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**HB 245 Election Judges – Training and Signs – Accommodations for Voters
in Need of Assistance
SUPPORT
House Ways and Means Committee
January 19, 2021**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, Director of Advocacy for AARP MD. AARP Maryland is one of the largest membership-based organizations in the State. AARP MD and its 850,000 members support **HB 245 Election Judges – Training and Signs – Accommodations for Voters in Need of Assistance**. We thank Delegate Hill for introducing this bill.

As you may know, AARP is the largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families. Key priorities of our organization include helping all Marylanders achieve financial and health security. In particular AARP strongly believes that all individuals have the right to be self-reliant and live with dignity in retirement.

HB 245 requires that election judges receive training for oral and written instruction methods to assist elderly or disabled individuals in voting. This would also include protections and access to ways an election official could assist infirm voters who cannot stand in line for long periods of time.

AARP believes that voting-rights laws should address the needs of people with physical disabilities. Federal laws mandate improved access to registration and polling places. They also require better outreach to older adults and people with disabilities.

AARP Maryland respectfully requests the House Ways and Means Committee to issue a favorable report for HB 245.

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.

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