



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

**SB 488 – Election Law - Electronic Ballot Return System - Study and Request for
Proposals**

POSITION: Support ONLY if amended

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The League of Women Voters of Maryland adopted a position as long ago as 1999 to support efforts to determine the feasibility of internet voting via studies, research, and pilot projects. If safely implemented, it would benefit overseas voters and people with certain disabilities.

However, in recent years the internet's vulnerabilities have become more apparent, especially in the context of elections. Disinformation and hacking by domestic and foreign bad actors are serious threats of concern at both the federal and state levels.

A blue-ribbon group of experts hosted by the University of California, Berkeley Center for Security in Politics recently issued a concise and non-technical paper on this topic: "[Working Group Statement on Developing Standards for Internet Ballot Return](#)." It concludes that **"Implementing widespread adoption of secure and accessible internet ballot return requires technologies that do not currently exist and others that have not been fully tested."**

We strongly recommend incorporating the findings of this working group into any Department of Legislative Services study of the feasibility of internet voting in Maryland. The bill must be amended to say, **"If and only if a secure system for internet delivery and return of ballots can be identified, the State Board of Elections shall issue a request for proposals for an electronic ballot return system."**

We urge a favorable report on SB 488 only IF amended.