

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 918
Ways and Means

(Washington County Delegation)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Washington County - Local Board of Elections - Salaries

This bill increases the compensation of Washington County election judges. A chief election judge's compensation increases from \$125 to \$175 per day, and every other judge's compensation increases from \$100 to \$150 per day. In addition, the compensation for a substitute member of the Washington County local board of election is established at \$75 for each meeting attended by the substitute member.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Expenditures for local election judge compensation could increase to \$47,000 in FY 2007.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are no provisions in the Election Law Article regarding compensation of substitute members of the Washington County local board of election. **Exhibit 1** lists the current compensation and staffing levels for election judges in each local jurisdiction during the 2004 primary election.

Background: The advent of the direct recording electronic voting system has required local jurisdictions to solicit election judges with greater exposure to computer technology since many long-time election judges, many of whom are senior citizens, have become uncomfortable working with machines that are unfamiliar.

Local Fiscal Effect: The Washington County local board of elections had expenditures of \$49,400 for 471 election judges for the 2004 primary and general election. The compensation increases would require an additional \$23,500 in expenditures for the statewide primary and general election, for a total of \$47,000 in fiscal 2007. The bill's provisions regarding compensation of substitute board members could be handled with the local board's existing resources.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Washington County, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2005
mll/jr Revised - Correction - June 7, 2005

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Exhibit 1
Election Judge Compensation and Staffing Levels During the 2004 Primary Election

County	Precincts	Chief Judges	Salary	Book Judges	Salary	Shortage	How Shortage Handled
Allegany	**41	72	125	28	100	0	N/A
Anne Arundel	185	370	130	1042	100	100-125	Used Floaters
Baltimore City	316	632	150	1768	125	50-60	Used Stand-by Judges
Baltimore Co.	214	428	160	2848	125	104	Replacements Where Possible
Calvert	21	42	150	126	125	7	Judges Shared Duties
Caroline ****	8	8	125	30	100	None	N/A
Carroll	44	88	200	140	125	2 or 4	Judges Shared Duties
Cecil	18	36	175	104	125	9	Judges Shared Duties
Charles	33	66	140	188	125	2	Judges Made Adjustments
Dorchester	36	52	150	106	125	None	20 Alternates
Frederick	61	118	120	368	110	19	Judges Made Adjustments
Garrett	19	50	125	*****		0	N/A
Harford	65	130	160	492	125	84	Emergency Hires Where Necessary
Howard	98	196	200	648	150	24	Judges Shared Duties
Kent~	10	20	*120	24	120	None	N/A
Montgomery	235	982	150/135	1654	120	Yes	Used Substitute Judges
Prince George's	209	408	200	1135	125	349	Judges Shared Duties
Queen Anne's	11	26	140	***59	110	15	Judges Worked Together
St. Mary's	28	56	150	100	130	21	Made Last-minute Replacements
Somerset	22	44	225	48	150	0	N/A
Talbot	16	32	200	66	150	7	Board Members Were Used
Washington	46	92	125	200	100	4	4 Locations Were Short 1 Judge
Wicomico	33	46	220	97	165	None	N/A
Worcester	18	40	200	163	150	None	N/A
TOTAL	1,787						

~Kent County has nine Deputy Judges that stay all day to help with parking electioneering, etc.

*Will pay chief judges for extra time a day before the election.

**Exact number not available until the close of registration on October 12.

***Six are Provisional Judges.

****They have 15 Encoder Judges with salaries of \$100.

*****Book Judges are Chief Judges.

Prepared by the State Board of Elections, July 2004.
