

Chapter 468

(Senate Bill 364)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Election Day Page Program – Establishment

FOR the purpose of establishing the Election Day Page Program; providing for the purpose of the Program; requiring the State Board of Elections to develop a certain page training program for use by local boards of elections that participate in the Program; authorizing the State Board to adopt certain regulations; authorizing a local board to participate in the Program; requiring a participating local board to implement or use the components of a certain page training program; authorizing a participating local board to request a certain waiver from the State Board; requiring participating local boards to staff and implement a page training programs developed by the State Board and program, to ensure each page receives certain training, and to encourage certain individuals to train as an election judge; prohibiting an individual from working as a page unless the individual completes certain training; requiring participating local boards, in ~~coordination~~ collaboration with local school systems, to establish a procedure for the selection of pages; authorizing participating local boards to recognize and certify community service hours for participating pages; providing for the construction of certain provisions of law; establishing qualifications for pages; prohibiting a page from engaging in certain conduct; authorizing a page to work up to a certain number of shifts; requiring a page to serve under the direct supervision of a certain election judge and to assist with certain duties; requiring a page to take and subscribe to a certain oath; requiring a participating local board to provide and maintain the oath signed by a page; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Election Day Page Program.

BY adding to

Article – Election Law

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

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2017 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

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 USE BY 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) (1) A LOCAL BOARD MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

(2) A PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT OR USE COMPONENTS OF THE PAGE TRAINING PROGRAM DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER § 10-402(C)(1) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) A PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARD MAY REQUEST FROM THE STATE BOARD A WAIVER FROM A REQUIREMENT ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) EACH PARTICIPATING LOCAL BOARD SHALL:

(1) BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STAFFING OF AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ~~THE A PAGE~~ TRAINING PROGRAM ~~DEVELOPED UNDER § 10-402 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND~~

(2) ENSURE EACH PAGE RECEIVES THE REQUIRED TRAINING BEFORE ELECTION DAY; AND

(3) ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD WHO APPLY TO THE PROGRAM TO TRAIN AS AN ELECTION JUDGE.

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

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

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

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

10-404.

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

(1) ~~BE UNDER THE AGE OF 16 YEARS;~~

(2) ~~(I) BE A STUDENT ENROLLED IN A PUBLIC OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL IN GRADE 6 9 OR HIGHER; OR~~

~~(H) BE A PARTICIPANT IN A HOME INSTRUCTION PROGRAM RECEIVING ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION REGULAR, THOROUGH INSTRUCTION DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR IN THE STUDIES USUALLY TAUGHT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON A LEVEL EQUIVALENT TO GRADE 6 OR HIGHER; BE AT LEAST 14 YEARS OLD;~~

~~(3)~~ (2) APPLY TO THE LOCAL BOARD IN THE INDIVIDUAL'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE;

~~(4)~~ **(3)** BE AVAILABLE TO WORK AT LEAST ONE FULL 4-HOUR SHIFT ON ELECTION DAY; AND

~~(5)~~ **(4)** COMPLETE THE REQUIRED TRAINING BEFORE ELECTION DAY.

(B) A PAGE MAY NOT:

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

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

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

(D) EACH PAGE SHALL:

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

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

10-405.

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2019.