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## Senate Bill 460

Date: March 5, 2024  
Committee: Senate Finance Committee  
Bill Title: Unemployment Insurance - Benefits - Election Judges  
Re: **Letter of Support (with amendment)**

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States across the country have struggled to find enough election judges to fully staff polls during elections. Senate Bill 460 (“S.B. 460” or “the Bill”) would amend the Labor and Employment Title, Section 8-101 to exclude “any payment to an individual as compensation for serving as an election judge for a local board of elections in the State” from the definition of “wages.”

The Division of Unemployment Insurance (“the Division”) anticipates that any increase in expenditures (from paying more in benefits to UI claimants who serve as election judges rather than deducting this pay from a claimant’s weekly benefit amount as would be currently required) is likely to be insubstantial given the number of claimants who will likely fall into this category.

However, the Division agrees that S.B. 460 would encourage Marylanders to serve their community and complete a valuable public service while earning some compensation during a period of unemployment and that this concern outweighs any de minimis increase to expenditures anticipated by the Division.

While the Department supports the intent of S.B. 460, the agency recently received a conformity opinion from the United States Department of Labor. The conformity opinion states that the Bill creates a possibility of a conformity issue with federal law and requested that changes be made to S.B. 460 to avoid the conformity issue. The Department has provided information to the sponsors of the Bill to propose a change that the agency believes would avoid the conformity issue.

**To that end, the Maryland Department of Labor asks for a Favorable report from the Committee on S.B. 460 with an amendment to address the conformity issue.**