

SENATE BILL 364

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9lr0973

By: **Senators Simonaire, Bailey, Carozza, Ellis, Gallion, Kagan, Lam, Patterson, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Election Day Page Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Election Day Page Program; providing for the purpose
4 of the Program; requiring the State Board of Elections to develop a certain page
5 training program for local boards of elections that participate in the Program;
6 authorizing the State Board to adopt certain regulations; authorizing a local board
7 to participate in the Program; requiring participating local boards to staff and
8 implement training programs developed by the State Board and to ensure each page
9 receives certain training; prohibiting an individual from working as a page unless
10 the individual completes certain training; requiring participating local boards, in
11 coordination with local school systems, to establish a procedure for the selection of
12 pages; authorizing participating local boards to recognize and certify community
13 service hours for participating pages; providing for the construction of certain
14 provisions of law; establishing qualifications for pages; prohibiting a page from
15 engaging in certain conduct; authorizing a page to work up to a certain number of
16 shifts; requiring a page to serve under the direct supervision of a certain election
17 judge and to assist with certain duties; requiring a page to take and subscribe to a
18 certain oath; requiring a participating local board to provide and maintain the oath
19 signed by a page; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Election Day
20 Page Program.

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Election Law

23 Section 10–401 through 10–405 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4. Election
24 Day Page Program”

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Election Law

SUBTITLE 4. ELECTION DAY PAGE PROGRAM.

10-401.

(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) “PAGE” MEANS A STUDENT SELECTED BY A LOCAL BOARD PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE LOCAL BOARD AND ELECTION JUDGES IN PERFORMING ELECTION DAY DUTIES IN A POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY.

(C) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE ELECTION DAY PAGE PROGRAM.

10-402.

(A) THERE IS AN ELECTION DAY PAGE PROGRAM.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:

(1) STIMULATE THE INTEREST OF STUDENTS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS;

(2) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ELECTION JUDGES IN POLLING PLACES ON ELECTION DAY; AND

(3) ENSURE THE SAFE ENTRY AND EXIT OF ELDERLY VOTERS AND VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES FROM POLLING PLACES.

(C) THE STATE BOARD:

(1) SHALL DEVELOP A PAGE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARDS THAT INCLUDES THE DUTIES, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT OF PAGES AT A POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY; AND

(2) MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

10-403.

(A) A LOCAL BOARD MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

1 **(B) EACH PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARD SHALL:**

2 **(1) BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STAFFING OF AND IMPLEMENTATION**
3 **OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER § 10-402 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

4 **(2) ENSURE EACH PAGE RECEIVES THE REQUIRED TRAINING BEFORE**
5 **ELECTION DAY.**

6 **(C) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT WORK AS A PAGE IN A POLLING PLACE UNLESS**
7 **THE INDIVIDUAL HAS COMPLETED THE TRAINING PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL BOARD.**

8 **(D) EACH PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARD, IN COORDINATION WITH THE**
9 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM, SHALL ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF**
10 **PAGES BY THE LOCAL BOARD.**

11 **(E) EACH PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARD MAY RECOGNIZE AND CERTIFY**
12 **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS FOR PAGES.**

13 **(F) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A LOCAL BOARD TO PARTICIPATE IN**
14 **THE PROGRAM.**

15 **10-404.**

16 **(A) TO QUALIFY AS A PAGE, AN INDIVIDUAL MUST:**

17 **(1) BE UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS;**

18 **(2) (I) BE A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC**
19 **SCHOOL IN GRADE 6 OR HIGHER; OR**

20 **(II) BE A PARTICIPANT IN A HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM**
21 **RECEIVING ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION ON A LEVEL EQUIVALENT TO GRADE 6 OR**
22 **HIGHER;**

23 **(3) APPLY TO THE LOCAL BOARD IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S COUNTY OF**
24 **RESIDENCE;**

25 **(4) BE AVAILABLE TO WORK AT LEAST ONE FULL 4-HOUR SHIFT ON**
26 **ELECTION DAY; AND**

27 **(5) COMPLETE THE REQUIRED TRAINING BEFORE ELECTION DAY.**

1 **(B) A PAGE MAY NOT:**

2 **(1) ENGAGE IN ANY PARTISAN ACTIVITY WHILE WORKING AT A**
3 **POLLING PLACE; OR**

4 **(2) HANDLE OR TOUCH A MARKED BALLOT AT ANY TIME.**

5 **(C) A PAGE MAY WORK UP TO TWO 4-HOUR SHIFTS AT A POLLING PLACE ON**
6 **ELECTION DAY.**

7 **(D) EACH PAGE SHALL:**

8 **(1) SERVE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF THE CHIEF**
9 **ELECTION JUDGES FOR THE ASSIGNED POLLING PLACE; AND**

10 **(2) ASSIST ELECTION JUDGES WITH ELECTION DAY DUTIES, AS**
11 **DIRECTED.**

12 **10-405.**

13 **(A) EACH PAGE SHALL TAKE AND SUBSCRIBE TO A WRITTEN OATH.**

14 **(B) THE SIGNED OATH, WHEN RETURNED TO THE LOCAL BOARD, SHALL**
15 **CONSTITUTE THE COMMISSION OF POSITION OF ELECTION DAY PAGE.**

16 **(C) EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL PRESCRIBE A FORM FOR THE COMBINED**
17 **OATH AND COMMISSION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2019.