



Moving Forward / Advocating for Change

Summary of PoG's Legislative Testimonies Submitted to the Maryland Legislature, 2024

OUR WINS: (Passed both Chambers, Signed by Governor)

- HB 60: Rehabilitation Services – Disability - Definition
- HB 93/SB 162: Landlord and Tenant - Termination of Residential Lease - Limitation of Liability for Rent
- HB 432: Courts and Judicial Proceedings and Criminal Procedure – Technical Corrections – References to Intellectual Disability
- HB0822: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Employed Individuals With Disabilities
- HB981: Principal Departments - Individuals With Limited English Proficiency - Access to Public Services
- SB0092/HB0426: Open Captioning
- SB0226/HB0215: Attendant Care Program
- SB0891: Transportation - MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements - Study

OUR LOSSES: (We opposed these bills, but they passed anyway)

- HB0576/SB0453: Assisted Outpatient Treatment law (“AOT”)

BILLS WE OPPOSED, BUT DID NOT COME TO A FLOOR VOTE:

(consider these to be temporary wins, since they stalled in committee)

- HB0142: Election Law - Polling Places - Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2024)
- HB0192: Elections - In-Person Voting - Proof of Identity
- HB202: Election Law - Absentee Ballots - Signature Requirements and Verification
- HB 1215: Retail delivery fees
- SB0759/HB0698: Estates and Trusts - Guardianship of the Person of a Disabled Person - Expedited Proceedings
- SB0907: Motor Vehicles - Disability Parking Placards - Photo Identification
- SB1085/HB1144: “Segregated Housing Limitations” B
- SB1096/HB1456: Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator’s Permits - Identification of Non-Apparent Disability

BILLS WE SUPPORTED, BUT DID NOT COME TO A FLOOR VOTE:
 (renew our support for these in 2025, should similar bills be proposed)

- HB32: Caregivers Tax Credit
- HB0071 Education: Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program – Established
- HB0098/SB 185: Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Deafblind Co-Navigation Services Program – Established
- HB 318/SB 373: Criminal Law - Safe Carrier Act
- HB340/SB 388: Prescription Drug Affordability Board - Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding
- HB0641: Election Law - Curbside Voting (Passed House Committee, referred to Senate Committee)
- HB0987: Language Access Bill
- HB 1475: Health Facilities – Delegation of Inspection Authority – Related Institutions and Nursing Homes
- SB0432/HB0416: Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements (Passed Senate Committee, referred to House Committee)
- SB0802/HB775: Election Law - Voters with Disabilities - Electronic Ballot Return

TOTALS:

- 27 Bills for which we provided testimony
- 18 Bills we supported
- 9 Bills we opposed
- **8 supported Bills passed (44% of supported Bills, 30% of all testimony)**
- 1 opposed Bill passed (11% of opposed Bills, 4% of all testimony)

**HB 60: Rehabilitation Services - Disability -
Definition**

Our Position: Support

Purpose: Altering the definition of "disability" relating to the provision of rehabilitation services in the State to align with the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and defining "disability" as any physical or mental impairment that constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment or independent living.

Our Position: Support. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB60, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**HB 93, cross-filed with SB 162: Landlord and Tenant -
Termination of Residential Lease -
Limitation of Liability for Rent**

Our Position: Support

Purpose: Limiting a tenant's liability for rent under a residential lease to not more than 2 months' rent after the date on which the tenant vacates a leased premises, if a physician or psychologist completes a form specifying that the tenant has a mental disorder that causes the continued habitation of the leased premises to be unfeasible or unsustainable and requires the tenant to move to a home, facility, or institution, to obtain a higher level of care than can be provided at the leased premises and the tenant vacates the leased premises.

Our Position: Support. Many Marylanders with disabilities either have multiple disability diagnoses, or have family members with the same, and who have faced eviction at least once in their lives. Limiting a tenant's liability for rent, would ease the financial burden on people with disabilities, while they are in process of finding housing that is more suitably accommodating and barrier-free.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**HB 432: Courts and Judicial Proceedings
and Criminal Procedure – Technical Corrections –
References to Intellectual Disability
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Replacing references to mental retardation with references to an intellectual disability in certain provisions of law.

Our Position: Support. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB432, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**HB0822: Maryland Medical Assistance Program –
Employed Individuals With Disabilities
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide Maryland Medical Assistance Program services for qualified applicants who are at least 16 years old, and for existing Program recipients under the Employed Individuals with Disabilities Program in accordance with certain requirements; prohibiting the Department from limiting eligibility to receive services under the EID Program based on certain criteria; etc.

