



**Maryland Developmental
Disabilities Council**

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

HB 830: Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Signature Requirements and Verification

February 18, 2026

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) is an independent, public policy organization that creates change to make it possible for people with developmental disabilities to live the lives they want with the support they need. People with developmental disabilities and their families lead the DD Council. **From that perspective, the DD Council opposes HB 830 due to the disproportionate and negative impact it would have on voters with developmental disabilities.**

WHAT does this legislation do?

- Requires the State Board of Elections to develop guidelines that require the verification of signatures on absentee ballot envelopes
- Requires a voter's signature to be verified before a local board of elections counts the ballot.

WHY is this a problem?

- It makes voting more difficult and cumbersome.
- It disproportionately affects voters with disabilities.
- It creates barriers for people with developmental disabilities.
 - People with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot due to existing voting location accessibility issues.
 - People with disabilities are more likely not to be able to provide a written signature.

Voters with developmental disabilities want and need access to participate effectively in the electoral process. HB 830 is a step in the wrong direction. **For that reason, the DD Council opposes HB 830.**

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