



SB158 Election Law – Time Off for Employee Voting
Finance and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committees
February 4, 2021

Position: Unfavorable

Background: SB158 would alter the current law allowing for employees to take time off for voting in an election.

Comments: SB158, which would alter and expand on current State law regarding time off for voting in an election, is unnecessary due to the regulations already passed by this legislature regarding employee time off and the expanded nature of conducting elections. Current Maryland law allows for employees to take time off without documentation until the third day or consecutive shift missed, in addition to documented periods of sick leave and paid time off. Furthermore, voters are able to cast their vote in a variety of ways outside of Election Day, including voting by mail or participating in early voting. The early voting period for the 2020 General Election in Maryland lasted for the full eight days before Election Day, with voters able to cast their ballot during an 11-hour time window each day, in addition to various options for dropping off a mail-in ballot. The leave regulations already codified in State law, coupled with these ample opportunities available for voters to participate in elections, render this legislation unnecessary.

For these reasons, the Maryland Retailers Association would urge an unfavorable report on SB158. Thank you for your consideration.