

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

Senate Bill 443

(Senator Carozza, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Government, Labor, and Elections

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Local Boards of Elections - Board Counsel - Qualifications

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This emergency bill modifies a provision that authorizes a local board of elections to appoint or retain an individual as counsel. The bill modifies the provision by requiring that the individual be a registered voter of the State, rather than a registered voter of the local board's county.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Each local board of elections is authorized to appoint or retain as counsel an individual who is a registered voter of its county and admitted to practice law in the State.

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Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 621 (Delegate D. Jones, *et al.*) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, and Somerset counties;  
Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 17, 2026  
jg/sdk Third Reader - March 13, 2026

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