

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 73  
Ways and Means

(Delegate Luedtke)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Election Law - Election Judges - Minimum Age

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This bill lowers the minimum age of a minor who may be appointed and serve as an election judge, from age 17 to age 16. The State Board of Elections (SBE) must survey the local boards of elections after the 2018 elections concerning their experience with election judges that are age 16 and submit a specified report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee by February 1, 2019.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill's survey and reporting requirements can be handled with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not directly affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Bill Summary:** A minor who is at least age 16 must be a registered voter in order to be appointed and serve as an election judge. State law governing the employment of minors is modified to allow a minor, who is age 16 and serves as an election judge, to work more than 12 hours, on an early voting day or on Election Day only, subject to consent from at least one parent or guardian. A similar existing authorization for those age 17, which is applicable to Election Day only, is made applicable to both an early voting day and Election Day.

The report submitted by SBE must compile and summarize the local boards of elections' responses to the survey and include findings and recommendations concerning the value of election judges that are age 16.

**Current Law:** Under a State election law provision that predates the lowering of the minimum age an individual must be in order to register to vote to age 16 (pursuant to Chapters 270 and 271 of 2010), a minor “who is at least 17 years old and who is too young to be a registered voter may be appointed and serve as an election judge if the minor demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the local board, that the minor meets all of the other qualifications for registration in the county.” State law governing the employment of minors authorizes a minor, who is age 17 and serves as an election judge, to work more than 12 hours on Election Day only, subject to consent from at least one parent or guardian.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections; Baltimore, Charles, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 6, 2017  
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