

KRIS FAIR
Legislative District 3
Frederick County

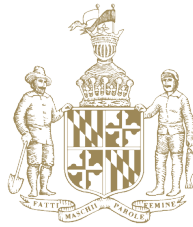
Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Election Law

Local Government/Bi-County
Agencies and Administration

Chair, Maryland Legislative
LGBTQ+ Caucus



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 306
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3472
800-492-7122 Ext. 3472
Kris.Fair@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 11, 2026

House Bill 689 – Candidates for Representative in Congress - Certificate of Candidacy Filing Deadline
for the 2026 Election - Alteration

Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
Government Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

After the House passed congressional redistricting, concerns regarding filing timelines for office were raised. House Bill 689 seeks to resolve those challenges while maintaining the 2026 election calendar.

Under current law, §5-303(a)(1) of the Election Law Article sets the deadline for filing a certificate of candidacy as 9:00 p.m. on February 24, 2026. HB 689 temporarily adjusts that deadline for candidates for Representative in Congress only, allowing them to file until 9:00 p.m. on March 20, 2026.

This emergency bill takes immediate effect so that the revised deadline is in place with enough time to allow all interested candidates to file. HB 689 **does not** modify the primary election date, **does not** alter any other election deadlines for any other candidates, and **does not** create administrative burdens for the state or local boards of elections. **Additionally, there is no fiscal impact at any level of government.**

This bill provides a simple fix: ensuring that candidates are not disadvantaged as the Senate considers the congressional redistricting plan recently adopted by the House. It preserves voter confidence, supports candidate fairness, and demonstrates that the General Assembly can address logistical considerations without disrupting the broader election schedule. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 689.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Fair".

Delegate Kris Fair
District 3, Frederick County