



1410 Bush Street (Suite A)
Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 410-547-1515
Email: info@afscmemd.org

Patrick Moran – President

HB 219 Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Voter Intimidation and Suppression
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
Favorable
February 11, 2026

AFSCME Maryland Council 3 represents approximately 55,000 state, county, and municipal employees across Maryland support submitting testimony supporting HB 219.

AFSCME Council 3 believes that a strong democracy depends on free, fair, and accessible elections. The public employees we represent serve their communities every day, and many of them also serve as voters, election workers, and civic leaders. HB 219 strengthens the integrity of Maryland’s elections by ensuring that all eligible voters, particularly those from historically marginalized communities, are protected from intimidation, deception, and discriminatory election practices.

HB 219 provides important and necessary protection by:

- Prohibiting voter intimidation, deception, and obstruction that interfere with the right to vote;
- Requiring greater transparency and public notice when election-related policies are changed;
- Preventing local election actions that create inequitable impacts on protected classes; and
- Establishing clear enforcement mechanisms and remedies to address violations.

These provisions are especially important in light of ongoing efforts nationwide to suppress or discourage voter participation. Public sector workers understand firsthand how policy decisions affect access to essential services, and voting is no different. When barriers to participation are erected, whether intentionally or through lack of oversight, working people and communities of color are disproportionately harmed. HB 219 helps ensure that changes to election administration are made openly, fairly, and with accountability. It also empowers voters and the Attorney General to take action when violations occur, reinforcing public trust in the electoral system.

AFSCME Council 3 strongly supports HB 219 because protecting voting rights is fundamental to protecting workers’ rights, public services, and democratic accountability.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 219.