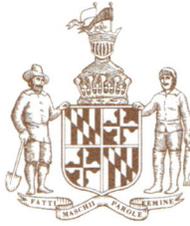


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HB 1172 – Election Law – Postelection Tabulation Audits – Risk-Limiting Audits
February 27, 2020

Members of the Ways & Means Committee, I urge that you give favorable consideration to my bill, **HB 1172** that would change our audit procedures for elections statewide in 2022. This bill will authorize the use of something called Risk-Limiting Audits (RLAs), conduct a pilot in two counties this year and create an RLA Workgroup to provide expert assistance to the State Board of Elections and to our local election boards.

What is a Risk Limiting Audit? It uses statistical means to confirm election results and takes full advantage of paper ballots.

What's wrong with the current audit procedures? As pointed out by election experts, our current auditing procedures are unable to count ballots generated by ballot marking devices or printouts from those who receive their ballot online; additionally our current audit procedures are not independent, since it relies on the voting machines that generated the results.

RLAs have several advantages and have the support of elections and statistical experts. First, RLA reduces workload by calibrating the sample size to the margin of victory, essentially only reviewing enough ballots to ensure statistical confidence. Secondly, RLAs are the best way to operate in case there is any evidence of ballot tampering.

This legislation is all about election integrity. Nothing matters more to our democracy than free and fair elections AND citizens' belief that our elections are free and fair. This bill supports the will of the voters. Note that the only opposition is related to costs to the local jurisdictions and not based on the policy.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 1172.