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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB112: Election Law - False Ballot Drop Boxes - Criminal Penalty
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Wednesday, January 26, 2022 | 1:00pm

Especially due to COVID, mail-in ballots became increasingly popular. [61% of Marylanders used this method in 2020](#)-- a 147% increase from 2016.

Drop boxes are conveniently located, secured, and video-monitored 24/7. Ballots are picked up by a bipartisan team of election officials to instill confidence in the election process. Because of the delays in our postal service, voters appreciated the reliability of using a drop box near their home or work.

During the 2020 Presidential Election, both [California](#) and [Pennsylvania](#) were plagued by the creation and installation of phony drop boxes. Our election officials make every effort to secure our authorized drop boxes but do not outlaw fake ones.

We must address this issue before it threatens Maryland elections.

I am sponsoring SB112 to:

- Ensure that **only** drop-off boxes authorized by the State or Local Boards of Elections are legal depositories; and
- Provide penalties for installing fake ballot drop boxes—offenders would be subjected to a fine of no more than \$10,000 and/or up-to three years of imprisonment.

Especially in light of the doubts raised by some candidates in the past, it is vital that we work to ensure voter confidence in the fairness, accuracy, and transparency of our elections process.

I urge a favorable report on SB112.