



# Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 16, 2023

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair  
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee  
Room 131, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

HB642 – Information

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry. I am the Election Director in Carroll County and the 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 to represent MAEO with information regarding HB642 - Election Law - Recounts - Procedures.

Recounts are rare events but they demand a significant allocation of resources in a short time frame. One challenge is ensuring adequate staffing to manage the recount process, which typically occurs over a 2-day period. Storing original mail-in ballots and duplicates together can add complexity to the process and divert personnel from other critical duties. This is especially true given that recounts are less frequent than other election procedures.

MAEO understands that it is critical for all election materials to be organized and stored in a proper manner in case there is such a time for a recount, but MAEO recommends that this be left to SBE regulations to manage.

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