Our Position: People on the Go support this bill because:

- It would expand access to the EID program for younger individuals with disabilities, which will integrate them into the workforce more quickly; and
- It would prevent the Department of Health from denying eligibility for this program to those who are over the age of 65 or are about to turn 65.

POG believes in the dignity of work for all people, regardless of disability or support need. Costs of living become more significant as people age, due to their greater health and support needs.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**HB981: Principal Departments -
Individuals With Limited English Proficiency -
Access to Public Services
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Requiring, on or before July 1, 2025, the principal departments of the Executive Branch to fully implement certain provisions of law requiring equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency.

Our Position: Support. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB0981, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB0092, cross-filed with HB0426:
Open Captioning
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Requiring all motion picture houses to offer closed movie captioning for each screening of a certain motion picture; and requiring, if a motion picture is produced and available to motion picture houses with open movie captioning, a place of public accommodation that controls, operates, owns, or leases a motion picture house with eight or more screens in the State to provide open movie captioning for at least two screenings for each motion picture it screens each week for the first 3 weeks after a motion picture premieres in the motion picture house.

Our Position: People on the Go support this bill because:

- This benefits those who are Deaf and hard of hearing, as well as others who might need to read a description of what is happening in a movie, versus relying purely on being able to see the scenes in the film.
- POG does not agree with the objection that this could negatively affect attendance at movie theaters. The legislation only specifies a minimum of two showings per week.
- Movie-goers could choose whether to see a standard-format show or a captioned show — just as they can choose from the many other formats now being offered, to attract and increase movie theater attendance (Dolby Cinema, RealD 3D, IMAX, etc.).

- Movie theaters are already offering many other perks such as being able to choose your seating, and what kind of concessions you can buy. It is a simple matter to flip a switch to enable captioning at a movie showing. It would benefit a large population segment of individuals who either need captioning themselves or are caregiver support to impaired individuals.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB0226, cross-filed with HB0215:
Attendant Care Program
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Altering the purpose of the Attendant Care Program to include the provision of financial assistance for ongoing additional supports that increase an eligible individual's independent performance of essential daily living activities and is requested by an eligible individual.

Our Position: People on the Go support this bill because:

- SB 226 would alter the purpose of the attendant care program, overseen by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, to increase the eligible expenses for which an individual with a physical disability is able to request reimbursement.
- People with disabilities face greater difficulties in accessing resources in our communities. Being reimbursed for services like laundry and grocery delivery, would greatly facilitate our ability to live independent lives.
- People with disabilities also face a disproportionately high rate of poverty, due to being forced to rely on means-tested programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and other services. This may prevent an individual from being able to pay, on their own, for ordinary day-to-day expenses.
- POG foresees that a successful implementation of this attendant care program would serve as a model for other statewide programs in the future, that are intended to provide assistance to disabled and other marginalized populations in Maryland.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**SB0891: Transportation -
MobilityLink Paratransit Service Improvements - Study
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Requiring the Maryland Transportation Institute at the University of Maryland to conduct a study to identify methods to improve the Maryland Transit Administration's ADA MobilityLink paratransit service; authorizing the Governor to include in the fiscal year 2026 budget bill an appropriation of at least \$150,000 for the study; and requiring the Institute to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and certain elected officials, by July 1, 2025.

Our Position: People on the Go support SB0891 because many people with disabilities require a better system of transportation across the state of Maryland. We feel that this bill will contribute toward that process.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**HB0576, cross-filed with SB0453:
Assisted Outpatient Treatment law ("AOT")
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Authorizing each county to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program; requiring the Maryland Department of Health, on or before July 1, 2026, to establish an assisted outpatient treatment program in a county that does not opt to establish a program; and requiring the Office of the Public Defender to provide representation in assisted outpatient treatment proceedings.

Our Position: Opposed. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB0576/SB0453, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: PASSED BOTH CHAMBERS, SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

**HB0142: Election Law - Polling Places -
Establishing Voter Identity (Voter Privacy Act of 2024)
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Authorizing a voter to establish the voter's identity at the request of an election judge at a polling place by presenting the voter's registration card, a valid Maryland driver's license, or certain other identification that contains a photograph.

Our Position: POG opposes HB142 because not everyone with a disability will have access to a voter registration card, a valid Maryland drivers license, or certain other identification that contains a photograph.

