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HB 641 - Election Law – Curbside Voting – Pilot Program
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
February 18, 2026
FAVORABLE

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee, my name is Charlesetta Griffin. I serve as volunteer Chair of the Legislative Committee for AARP Suitland, Maryland Chapter #939. We would like to thank Delegate Williams, together with Delegates Coley, Foley, Hill, Lehman, Martinez, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Solomon, Spiegel, Stinnett, Taveras, Wells, and Wilkins, for introducing this important legislation. We strongly support HB 641, also known as the Curbside Voting bill.

AARP is a nonpartisan organization that does not donate to or endorse candidates. One of our priorities is ensuring that all eligible voters have access to the ballot box, and we plan a broad array of voter engagement efforts to help older Americans exercise their right to vote. For example, AARP has created an online voter engagement hub that points readers to each state's voting resources, where they can find information about voter registration, early voting, and absentee ballot procedures.

Maryland has made significant progress in expanding voting access by implementing early voting, offering vote-by-mail options, and providing convenient ballot drop-off locations. These measures have rightfully earned the state high marks. However, Maryland lags in one crucial area: **curbside voting**.

HB 641 addresses this gap by proposing a Curbside Voting Pilot Program, which would allow any voter to request this option while maintaining the integrity of the electoral process. It lays out rules for where curbside voting can occur, how it must operate, and what is required of the State Board of Elections and local boards.

Curbside voting is especially important for Marylanders with disabilities and frail older adults who face physical barriers to entering polling locations. Many seniors prefer to vote in person on Election Day and would greatly benefit from this accommodation.

Curbside voting is not a novel concept; many states and jurisdictions, including our neighbors in Virginia and the District of Columbia, have successfully implemented similar programs. HB 641 represents Maryland's opportunity to join these states in ensuring equitable access to the polls for all its citizens.

For all these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to vote in favor of HB 641 and help Marylanders more freely and easily exercise their right to vote. Thank you for considering this bill. For additional follow-up, please contact Sara Westrick at swestrick@aarp.org or 410-310-0374.