



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

January 25, 2024

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

HB192 – Information

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and Committee Members:

My name is John Michael Gudger, chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. I am writing on behalf of MAEO to provide you with information regarding HB192 Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity.

While we recognize the importance of election integrity, we believe this bill has the potential to disenfranchise a significant number of our currently registered voters. Our primary concern lies with Section 10–310 (B)(2), which mandates voters to present specific forms of identification, including a government-issued photo ID or a combination of non-government-issued photo ID with additional documents. Such requirements may disproportionately affect vulnerable populations who may face challenges in obtaining the specified identification.

This approach may impact individuals with limited financial means, seniors, and others who lack the necessary documentation. Striking a balance between security and accessibility is crucial to ensure that every eligible voter can exercise their right without unnecessary barriers.

Additionally, Section 10–310 (D) mandates the referral of individuals unable to provide the required identification for a provisional ballot. This could lead to an increase in provisional voting, causing delays in counting and certifying election results. Timely and accurate results are essential for maintaining public confidence in the electoral process.

The bill is also presented as emergency legislation, prompting MAEO to express reservations. MAEO contends that any significant alteration with potential impacts on us during an election year should be either opposed or modified to come into effect after the imminent 2024 elections.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available to provide further insights or answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

John Michael Gudger
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Chair, MAEO Legislative Committee