

February 25, 2020

The Honorable Kumar Barve
Chairman, House Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Opposition of House Bill 816 (Real Property - Residential Leases - Voter Registration)

Dear Chairman Barve:

The Maryland Building Industry Association (MBIA), representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, opposes House Bill 816 (Real Property - Residential Leases - Voter Registration).

This measure requires a landlord provide a tenant with a State voter registration application within 15 days of the tenant moving in.

Landlords already have a number of tasks and duties to perform while managing a property, especially at the beginning of tenancy. Adding an additional layer of responsibility unrelated to managing the property would unfairly burden landlords during an already-stressful transaction.

Furthermore, the obligation this measure creates is far outside the parameters of a landlord's job. Voter registration is unrelated to the lease of a home. Imposing regulations unrelated to the duty of the job would unfairly burden landlords.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure an unfavorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: House Environment and Transportation Committee Members