

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Patrick Armstrong, Legislative Aide

The Office of Delegate Justin Ross

301-858-3652, 410-841-3652

Justin.ross@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DELEGATE JUSTIN D. ROSS

CHIEF DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

ANNOUNCES HOUSE BILL 523 TO CREATE A PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOT LIST

WHO: Delegate Justin D. Ross, Chief Deputy Majority Whip

WHAT: Delegate Justin Ross has introduced legislation that will establish a permanent list of voters who will receive an absentee ballot each election cycle. Eligible voters who request placement on the Permanent Absentee Ballot list would be sent an absentee ballot before each election without need to reapply. The list will be maintained by the Board of Elections to ensure accuracy and prevent fraud.

WHY: Applying for an absentee ballot for an election is an inconvenience, especially for Maryland citizens who must apply for absentee ballots for each election. House Bill 523 would allow the elderly or disabled, members of the Armed Forces or the Foreign Service, citizens living abroad, college students and others to receive an absentee ballot for each election once placed on the Permanent Absentee Ballot List. This reduces paperwork for the Board of Elections, eliminates the cost of postage to obtain an absentee ballot, and ensures voters will receive their absentee ballots on time.

House Bill 523 would make voting easier for members of our community who routinely are unable to vote at their assigned polling place. The bill requires that a voter be removed from the Permanent Absentee Ballot List should they be no longer eligible to receive an absentee ballot, if they are removed from the statewide voter registry, or if the voter fails to return an absentee ballot for two consecutive elections.

#