



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Voting is a fundamental right. All Marylanders must have the same access to their fundamental right to vote, including people with disabilities.

These two bills would make in-person voting easier and more accessible for people with disabilities:

HB0317: Election Law — Curbside Voting — Pilot Program

Requires the State Board of Elections test how to use curbside voting and report to the General Assembly by September 1, 2029.

HB781/SB0066: Election Law — Polling Place Procedures — Voting by Elderly Voters and Voters with Disabilities (Accessible and Expedited Voting Act of Maryland)

Requires that the State establish guidelines for local boards of elections to have a faster voting process for older adult voters and voters with disabilities; collect feedback on the process; and require training for election judges on best practices for assisting elderly voters and voters with disabilities.

- Both of these bills promote greater inclusion for people with disabilities.
- With more options for voting, more people with disabilities will be able to vote.
- Trained election judges will be able to help more people inside polling places and early-voting centers.

The following bills would make voting harder for people with disabilities:

HB0067: Election Law — Absentee Ballots — Signature Requirements and Verification

Requires the verification of a voter's signature on an absentee ballot envelope, and requires a witness verify the signature before counting the ballot.

HB0091: Elections — In-Person Voting — Proof of Identity

Requires a voter who is voting in person at a polling place to show government-issued identification.

HB0115: Election Law — Polling Places — Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2025)

Why do they create barriers for people with disabilities?

- People with disabilities are more likely to vote by absentee ballot, and twice as likely to not have a government-issued ID.
- If a voter with a disability lives with family or in a residential setting, they may not have documents, like utility bills or bank statements, in their own names.
- Requiring a witness to verify the signature is complicated and creates a burden.
- If a voter does not have a witness, they may be forced to vote in person, which poses additional challenges such as transportation issues and long wait times.
- People with disabilities would be required to show more proof than people without disabilities.
- Many people with disabilities do not have a signature that is easy to read; in fact, many must use accommodations such as name stamps.
- It may be hard to get a government-issued ID for some people due to the difficulty in obtaining appropriate documentation, transportation, or funds.

HB0285 — Election Law — Voter Registration List — Absentee Voters

Allows any candidate to get a list of voters who have requested absentee ballots prior to an election; and requires that the list include email addresses and telephone numbers, if available.

Why is this a problem?

- Voters are guaranteed the right to privacy. Providing a list of absentee voters to any political candidate who asks for it, violates this fundamental right of every citizen.
- Sharing this information could result in intimidation and coercion, especially for certain groups, including people with disabilities, older adults, people of color, and other marginalized groups.

*For additional information about the bills highlighted here, please contact:
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