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Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB534: Election Judge "No Show"

House Ways & Means Committee Tuesday, March 25, 2025 1:00 PM

Election judges earn at least \$50 for each training course they complete, regardless of whether they ultimately serve. Around the State, prospective judges have taken part and been paid for training-- but failed to fulfill their duty at the polls. According to the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO), in the most recent General Election alone, tens of thousands of dollars were paid to people who participated in the training, but never served.

<u>SB534</u> would clarify that LBEs can make payments only <u>after</u> service has been completed and verified, saving taxpayer money; judges who only report for training would not be compensated.

Sen. Gallion is a co-sponsor of this bipartisan bill.

This bill and its cross-file have each passed their chamber of origin, although the Senate bill removed the authorization for public school students to receive both Student Service Learning hours <u>and</u> compensation when they work at the polls.

I urge a favorable report on SB534.