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By: **Senator Green**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2001

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

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CHAPTER 140

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Judges - Selection Process and the Appointment of Minors**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding a certain provision of law to authorize each local board  
4 of elections in the State to appoint certain minors to be election judges; requiring  
5 an election judge who is a minor and too young to be a registered voter to  
6 demonstrate to the local board that the minor would otherwise qualify to be a  
7 registered voter in that county; and generally relating to the expansion  
8 statewide of a certain provision of law to allow the appointment of a minor as an  
9 election judge by any local board of elections.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article 33 - Election Code  
12 Section 10-201 and 10-202  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 33 - Election Code**

18 10-201.

19 (a) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, each  
20 local board shall provide at least four election judges to be the staff for each polling  
21 place.

1 (ii) In a precinct with fewer than 200 registered voters, the local  
2 board may provide two election judges for that precinct's polling place.

3 (2) An election judge shall be appointed in accordance with the  
4 requirements of § 10-203 of this subtitle.

5 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each polling  
6 place shall have an equal number of election judges from:

7 (i) The majority party; and

8 (ii) The principal minority party.

9 (2) (i) If the total number of election judges for a precinct is six or  
10 more:

11 1. A local board may provide one or more election judges who  
12 are not registered with either the majority political party or principal minority  
13 political party; and

14 2. [In Prince George's County the] A local board may provide  
15 one or more election judges who are minors.

16 (ii) The number of election judges provided under this paragraph  
17 may not exceed the lesser of:

18 1. The number of election judges who belong to the majority  
19 party; or

20 2. The number of election judges who belong to the principal  
21 minority party.

22 10-202.

23 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an election  
24 judge shall be a registered voter who resides in the county for which the election judge  
25 is appointed.

26 (2) (i) If a qualified individual residing in the county cannot be found  
27 with reasonable effort, the local board may appoint a registered voter residing in any  
28 part of the State.

29 (ii) [In Prince George's County, a] A minor at least 17 years old who  
30 is appointed to be an election judge and who is too young to be a registered voter shall  
31 demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the local board, that the minor meets all of the  
32 other qualifications for registration in the county.

33 (b) An election judge shall be able to speak, read, and write the English  
34 language.

1 (c) (1) While serving as an election judge, an election judge may not hold, or  
2 be a candidate for, any other public or political party office.

3 (2) An election judge may not engage in any partisan or political activity  
4 while on duty in the polling place.

5 (d) A local board may adopt guidelines consistent with the provisions of this  
6 title for the determination of the qualifications of persons considered for appointment  
7 and for the process of appointment as election judges. To the extent not inconsistent  
8 with this subtitle, the guidelines may provide for the appointment of an election  
9 judge, other than the chief judge, to serve for less than a full day and for the judge to  
10 be compensated, on a pro rata basis, in accordance with the fees set under § 10-205 of  
11 this subtitle for a judge serving a full day.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2001.