
By: **Senator Green**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2001

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 expanding a certain provision of law to authorize each local board
4 of elections in the State to appoint certain minors to be election judges; requiring
5 an election judge who is a minor and too young to be a registered voter to
6 demonstrate to the local board that the minor would otherwise qualify to be a
7 registered voter in that county; and generally relating to the expansion
8 statewide of a certain provision of law to allow the appointment of a minor as an
9 election judge by any local board of elections.

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 2000 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 six or
4 more:

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; and

8 2. [In Prince George's County the] A local board may provide
9 one or more election judges who are minors.

10 (ii) The number of election judges provided under this paragraph
11 may not exceed the lesser of:

12 1. The number of election judges who belong to the majority
13 party; or

14 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 county for which the election judge
19 is appointed.

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

23 (ii) [In Prince George's County, a] A minor at least 17 years old who
24 is appointed to be an election judge and who is too young to be a registered voter shall
25 demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the local board, that the minor meets all of the
26 other qualifications for registration in the county.

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

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

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

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

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

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2001.