



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

April 1, 2026

Delegate Melissa Wells, Chair
Maryland House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

SB670 - Support with Amendments

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is the professional membership organization representing local election officials and Election Boards across all 24 jurisdictions in the state. Our members are dedicated to ensuring the smooth and effective administration of elections, and we are deeply committed to making Maryland elections accessible, secure, and fair.

MAEO supports Senate Bill 670 with the attached amendments. Current law primarily vests the power to keep the peace and direct law enforcement in temporary election judges. In practice, however, local election directors and their professional staff are the experts dispatched to voting locations to resolve the most complex disputes and administrative hurdles.

Senate Bill 670 aligns the law with these operational realities by granting designated professionals the authority to keep the peace, manage high-conflict disruptions that election judges may be hesitant to address due to potential harassment, and if necessary order the removal of individuals who interfere with the election process.

MAEO views the inclusion of "designees" in the current bill as a vital component for successful election management. Election directors are the operational anchors of their respective headquarters. During the early voting period, on election day, and throughout the high-pressure election period, directors are often required to remain at the central office to oversee operations as a whole. The ability to designate a staff member from their local elections office ensures that the proper chain of command extends to every site without requiring the physical presence of the election director.

The flexibility to utilize designees from existing office staff is also a significant win for accessibility. This provision allows an election director to deploy the most appropriate staff member to a specific location based on the needs of that community. For instance, if a dispute arises in a community with a large population of non-English speakers, an election director can designate a staff member fluent in that community's language to facilitate a resolution. This ensures that Maryland is sending the right person to the right job to protect voter access and ensure a de-escalated, orderly environment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of Election Officials respectfully requests a favorable report on the amended version of SB 670.