



TESTIMONY

HB1407 Election Law – Absentee Ballots – Notice of Timely Receipt

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Rosenberg

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 **HB1407** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

Federal actions have become more frequent and unpredictable, creating uncertainty for both voters and election administrators. HB1407 addresses this challenge by ensuring that Marylanders are not left in the dark when federal decisions impact their absentee, i.e., mail in ballots. Specifically, by requiring the State to proactively urge early mailing or the use of secure drop boxes when deadlines are legally contested, this bill provides a necessary contingency plan for administrative uncertainty.

HB1407 requires the State Administrator of Elections to provide additional notice to voters if a federal judicial action affects the timely receipt of absentee ballots in federal contests and preempts existing State law or regulations. This bill ensures that voters receive clear, prompt communication when external legal decisions alter ballot-receipt timelines—an increasingly common occurrence in recent election cycles.

When voters understand how their ballots will be treated—and when they receive clear communication about changes, especially to deadlines, beyond the State’s control—they are better able to participate fully and trust the integrity of the process. This is especially important for communities that have historically faced barriers to voting and are disproportionately affected by administrative confusion or misinformation.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB1407.