

SENATE BILL 11

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SB 20/98 - EEA

1999 Regular Session
9lr0269

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Green**

Requested: August 18, 1998

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 1999

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Judges - Selection Process and the Appointment of Minors**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, in Prince George's County, certain minors may be
4 selected to be election judges under certain circumstances; altering certain
5 statewide provisions relating to the appointment of certain election judges;
6 requiring an election judge who is a minor and too young to be a registered voter
7 to demonstrate to the Prince George's County Board of Elections that he or she
8 would otherwise qualify to be a registered voter in that county; and generally
9 relating to the appointment of election judges.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article 33 - Election Code
12 Section 10-201 and 10-202
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

17 **Article 33 - Election Code**

18 10-201.

19 (a) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, each
20 local board shall provide at least four election judges to be the staff for each polling
21 place.

22 (ii) In a precinct with fewer than 200 registered voters, the local
23 board may provide two election judges for that precinct's polling place.

24 (2) An election judge shall be appointed in accordance with the
25 requirements of § 10-203 of this subtitle.

26 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, each polling
27 place shall have an equal number of election judges from:

1 (i) The majority party; and

2 (ii) The principal minority party.

3 (2) (I) [If the total number of election judges for a precinct is eight or
4 more, a] IN A PRECINCT HAVING MORE THAN FOUR ELECTION JUDGES:

5 1. A local board may provide one or more election judges who
6 are not registered with either the majority political party or principal minority
7 political party[; however, the]; AND

8 2. IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY THE LOCAL BOARD MAY
9 PROVIDE ONE OR MORE ELECTION JUDGES WHO ARE MINORS.

10 (II) THE number of [such] election judges PROVIDED UNDER THIS
11 PARAGRAPH may not exceed the lesser of:

12 [(i)] 1. The number of election judges who belong to the majority
13 party; or

14 [(ii)] 2. The number of election judges who belong to the principal
15 minority party.

16 10-202.

17 (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an election
18 judge shall be a registered voter who resides in the election district or ward in which
19 the precinct for which the election judge is appointed is located.

20 (2) (I) If a qualified individual residing in the election district or ward
21 cannot be found with reasonable effort, the local board may appoint a registered voter
22 residing in any part of the county.

23 (II) IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, A MINOR AT LEAST 17 YEARS
24 OLD WHO IS APPOINTED TO BE AN ELECTION JUDGE AND WHO IS TOO YOUNG TO BE
25 A REGISTERED VOTER SHALL DEMONSTRATE, TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE LOCAL
26 BOARD, THAT THE MINOR MEETS ALL OF THE OTHER QUALIFICATIONS FOR
27 REGISTRATION IN THE COUNTY.

28 (b) An election judge shall be able to speak, read, and write the English
29 language.

30 (c) (1) While serving as an election judge, an election judge may not hold, or
31 be a candidate for, any other public or political party office.

32 (2) An election judge may not engage in any partisan or political activity
33 while on duty in the polling place.

34 (d) A local board may adopt guidelines consistent with the provisions of this
35 title for the determination of the qualifications of persons considered for appointment
36 and for the process of appointment as election judges. To the extent not inconsistent

1 with this subtitle, the guidelines may provide for the appointment of an election
2 judge, other than the chief judge, to serve for less than a full day and for the judge to
3 be compensated, on a pro rata basis, in accordance with the fees set under § 10-205 of
4 this subtitle for a judge serving a full day.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
6 effect October 1, 1999.