



**Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association**  
**Protecting the Future of Continuing Care Residents**  
**The Voice of Continuing Care Residents at Annapolis**

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 22: Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities  
**COMMITTEES:** Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
The Honorable Paul Pinsky  
**DATE:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

The **Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association (MaCCRA)** is a not-for-profit organization representing the residents in continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). Maryland has over 18,000 older adults living in CCRCs. The principal purpose of MaCCRA is to protect and enhance the rights and financial security of current and future residents while maintaining the viability of the providers whose interests are frequently the same as their residents. MaCCRA SUPPORTS efforts to:

- Enhance: Transparency, Accountability, Financial Security; and
- Preserve existing protections in law and regulation for current and future CCRC residents statewide.

**On behalf of the Maryland Continuing Care Residents Association, we support Senate Bill 22.** As drafted the bill will require local boards of elections to establish separate precincts in continuing care retirement communities of 200 or more individuals who are at least 60 years old specifically to serve at least the residents of those retirement communities if a continuing care retirement community requests a polling place be established on the premises. When that occurs the continuing care retirement community providers will be required to provide certain facilities and services to the local board.

There are already a few CCRCs in Maryland that serve as a polling place for their residents, and feedback is positive. MaCCRA supports the goal of the bill as it would allow an interested CCRC to request that a separate polling precinct be established in its facility. Rather than a mandate that all CCRCs establish a polling precinct, it would be a determination made by each CCRC.

MaCCRA members appreciate efforts to ensure access to voting in addition to the other voting options (absentee ballots) and supports made available by local boards of elections to senior citizens.

For these reasons we respectfully request a favorable report.

**For further information please contact:**

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