

House Bill 488
Constitutional Amendment
Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

UNFAVORABLE

I write in strong opposition to HB 488. Governor Wes Moore is pushing a corrupt gerrymandered map by scheduling a hearing during a blizzard – a blizzard so serious that he declared a state of emergency before the first flake had even fallen. His goal? Moore is more focused on Congress and his White House aspirations than the citizens of Maryland he is supposed to serve. He seeks to remove Congressman Andy Harris (R-MD1) from office through an underhanded mid-cycle redistricting effort.

If passed, this new map will favor Democrats in ALL 8 of Maryland's congressional districts and leave 1 million+ Marylanders who voted for Republicans in the last election with NO representation.

Even Senate President Bill Ferguson has voiced his concern regarding mid-cycle redistricting for Maryland because it “presents a reality where the legal risks are too high, the timeline for action is dangerous, the downside risk to Democrats is catastrophic, and the certainty of our existing map would be undermined.” Citing a judicial ruling following a special session in 2021 to redistrict striking down the map, Ferguson also said “any redrawing of the current map could reopen the ability for someone to challenge the current map and give the court the opportunity to strike it down, or even worse, redraw the map itself.” Governor Moore should heed the wisdom of senate leadership.

I respectfully request an UNFAVORABLE report on HB 488.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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