Some of these items cost money to obtain, and not all those with disabilities will have the funds to obtain them. We feel this could be discriminatory against those with disabilities, as not having these items could exclude disabled persons from the polling process.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Ways and Means)

**HB0192: Elections - In-Person Voting -
Proof of Identity
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present a valid government-issued photo identification or a valid nongovernment-issued photo identification, and a current bill, statement, or check that states the voter's name and address as proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide certain proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

Our Position: People On the Go oppose HB0192 because the requirement for proof of identity would present barriers for many marginalized groups, including people of color and individuals with disabilities. Many individuals with disabilities live with their families, and do not have an identification card, or a utility bill, bank statement, or personal check, in their name. Many people who live in residential settings face similar issues.

Additionally, the documentation requirements to obtain a valid form of identification pose significant hardships to individuals with disabilities, and their families or others who may support them. These hardships and barriers include but are not limited to:

- Lack of transportation to a nearby Motor Vehicle Administration office.
- Lack of transportation to a medical professional who can provide the disabled person with proper documentation necessary to obtain a photo ID;
- Cost.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Ways and Means)

**HB202: Election Law - Absentee Ballots -
Signature Requirements and Verification
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Prohibiting a local board of elections from removing an absentee ballot from a return envelope or ballot/return envelope or counting the ballot, unless the return envelope or ballot/return envelope is signed by the voter and, except under certain circumstances, a witness and the local board verifies the voter's signature; and providing that the witness signature requirement does not apply to active duty uniformed services members serving overseas or their spouses or dependents who live overseas.

Our Position: People on the Go oppose HB202 because:

- Requiring signature verification disproportionately affects individuals with disabilities, many of whom do not have a functional signature, or use accommodations, such as name stamps, to vote. This measure would serve to disenfranchise them.
- The additional requirement of needing to have a witness present to verify the signature interferes with the voter's right to privacy. It also negates the convenience of being able to vote by mail in the first place. If a voter does not have a witness available, they will most likely be forced to vote in person.
- In-person voting presents still more barriers, such as lack of transportation to the polling place. Once there, people with disabilities and elderly individuals frequently must wait in long lines, which may cause them significant and unendurable physical distress.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Ways and Means)

HB 1215: Retail delivery fees
Our Position: Opposed

Purpose: Pledging certain revenues from a retail delivery fee and a transportation network company impact fee to paying the principal of and interest on consolidated transportation bonds issued by the Department of Transportation; establishing a Retail Delivery Fee and Transportation Network Company Impact Fee Account in the Transportation Trust Fund; requiring the Department to allocate the funds in the Retail Delivery Fee and Transportation Network Company Impact Fee Account for certain transportation purposes; etc.

Our Position: Opposed. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB1215, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Environment & Transportation)

**SB0759, cross-filed with HB0698: Estates and Trusts -
Guardianship of the Person of a Disabled Person -
Expedited Proceedings**
Our Position: Opposed

Purpose: Requiring a court to rule on petitions to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person, in order to seek transfer or discharge of a disabled person from a hospital within 10 days; and requiring that hearings to appoint a guardian of the person of a disabled person be held virtually unless the party seeking the appointment requests that the hearing be held in person.

Our Position: PoG did not compose testimony for SB0759/HB0698 because the proposed bill was withdrawn by the sponsor. If a similar bill is proposed in subsequent years, PoG will oppose it.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Judicial Proceedings)

**SB0907: Motor Vehicles -
Disability Parking Placards - Photo Identification
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration, on request, to issue a disability parking placard with an embedded color photograph of the placard holder; and requiring a parking placard with an embedded color photograph of the placard holder to include a privacy sleeve that allows a person to freely display or hide the color photograph.

Our Position: PoG opposes SB0907 because not only do we feel that a parking placard with a photo of the placard holder is excessive, but we worry about spotlighting to the public that the placard holder has a disability. This is an issue of privacy.

Along with the issue of privacy, no other group of people would find this acceptable. In the age of deep fakes, we are putting people with disabilities at risk of identity theft. Additionally, if the individual has their face on the placard and the staff person is holding it, there could be issues with communicating this to the officer requesting confirmation of proper possession of the placard. There is also the issue that if there is no photo on the placard, the requesting officer may treat them differently.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Judicial Proceedings)

**SB1085, cross-filed with HB1144:
"Segregated Housing Limitations" B
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Altering a reporting requirement for correctional units relating to restrictive housing; requiring hearing officers and personnel involved with the supervision and care of individuals placed in restrictive housing to undergo certain training; and establishing guidelines and procedures for the placement of incarcerated individuals in certain types of segregated housing.

