

KRIS FAIR
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Frederick County

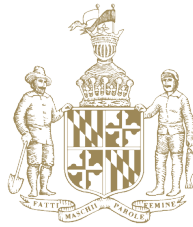
Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Election Law

Local Government/Bi-County
Agencies and Administration

Chair, Maryland Legislative
LGBTQ+ Caucus



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
Government Labor and Elections Committee
145 Lowe House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

February 25, 2026

House Bill 1010 / Senate Bill 236 – Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology -
Regulations, Review, and Evaluation

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Committee,

House Bill 1010 as amended proposes a modest requirement that the State Board of Elections shall adopt regulations “for the review, certification, and decertification of ranked-choice voting software; and ... [related] requirements.”

The bill does not require the use of ranked choice voting nor does it require the state to procure ranked choice voting software. It simply gives the Board authority to develop regulations about the tabulation software necessary to carry out ranked choice voting should the State or any of its jurisdictions choose to implement that voting method.

Why is this necessary now? Year after year there are multiple ranked choice voting bills introduced at the state and county levels in Maryland alone, and over 60 jurisdictions nationwide including Alaska, Maine, and New York City utilize this method of voting. It’s not a reach to say that ranked choice voting will eventually come to Maryland, so we ought to start preparing in the smartest way possible.

HB 1010 is thus forward-looking, especially because our machines can already run ranked-choice voting contests. This bill is most relevant to the tabulation process of ranked choice voting contests, which is a separate and additional step that must be completed after voters cast their ranked choice ballots and which requires additional software. Should Maryland or a local jurisdiction adopt ranked choice voting for one of its elections, the Board will need to identify and implement additional software to tabulate the results. This legislation allows SBE to create regulations that do just that.

With an eye towards potential future voting methods, I respectfully urge the Committee to return a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kris Fair".

Delegate Kris Fair
District 3, Frederick County