



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 0951 County Boards of Education - Voter Registration Link - Posting Requirement

POSITION – Information Only

BY: Linda T. Kohn, President

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The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active citizen participation, and that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed by law.

The League of Women voters supports public access to voting and registering to vote.

HB 0951 requires each county board of education to post on the main page of its website a link to a certain voter registration webpage and a certain statement; requiring a user to be prompted to verify the user's age on selecting the link to the voter registration webpage; and generally relating to voter registration and county boards of education.

The League of Women Voters believes the Maryland State Board of Elections must provide the county Boards of Education a link to a voter registration website, updated as needed.

The League of Women Voters believes the county Boards of Education are best able to determine the placement of a link to a voter registration website to maximize views by students and or staff eligible to register to vote.

The League of Women Voters believes county Boards of Education are best able to determine the placement of a link to a voter registration website when they know the General Assembly's purpose is to make the link available to the public, to staff, or to students who are old enough to register to vote.

The League of Women Voters believes the age verification prompt is superfluous as the voter registration webpage requires the same and will reflect current eligibility requirements.

The League of Women Voters believes local education agencies and county Boards of Education should be prohibited from collecting any student data generated by a voter registration activity.