



TESTIMONY

HB1069 – Election Law – Canvassing of Absentee Ballots Preemption by Federal Judicial Action

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Fair

Committee: House Government, Labor, and Elections

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **HB1069** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists—individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

HB1069 provides essential clarity and continuity in the canvassing of absentee ballots when federal courts issue rulings that affect election timelines. In recent years, federal judicial actions have increasingly impacted state election administration, creating uncertainty for local boards. As an emergency measure, this bill ensures that Maryland has an immediate, legally sound framework for responding to such rulings without disrupting the canvassing process or undermining voter confidence.

By establishing a predictable response to federal judicial decisions, HB1069 protects the integrity of absentee ballot counting and ensures ballots are handled consistently regardless of external legal shifts. This stability is essential to maintaining trust in election outcomes.

Because a core part of our mission is to inform voters about legislation and their legislators, we must ensure that Marylanders can engage in the democratic process knowing their vote counts. Therefore, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1069.