REGINA T. BOYCE
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City

———

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees
Environment
Motor Vehicle and Transportation

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3476 · 301-858-3476
800-492-7122 *Ext.* 3476
Fax 410-841-3295 · 301-858-3295
Regina.Boyce@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

3/23/2021

Good Afternoon Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair and Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee Members,

I am Delegate Regina T. Boyce here to testify on **HB 335: Election Law - Party and Public Offices - Prohibitions.**

This bill prohibits elected officials from also holding or registering for an elected office as a party official: **the state central committee**.

Historically, the organizing of parties began in 1824 and was codified in law in 1886. It is stated that "When primary elections developed at the end of the nineteenth century, state central committees formed to oversee their conduct."

The role of the state central committee, **grassroots elected volunteers**, is to build the party organization at each district level. This of course is done in many ways: getting out the vote by registering residents to vote, organizing and encouraging voter turnout during the primary and general elections, fundraising for the party, and facilitates the vacancy process to provide nominations to the governor.

For decades, the practice of holding both elected offices has been questionable. The allowance of holding both positions poses an interesting dynamic and conflicts of interest for the state central committee member role as well as the elected role. The allowance assumes automatic "next in line" policies and politics that distorts the democratic process and the true role of the elected party office.

I, as well as a number of my constituents, thank you for assisting us with correcting this allowance and ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Regina T. Boyce