



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 16, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB36 – Information

Senator Pinsky and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry. I am the Election Director in Carroll County and the co-chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. MAEO represents the local boards of elections throughout the State of Maryland. I am writing today representing myself and MAEO with information regarding SB36 – Election Integrity Act.

This bill would require that in order to act as an agent for a mail-in ballot, the agent must be a family member or member of the household for the person who requests the use of an agent. MAEO would like the committee to consider how this law would be enforced and how proof would be provided to the local board of elections offices. Additionally, many local boards of elections coordinate this agent process with hospital employees for patients that they are caring for. This was particularly common during the COVID pandemic. Some people who need an agent live alone and do not have any family that live nearby. In some instances, agents do assist more than three people due to their specific circumstance.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410)386-2958 or Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.

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