

SENATE BILL 20

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1998 Regular Session
8lr0191

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Green**

Requested: August 1, 1997

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 1998

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Judges - Minors**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that certain minors may be selected to be election
4 judges under certain circumstances; requiring a minor election judge who is too
5 young to be a registered voter to demonstrate to the board that he or she would
6 otherwise qualify to be a registered voter in that county; and generally relating
7 to the appointment of election judges who are minors.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 33 - Election Code
10 Section 2-7(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

13 BY repealing
14 Article 33 - Election Code
15 Section 2-7(b)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article 33 - Election Code
20 Section 2-7(b)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

1

Article 33 - Election Code

2 2-7.

3 (a) (1) Each board biennially shall appoint for each precinct, at least four
4 judges. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an equal number of
5 such judges shall be selected from the majority party and the principal minority party
6 in the State; and the board in making any appointment as a judge under this
7 subsection shall designate the persons intended by it to represent each political party.
8 The board may require the attendance of these persons before it for examination with
9 respect to their qualifications.

10 (2) If the total number of judges for a precinct is eight or more, then the
11 number of judges who are declines OR MINORS AT LEAST 16 YEARS OLD may not
12 exceed the lesser of:

13 (i) The number of judges who belong to the majority party; or

14 (ii) The number of judges who belong to the principal minority
15 party.

16 (3) The board may designate as a chief judge only a person who belongs
17 to either the majority party or the principal minority party.

18 (4) The board may not appoint as a judge a decline OR A MINOR AT
19 LEAST 16 YEARS OLD unless the board has first made a good faith effort to appoint to
20 that position a judge who belongs to the majority party or principal minority party.

21 [(b) Each judge so appointed must be a registered voter residing in the election
22 district or ward in which the precinct for which he is appointed is located; except that
23 if a qualified person residing in the election district or ward cannot be found with
24 reasonable effort, then the judge so appointed must be a registered voter residing in
25 the county or Baltimore City in which the precinct is located. He must be able to
26 speak, read and write the English language; and during the time of acting as a judge
27 must not hold or be a candidate for any other public or political party office. Each
28 board may prescribe such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary for
29 determining the qualifications of persons proposed for appointment as judges.]

30 (B) (1) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
31 PARAGRAPH, EACH JUDGE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD SHALL BE A REGISTERED
32 VOTER.

33 (II) A MINOR APPOINTED TO BE A JUDGE WHO IS TOO YOUNG TO BE
34 A REGISTERED VOTER SHALL DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE BOARD,
35 THAT THE MINOR MEETS ALL OF THE OTHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION
36 IN THAT COUNTY.

37 (2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
38 PARAGRAPH, EACH JUDGE SHALL RESIDE IN THE ELECTION DISTRICT OR WARD IN
39 WHICH THE ASSIGNED PRECINCT IS LOCATED.

1 (II) IF A QUALIFIED PERSON RESIDING IN THE ELECTION DISTRICT
2 OR WARD CANNOT BE FOUND, THE JUDGE MAY RESIDE ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTY
3 IN WHICH THE ASSIGNED PRECINCT IS LOCATED.

4 (3) A JUDGE SHALL BE ABLE TO SPEAK, READ, AND WRITE THE ENGLISH
5 LANGUAGE.

6 (4) DURING THE TERM OF SERVICE AS A JUDGE, A JUDGE MAY NOT
7 HOLD OR BE A CANDIDATE FOR ANY OTHER PUBLIC OR POLITICAL PARTY OFFICE.

8 (5) A JUDGE SHALL MEET ANY ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
9 ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 1998.