

Chapter 504

(House Bill 700)

AN ACT concerning

Election Law – Election Judges – Revisions

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Elections to develop and implement a marketing campaign for the recruitment of election judges; requiring that a county employee who serves as an election judge during hours that the employee is scheduled to work for the county receive certain administrative leave and certain election judge compensation; requiring the State Board ~~of Elections~~ to adopt regulations to standardize and minimize any forms or documentation related to service as an election judge; prohibiting a local board of elections or county government from requiring additional forms or documentation related to service as an election judge in excess of those required in regulations adopted by the State Board; altering the election judges who previously served as an election judge with respect to whom certain additional compensation is required to be paid; ~~authorizing a public school student in the State to both earn hours toward the service-learning graduation requirement and receive election judge compensation for service as an election judge~~; and generally relating to election judges.

BY adding to

Article – Election Law
 Section 10–201.1 and 10–202(f)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Election Law
 Section 10–202(d) and (e) and 10–205
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Election Law**10–201.1.**

(A) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND ~~PROVIDE TO THE LOCAL BOARDS~~ IMPLEMENT A MARKETING CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE AS ELECTION JUDGES IN POLLING PLACES IN THE STATE.

(B) THE MARKETING CAMPAIGN SHALL:

(1) DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ELECTION JUDGES;

(2) DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY TO BE AN ELECTION JUDGE, ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, AND COMPENSATION; AND

(3) TARGET DIVERSE VOTER POPULATIONS, INCLUDING MULTILINGUAL INDIVIDUALS.

(C) A LOCAL BOARD MAY SUPPLEMENT THE MARKETING CAMPAIGN IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

10–202.

(d) A State OR COUNTY employee who serves as an election judge during hours that the employee is otherwise scheduled to work for the State OR COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE:

(1) [may use] 1 hour of administrative leave for each hour of service as an election judge, up to a total of 8 hours for each day of service; and

(2) [shall receive] the election judge compensation as specified in § 10–205 of this subtitle.

(e) (1) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, a local board may adopt guidelines consistent with the provisions of this title for the determination of the qualifications of persons considered for appointment and for the process of appointment as election judges.

(2) To the extent not inconsistent with this subtitle, the guidelines ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION may provide for the appointment of an election judge, other than the chief judge, to serve for less than a full day and for the judge to be compensated, on a pro rata basis, in accordance with the fees set under § 10–205 of this subtitle for a judge serving a full day.

(F) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO STANDARDIZE AND MINIMIZE FORMS OR DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED TO:

(I) APPLY TO SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE;

(II) SERVE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE; OR

(III) RECEIVE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE.

(2) A LOCAL BOARD OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT MAY NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FORMS OR DOCUMENTATION FOR ELECTION JUDGES OR PROSPECTIVE ELECTION JUDGES IN EXCESS OF THE FORMS OR DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED IN REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

10–205.

(a) **(1) In this section[, “compensation”] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.**

(2) “COMPENSATION” includes stipends for transportation, training, and bonus payments.

(3) “RETURNING ELECTION JUDGE” MEANS AN ELECTION JUDGE WHO HAS SERVED A TERM OF OFFICE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ~~STATEWIDE PRESIDENTIAL OR GUBERNATORIAL~~ STATEWIDE ELECTION.

(b) (1) (i) The county governing body shall provide sufficient funding to meet the minimum compensation levels required under this section.

(ii) Within the limits authorized by the county governing body, a local board may fix the compensation of election judges above the minimum compensation levels required under this section.

(2) A local board shall pay an election judge for:

(i) each course of instruction required under § 10–206(g)(1) of this subtitle that the election judge completes; and

(ii) each election day and each early voting day that the election judge actually serves.

(3) (i) For each election judge who [has not previously served as an election judge] **IS NOT A RETURNING ELECTION JUDGE**, the compensation for each election day and each early voting day actually served shall be at least \$250 per day.

(ii) For each **RETURNING** election judge [who has previously served as an election judge], the compensation for each election day and each early voting day actually served shall be at least \$100 more per day than the compensation provided to an election judge who [has not previously served as an] **IS NOT A RETURNING** election judge.

(4) The compensation for each completed course of instruction required under § 10-206(g)(1) of this subtitle shall be at least \$50.

(c) The State Board shall reimburse each local board for \$50 of the [extra] **ADDITIONAL** compensation required under subsection (b)(3)(ii) of this section that is paid to each returning election judge.

[(d) (1) The State Board shall develop and provide to the local boards a marketing campaign to recruit individuals to serve as election judges in polling places in the State.

(2) The marketing campaign shall:

(i) disseminate information on the importance of election judges;

(ii) disseminate information on how to apply to be an election judge, eligibility requirements, and compensation; and

(iii) target diverse voter populations, including multilingual individuals.]

~~(D) FOR SERVICE AS AN ELECTION JUDGE, A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT IN THE STATE MAY BOTH:~~

~~(1) EARN HOURS TOWARD THE SERVICE LEARNING REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION UNDER COMAR 13A.03.02.05; AND~~

~~(2) RECEIVE THE ELECTION JUDGE COMPENSATION UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~June~~ *January* 1, ~~2024~~ *2025*.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.