



NATIONAL FEDERATION  
**OF THE BLIND**  
MARYLAND

*Live the life you want.*

From: Ronza Othman, President  
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To: House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

The members of the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland urge the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee to give a favorable report to HB1001. This bill gives the authority to regulate behavior in the polling places to local board employees rather than to a local police officer. Local election employees will know more than the police officer about whether the voters or people watching over the elections are obeying the rules. The election officials undergo specialized training and are closer to the situation, making a better evaluation.

Persons with disabilities, including the blind, may wish to use the Ballot Marking Device rather than writing on a paper ballot. Sometimes, misunderstandings arise because the Ballot Marking Device has not been properly set up for use. Local election officials are more qualified to handle situations and calm parties and restore order.

For those reasons, we ask for a favorable report on HB1001. For questions, please contact me at [President@nfbmd.org](mailto:President@nfbmd.org) or at 443-426-4110.