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PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR

**Testimony for the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee**

February 8, 2018

SB 357 Voter Registration Integrity Act of 2018

UNFAVORABLE

The ACLU of Maryland opposes SB 357, which would require the jury commissioner to provide citizenship information to the State Board of Elections.

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There is no evidence that SBE's current procedure for verifying voter eligibility has resulted in non-citizens voting unlawfully in Maryland's elections; nor is it likely that this proposed method is going to be more effective at purging the rolls of ineligible, non-citizen voters.

Also, the proposed system may create substantial difficulties for individuals who may not be citizens at the time of the jury summons, but later naturalize, thereby gaining the right to vote. The reporting process proposed under SB 357 may inadvertently cause these persons to be deprived of their right to vote.

For the foregoing reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges an unfavorable report on SB 357.