



Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

CREATING CHANGE • IMPROVING LIVES

House Ways and Means Committee
HB 641: Election Law - Curbside Voting - Pilot Program
February 18, 2026
Position: Support with Sponsor's Amendments

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (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. From this perspective, the Council supports HB 641 with the Sponsor's amendments as a step toward making Maryland a place where everyone can participate effectively in the electoral process.

WHAT does this legislation do?

- HB 641 requires a pilot program for curbside voting that is accessible for people with disabilities in three jurisdictions: one county with a small number of votes, one with a medium number of voters, and one with a large number of votes.
- It also requires specific policies and procedures for accessible curbside voting that provide options for people with disabilities to vote independently or with assistance as needed.

WHAT does the amendment do?

- Requires election judges provide confirmation to the voter that their ballot was scanned and counted, and ensures there is a policy to address privacy since many voters with disabilities who may choose to use curbside voting will not be in the car alone.

WHY is this legislation important?

- Voting is a fundamental right for all Marylanders, including those with developmental disabilities.
- The lack of accessible polling places in Maryland remains a barrier for people with disabilities. For example, in the 2022 elections, voters with disabilities were more likely to report difficulties waiting in line and getting inside the polling place than those without disabilities.¹
- According to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, more people with disabilities vote during elections when there are expanded accessible voting options. For example, in the 2020 election, there was a six-point increase in the number of people with disabilities who voted due to greater use of mail in voting and curbside voting due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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¹ https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/EAC_2023_Rutgers_Report_FINAL.pdf