

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

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

Senate Bill 534 (Senators Kagan and Gallion)  
Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**Election Law - Election Judges - Compensation**

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This bill establishes that a local board of elections must pay an election judge for each training the election judge completes only after the election judge actually serves an Election Day or early voting day. In addition, for service as an election judge, the bill authorizes a public school student to both (1) earn hours toward the service-learning requirement for graduation under State Board of Education (SBE) regulations and (2) receive the applicable election judge compensation.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:**

*Election Judge Training Program and Compensation*

SBE is required to develop (and oversee the implementation of), in consultation with the local boards of elections, a program of instruction of election judges. Each local board must conduct election judge training based on the program developed by SBE, and each election judge, unless appointed under emergency circumstances, must participate in the

program. A local board must pay an election judge at least \$50 for each training the election judge completes.

The compensation for each election judge who is not a returning election judge must be at least \$250 per day for each Election Day and each early voting day actually served. For each election judge who is a returning election judge, the compensation for each Election Day and each early voting day actually served must be at least \$100 more per day than the compensation provided to an election judge who is not a returning election judge. “Returning election judge” means an election judge who has served a term of office for the immediately preceding statewide election.

### *Student Service-learning Requirement*

Pursuant to SBE regulations, in order to graduate, students must complete (1) 75 hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the local school board system, may begin during the middle grades or (2) a locally designed program in student service that has been approved by the State Superintendent of Schools. (Maryland State Department of Education [guidelines](#) for student service-learning indicate that any activity that compensates a student with money, goods, or services may not be counted toward the service-learning graduation requirement.)

Under the Election Law Article, a minor who is at least age 16 and who is a registered voter may be appointed and serve as an election judge.

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## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 586 (Delegate D. Jones) - Ways and Means.

**Information Source(s):** Baltimore, Frederick, and Montgomery counties; Maryland State Board of Elections; Baltimore City Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Maryland State Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2025  
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