



Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change

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**HOUSE GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
HB 219: Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Voter
Intimidation and Suppression
February 11, 2026
POSITION: SUPPORT**

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the federally-mandated Protection and Advocacy agency of Maryland, charged with defending and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. DRM submits this testimony in support of HB 219, Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026, Voter Intimidation and Suppression.

HB 219's administrative policy notice requirements are significant for voters with disabilities. The bill requires local governments to provide advance notice before adopting election policies that affect voting processes, including assistance for voters with disabilities, as well as other assistance that may be required by a voter. These requirements help provide accessible notice about modifications to the voting process, which is essential for voters with disabilities to understand their options and make informed decisions about how to cast their ballot.

HB 219 also strengthens protections against voter intimidation, obstruction, and other actions that interfere with the right to vote for many Marylanders. While these provisions do not explicitly reference disability-related barriers, they create a framework for challenging conduct that effectively blocks access to polling places or election services.

DRM supports this bill to keep elections fair for all Marylanders, including historically disenfranchised groups, by creating a direct process for citizens to seek action.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 219. Please do not hesitate to contact me at GillianJ@DisabilityRightsMD.org or by phone at 443-692-2498.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gillian Justice
Community Engagement
Coordinator
Disability Rights Maryland