



6811 Campfield Road  
Baltimore, MD 21207

**TO:** Education, Health and Environment Committee  
**FROM:** LeadingAge Maryland  
**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 22, Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities  
**DATE:** January 22, 2020  
**POSITION:** **Favorable**

LeadingAge Maryland supports Senate Bill 22, Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

LeadingAge Maryland is a community of not-for-profit aging services organizations serving residents and clients through continuing care retirement communities, affordable senior housing, assisted living, nursing homes and home and community-based services. We represent more than 120 not-for-profit organizations, including the vast majority of CCRCs in Maryland. Our mission is to expand the world of possibilities for aging in Maryland. We partner with consumers, caregivers, researchers, faith communities and others who care about aging in Maryland.

Senate Bill 22 requires local boards of elections to establish separate precincts in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) of 200 or more individuals who are at least 60 years old specifically to serve at least the residents of those CCRCs, if a CCRC requests a polling place be established on the premises. If a polling place is established at a CCRC, the CCRC must provide without charge to the local board of elections a polling place for such use and assist in recruiting election judges from among the residents of the CCRC.

For senior citizens, access to election polls can be a significant challenge. Seniors experience a lack of transportation, lack of accommodations for those with disabilities, immobility and an inability to wait in line for an unknown period of time. Recognizing these obstacles, Congress passed the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act in 1984 which promotes the fundamental right to vote by requiring “access for elderly and disabled individuals to registration facilities and polling places in federal elections.”

Passage of Senate Bill 22 would allow CCRC residents to mobilize and establish a voting precinct at the community, thereby avoiding some of the challenges associated with senior citizen access to the polls.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Maryland respectfully requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 22.

**For more information, please contact Aaron J. Greenfield, Greenfield Law, LLC,  
410.446.1992**