, making it easier for voters to reach polls using certain methods of public transit. Many voters with disabilities rely on local transit for daily activities. By allowing passengers on local buses to board and disembark at or near the entrance of early voting centers, the bill expands accessible travel options and strengthens electoral participation for people with disabilities.

While DRM supports this bill, we note that it is unclear as to the impact on paratransit riders. Paratransit is federally required under the Americans with Disabilities Act to operate within three-quarters of a mile of fixed-route service. Because this bill requires service to early voting centers within one-half mile of fixed local bus route, it appears that paratransit riders from eligible jurisdictions will receive the same service extensions as local fixed route travelers, but the bill language should be clear, and be sure that paratransit riders are able to also board and disembark at the entrances of early voting centers to the maximum extent possible.

Overall, this bill increases travel options to polling places available for people with disabilities, improving voter engagement..

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on SB 100. Please do not hesitate to contact me at GillianJ@DisabilityRightsMD.org or by phone at 443-692-2498.