



Empowering People to Lead Systemic Change
The Protection and Advocacy System for the State of Maryland

1500 Union Ave., Suite 2000, Baltimore, MD 21211
Phone: 410-727-6352 | Fax: 410-727-6389
DisabilityRightsMD.org

House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
HB 871: Election Law –
Enhanced Automatic Voter Registration System
February 18, 2026
DRM Position: Support

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) is the Protection & Advocacy agency in Maryland, federally mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. DRM supports House Bill 871, which would require the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to implement an enhanced automatic voter registration system. This system would improve Maryland's current voter registration framework by expanding automatic registration to certain transactions, unless an individual declines or opt out.

Individuals with disabilities continue to face barriers to voter registration and participation, including accessing registration locations and information, and issues with completing registration materials. Enhanced automatic voter registration helps ensure registration opportunities are more available and less complex. For many individuals with disabilities who may encounter inaccessible systems or administrative requirements, this process can meaningfully increase access to participation in the democratic process. HB 871 promotes greater civic engagement for all by making voter registration more straightforward and less burdensome.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on HB 871.

Contact: Gabriel Rubinstein, Managing Attorney, Disability Rights Maryland,
443-692-2483, GabrielR@DisabilityRightsMD.org