

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 1303  
Ways and Means

(Delegates Grossman and Kaufman)

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**Election Law - Local Boards of Elections - Compensation**

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This bill establishes specified compensation levels for certain days served by regular or substitute members of local boards of elections.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** Local government expenditures may increase relatively minimally in certain counties, as discussed below. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill establishes that a regular or substitute member must be paid:

- \$100 for each day of the canvass on which the regular or substitute member serves;
- \$350 for each election day on which the regular or substitute member serves; and
- \$100 for each day on which the regular or substitute member serves in connection with a contested election.

“Canvass” means the entire process of vote tallying, vote tabulation, and vote verification, culminating in the production and certification of the official election results.

“Contested election” means an election subject to a recount or a judicial challenge under specified provisions of the Election Law Article.

If, at the end of a fiscal year, the amount of compensation paid to a regular member for the above days during the fiscal year is less than the existing minimum annual amount required in statute to be paid to a regular board member, the county must pay the regular board member the difference.

The bill does not extend or apply to the salary or compensation of a member of a local board of elections while serving in a term of office beginning before the bill’s effective date. The bill’s provisions concerning the salary or compensation of a member of a local board of elections take effect at the beginning of the next following term of office. This limitation does not apply to an individual appointed or elected after the bill’s effective date to fill out an unexpired term.

**Current Law:** There is a county board of elections (local board) in each county of the State, that oversees the conduct of all elections held in its county, subject to the direction and authority of the State Board of Elections. Each local board consists of five regular members, with the exception of the local board in Prince George’s County, which consists of five regular members and three substitute members, and the local board in Montgomery County, which consists of five regular members and two substitute members. The term of a member is four years and begins on the first Monday in June of each year following a gubernatorial election.

Each regular member of a local board must receive the salary and reimbursement of expenses provided in the county budget, but minimum annual compensation amounts are set in State law for the members in most counties. A substitute member of a local board must be compensated for each day of service as provided in the county budget and must be compensated at a rate of at least \$25 for each meeting of the board that the substitute member attends.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local government expenditures may increase in certain counties to the extent the sum of the compensation paid to local board members in a fiscal year, pursuant to the compensation amounts for specified days under the bill, is greater than the compensation that is otherwise paid to the members in the absence of the bill. However, any increase is expected to be relatively minimal.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, St. Mary's, and Washington counties; Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 25, 2024  
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