Our Position: Opposed. PoG did not provide written testimony for SB1085/ HB1144, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Judicial Proceedings)

**SB1096, cross-filed with HB1456:
Licenses, Identification Cards, and Moped Operator's
Permits -
Identification of Non-Apparent Disability
Our Position: Opposed**

Purpose: Requiring that an application for a license, an identification card, or a moped operator's permit, allow an applicant to indicate the applicant's non-apparent disability, and requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ensure that the license, identification card, or moped operator's permit of an applicant who indicates that the applicant has a non-apparent disability included an "ND" notation.

Our Position: PoG have written a Letter of Information in lieu of testimony, detailing the possible unintended consequences and harm to people with disabilities, including but not limited to:

- People with disabilities may be exposed to predatory behavior;
- Hidden bias on the part of law enforcement or other officials, may be exacerbated in their dealings with people with disabilities;
- Automobile insurance premiums may be increased, or an application for insurance may be denied altogether, for people with disabilities.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Judicial Proceedings)

HB32: Caregivers Tax Credit
Our Position: Support

Purpose: Allowing certain caregivers, a credit against the State income tax equal to 30% of certain qualified expenses paid or incurred during the taxable year that exceed \$2,000 to provide care or support to certain qualified family members; and applying the Act to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

Our Position: Support. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB32, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Ways and Means)

HB0071 Education:
Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program –
Established
Our Position: Support

Purpose: Establishing the Holocaust Education Assistance Grant Program in the Maryland State Department of Education, to assist local school systems with Holocaust education in public schools; authorizing local school systems to apply to the Department for a grant from the Program to be used for teacher training or teaching materials; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 to the Program.

Testimony: People on the Go believe that teaching the Holocaust in local school systems is essential. The Holocaust was a terrible atrocity in which, Jews, LGBTQ people, disabled people, and people of color lost their lives. People on the Go believe that the Bill's grant opportunities for teacher and education trainings, are essential to ensure that education about the Holocaust continues to be a staple in classrooms across Maryland. This ensures that the people who perished are remembered, and that we never forget the horrors of the Holocaust. Through education and through this bill, we can continue to maintain vigilance that such a dark episode in our world history never happens again.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Ways and Means)

**HB0098, cross-filed with SB 185:
Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing -
Deafblind Co-Navigation Services Program - Established
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Establishing a Deafblind Co-Navigation Services Program in the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, to provide co-navigation services at no cost to deafblind individuals in the State; and defining Co-Navigation Services as services providing visual and environmental information or sighted services to assist with communication accessibility in an individual's preferred language and communication mode, and to assist with accessing an individual's physical surroundings and making informed decisions about those surroundings.

Our Position: People On the Go support this bill because:

- Any bill that promotes accessible technology for those who are deaf/blind and hard of hearing should be supported.
- Co-navigation services would be free of charge for those who are deaf/blind and hard of hearing, who would otherwise have to rely upon technology that can be prohibitively expensive.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Appropriations)

**HB 318, cross-filed with SB 373:
Criminal Law - Safe Carrier Act
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Prohibiting the theft of mail from a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of a device used to open a mail depository owned by the United States Postal Service; prohibiting the theft of mail with intent to commit identity theft; prohibiting the theft of mail from an elderly person or a vulnerable adult with intent to commit identity theft; and establishing penalties for violations of the Act.

Our Position: Support. Many people with disabilities still rely on traditional postal mail to get access to the information they need, to pay their bills and more. Due to forced reliance on SSI, Medicaid and other means tested programs, if a person with a disability has their identity stolen they most likely will not have the financial means to go after the individual or individuals stole their information. They may not even know how to do so, or where to begin to find out many police

departments lack the resources and time to pursue criminals who engage with this type of activity; and individuals with disabilities may not even be taken seriously due to stigma people with disabilities are more likely to be victims of identity theft than people without disabilities. We support any measure which cracks down on crimes of this type, not only for those with disabilities, but other vulnerable groups.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Judiciary)

**HB340, cross-filed with SB 388:
Prescription Drug Affordability Board -
Authority for Upper Payment Limits and Funding
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Requiring the Governor in fiscal year 2025, and each fiscal year thereafter, to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 for the Prescription Drug Affordability Fund, which provides funding for the Board; and requiring the Board, under certain circumstances, to establish a process for setting upper payment limits for all purchases and payor reimbursements of prescription drug products in the State that the Board determines have led or will lead to affordability challenges.

