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SB 785/95 - EEA

1996 Regular Session  
6lr0745

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**By: Senators Teitelbaum and Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 1996  
Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 14, 1996

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CHAPTER \_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Laws - Judges of Election - Declines**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the boards of supervisors of elections to appoint as  
4 election judges a certain number of registered voters who decline to affiliate with  
5 any political party; specifying the circumstances under which such judges may be  
6 appointed; specifying that a board may not appoint as chief judge an individual who  
7 declines to affiliate with any political party; defining a certain term; and generally  
8 relating to the appointment of election judges.

9 BY adding to

10 Article 33 - Election Code  
11 Section 1-1(a)(5B)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

15 Article 33 - Election Code  
16 Section 1-1(a)(10)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article 33 - Election Code  
21 Section 2-7(a)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

2

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
2 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article 33 - Election Code**

4 1-1.

5 (a) As used in this article the following terms shall have the meanings indicated  
6 unless a contrary meaning is clearly intended from the context in which the term appears:

7 (5B) "DECLINE" MEANS ANY VOTER WHO HAS DECLINED TO AFFILIATE  
8 WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

9 (10) "Judge" means any person designated as a judge of election and shall  
10 include book judges and machine attendants.

11 2-7.

12 (a) (1) Each board biennially shall appoint for each precinct, at least four [(4)]  
13 judges. [An] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN  
14 equal number of such judges shall be selected from the majority party and the principal  
15 minority party in the State; and the board in making any such appointments shall  
16 designate the persons intended by it to represent each such political party. The board may  
17 require the attendance of these persons before it for examination with respect to their  
18 qualifications.

19 (2) IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDGES FOR A PRECINCT IS EIGHT OR  
20 MORE, THEN UP TO 25% OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JUDGES APPOINTED FOR THE  
21 PRECINCT MAY BE DECLINES. THE BOARD MAY NOT APPOINT A DECLINE TO THE  
22 POSITION OF CHIEF JUDGE.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 1996.