



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:

HB0357: 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:

People on the Go Maryland, info@pogmd.org