



Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC)
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2020

TO: The Honorable Members of the Delaware General Assembly

FROM: Ann C. Fisher, Chairperson
GACEC

RE: House Bill No. 175 Voting By Mail

The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) has reviewed **House Bill No. 175**, which will allow any qualified voter to vote by mail in primary, general and special federal elections. Council endorses the proposed legislation; however we would like to add the following suggestion.

The Department of Elections has a secure system in place that allows certain absentee voters the option to receive their absentee ballots electronically and submit them via a secure online platform. Currently, the system is only available to absentee voters who choose either of the following reasons for voting absentee: 1) they are sick, or temporarily or permanently physically disabled; 2) they are in public service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware; or 3) they are a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying him or her (this reason also applies to members of the Uniformed Services). Expanding the use of this system for all mail in voters would provide voters with another option of returning their ballots and provide greater accessibility. Council would hope that the proposed legislation could be enhanced so that the Department of Elections would add electronic transmission and submission of mail in ballots in order to improve accessibility for all, especially individuals with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our endorsement. Please feel free to contact me or Wendy Strauss at the GACEC office should you have any questions.