

SENATE BILL 592

P5, G1

8lr1895

By: **Senators Bates, Cassilly, Eckardt, Hershey, Jennings, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Joint Committee on Election Oversight – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Joint Committee on Election Oversight; providing for
4 the membership and staffing of the Committee; providing that members of the
5 Committee serve at the pleasure of the appointing officer; providing for the
6 appointment of cochairs of the Committee; providing that a majority of the full
7 authorized membership of the Committee is a quorum; establishing the powers and
8 duties of the Committee; requiring the Committee to submit a certain report to the
9 General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; and generally relating to the
10 Joint Committee on Election Oversight.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – State Government

13 Section 2–10A–16

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – State Government**

19 **2–10A–16.**

20 **(A) THERE IS A JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELECTION OVERSIGHT.**

21 **(B) (1) THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF 14 MEMBERS.**

22 **(2) OF THE 14 MEMBERS:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(I) SEVEN SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY**
2 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; AND**

3 **(II) SEVEN SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, APPOINTED BY**
4 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.**

5 **(C) (1) THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE AT THE PLEASURE OF**
6 **THE PRESIDING OFFICER WHO APPOINTED THEM.**

7 **(2) (I) IF A VACANCY OCCURS AMONG THE SENATORS ON THE**
8 **COMMITTEE, A SUCCESSOR PROMPTLY SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.**

9 **(II) IF A VACANCY OCCURS AMONG THE DELEGATES ON THE**
10 **COMMITTEE, A SUCCESSOR PROMPTLY SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER.**

11 **(D) FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, THE PRESIDENT**
12 **SHALL APPOINT A SENATOR TO SERVE AS THE SENATE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE,**
13 **AND THE SPEAKER SHALL APPOINT A DELEGATE TO SERVE AS THE HOUSE CHAIR**
14 **OF THE COMMITTEE.**

15 **(E) A MAJORITY OF THE FULL AUTHORIZED MEMBERSHIP OF THE**
16 **COMMITTEE IS A QUORUM.**

17 **(F) THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF**
18 **ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE.**

19 **(G) THE COMMITTEE SHALL HOLD:**

20 **(1) AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING PROMPTLY AFTER THE**
21 **APPOINTMENT OF ITS MEMBERS; AND**

22 **(2) ANY OTHER MEETINGS THAT THE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS**
23 **NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ITS DUTIES EFFICIENTLY.**

24 **(H) THE COMMITTEE MAY:**

25 **(1) HOLD A HEARING ON ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE FUNCTIONS**
26 **OF THE COMMITTEE; AND**

27 **(2) CONSIDER A VOTE ON A BILL OR RESOLUTION REFERRED TO THE**
28 **COMMITTEE BY THE PRESIDENT OR THE SPEAKER.**

29 **(I) TO IMPROVE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE**

1 REGULATION IN THE STATE, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

2 (1) STUDY THE BUDGETS, PROGRAMS, AND POLICIES OF THE STATE
3 BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND THE LOCAL BOARDS OF ELECTIONS TO DETERMINE
4 WAYS IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY IMPROVE ELECTION
5 ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGULATION;

6 (2) EXAMINE ELECTION STATUTES AND COURT DECISIONS TO
7 DETERMINE ANY LEGISLATIVE CHANGES THAT ARE NEEDED TO IMPROVE ELECTION
8 ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGULATION;

9 (3) STUDY INITIATIVES IN OTHER STATES REGARDING ELECTION
10 ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE REGULATION TO PROVIDE AN ONGOING
11 COMMENTARY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE INITIATIVES AND TO MAKE
12 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING SIMILAR INITIATIVES IN THE STATE;

13 (4) IDENTIFY NEW LAWS, REGULATIONS, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND
14 BUDGETARY PRIORITIES TO IMPROVE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AND CAMPAIGN
15 FINANCE REGULATION IN THE STATE; AND

16 (5) STUDY ANY OTHER ELECTION MATTERS THAT THE COMMITTEE
17 CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE.

18 (J) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR AND SUBJECT TO §
19 2-1246 OF THIS TITLE, THE COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY THAT INCLUDES:

21 (1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE; AND

22 (2) ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2018.