Our Position: Support. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB340/SB388, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Health and Government Operations)

**HB0641: Election Law - Curbside Voting
Our Position: Support**

Purpose: Requiring each local board of elections, at least 6 months prior to each statewide primary election, to designate an outside location for curbside voting, subject to the approval of the State Board; requiring a local board to take into account certain factors when determining a location for curbside voting; establishing requirements governing curbside voting; and requiring the State Board and local boards to emphasize in communicating with the public and voters that curbside voting is primarily an accommodation for disabled and elderly voters.

Our Position: POG support HB0641 because: Curbside voting is a fundamental voting accommodation for persons with disabilities who have mobility struggles and limitations. POG believe that designating a specific building to ensure voting accessibility will allow for those with disabilities or others who may be considered disenfranchised, to have access to voting opportunities. Furthermore, this bill provides the following opportunities for disabled voters:

- Accessibility of the location to historically disenfranchised communities
- Proximity of the location to dense concentrations of voters
- Accessibility of the location by public transportation
- maximizing voter participation, including through the use of community centers and public gathering places as locations for curbside voting.

Status: PASSED HOUSE COMMITTEE, REFERRED TO SENATE COMMITTEE (Education, Energy, Environment)

HB0987: Language Access Bill

Position: Support

Purpose: Altering provisions of law relating to equal access to public services for individuals with limited English proficiency, by establishing certain requirements for certain State departments, agencies, or programs, including establishing certain positions, establishing a certain language access plan, and developing certain guides and offering certain services; and requiring the Office of the Attorney General to provide oversight, monitoring, investigation, and enforcement of certain language access provisions.

Our Position: Support. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB0987, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Health and Government Operations)

**HB 1475: Health Facilities -
Delegation of Inspection Authority -
Related Institutions and Nursing Homes
Our Position: Support, with Amendment**

Purpose: Requiring the Secretary of Health, on request of a unit of local government, to delegate to the unit of local government the authority to inspect and to conduct site visits and full surveys of related institutions and nursing homes; and requiring related institutions and nursing homes to report certain information to a unit of local government if the Secretary has delegated inspection authority.

Our Position: Support, with Amendment. PoG did not provide written testimony for HB1475, however we did sign-on to testimony submitted by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Health and Government Operations)

**SB0432, cross-filed with HB0416:
Public Schools - Active Shooter Safety Drills or
Trainings - Requirements
Our Position: Support, co-signed with The Arc Maryland**

Purpose: Requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate with an institution of higher education or a designated federal or national research entity, to study the effectiveness and impact of active shooter safety drills or trainings by researching and analyzing data collected by local school systems; requiring the Center to identify best practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings on or before October 1, 2024; requiring local school systems to provide parents with the annual schedule active shooter safety drills; etc.

Our Position: Bill was proposed and submitted by The Arc Maryland, PoG signed on. No written testimony.

Status: PASSED SENATE COMMITTEE, REFERRED TO HOUSE COMMITTEE (Rules and Executive Nominations)

**SB0802, cross-filed with HB775:
Election Law - Voters with Disabilities -
Electronic Ballot Return
Our Position: Support with Amendments,
co-signed with The Arc Maryland**

Purpose: Requiring the State Board of Elections to establish a process by which an individual with disabilities may return a marked absentee ballot to a local board of election electronically.

Our Position: While we recognize house Bill 775 will make it easier for people with disabilities to exercise their right to vote, because they will not have to vote in person, by limiting this specifically to people with disabilities, we may deny those with disabilities the right to privacy, and a secret ballot.

We recognize the intent of the bill is to open up the voting process to more people, and give them greater autonomy when exercising their most fundamental right. Therefore we suggest simply eliminating any specific reference to disability, thereby making this available to all voters through the following amendments, as written by the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council:

Strike any mention of disability from lines 5 and 6 in the legislation respectively, thereby making this accessible to all members of the public, and ensuring that individuals with disabilities maintain their right to ballot secrecy.

With these changes made, Maryland will be a more inclusive state, and all people will be able to exercise their right to vote with greater autonomy than ever before.

Status: STILL IN COMMITTEE (Education, Energy, Environment)