



Ella Ennis, Legislative Chairman  
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The Honorable Paul Pinsky, Chairman  
and Members of the Education, Health  
and Environmental Affairs Committee  
Senate of Maryland, Annapolis, Maryland

RE: SB 112 - Oppose

The Maryland Federation of Republican Women opposes ballot harvesting. SB 112 does not prohibit ballot harvesting.

SB 112 prohibits a political party or other group from collecting absentee ballots in a container that is not an official ballot drop box designated by the State Board or a local board, but is “designed to appear to be an official or unofficial ballot drop box”. Several issues arise from this wording.

- 1) What is an “unofficial ballot drop box? It is not defined.
- 2) Can absentee ballots be collected in a container that is **not** marked to appear as an official ballot drop box? A box, brief case or back pack?
- 3) Can a political party’s paid staff or volunteer, or an out-of-state political action group’s staff or volunteer, collect absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications from voters in their homes, assisted living homes or at meetings and deposit those ballots in an official ballot drop box? Their container being their hands, brief case, back pack or box.
- 4) Is there a limit to the number of absentee ballots an individual may collect from a voter outside of an immediate family member and deposit in an official ballot drop box during an election?

Considering that the penalty for violations of the provisions of SB 112 is being guilty of a felony and subject to a fine of not more than \$10,00 or imprisonment for not more than 3 years of both, the above issues need to be clearly articulated before further action is taken on SB 112.

Please give SB 112, as written, an unfavorable report.

Sincerely,  
Ella Ennis