

HOUSE BILL HB 37 – SUPPORT
Election Law - References to Absentee Voting in Communications - Mail-In
Voting
House Ways and Means Committee
January 16th, 2020

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the Ways and Means Committee. I am Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. As you know, AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the Free State, encompassing almost 900,000 members.

I am here today to support HB 37, which requires the State Board of Elections and each local board of elections to refer to absentee ballots as “mail-in ballots” and absentee voting as “mail-in voting” in all communications with voters and the general public and include in public communications regarding mail-in voting.

Ballots are cast by **mail** in every State, however, the management of **absentee voting** and **vote by mail** varies throughout the nation, based on State law. The right to vote is among the most basic of all political rights.

AARP believes that policymakers should encourage and promote maximum participation in the electoral process with the utmost clarity. States should adopt voter registration and voting systems and procedures that expand the range of voting choices to ensure that every eligible voter votes. If voters have clarity in the voting process, it makes the process easier especially for older voters.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests the Committee issue a favorable report for HB 37.

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by calling 410-302-8451.

