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Legislative District 17  
Montgomery County

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Vice Chair  
Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs Committee

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Joint Audit Committee  
Joint Committee on Federal Relations



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB158: State Board of Elections - Contracts and Invoices**  
**Senate Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022 | 1:00 PM**

[SB158](#) is an emergency omnibus bill that seeks to codify a 50/50 cost split between the State and Local Boards of Elections (LBEs) for State Board of Elections (SBE)-mandated election goods and services. This will enable localities to budget for predictable expenditures.

For the 2020 Primary Election, every voter was mailed a ballot. In the General Election, however, Governor Hogan directed the SBE to send every voter an application for a ballot, doubling the number of mailings handled by our 24 LBEs. This meant increased cost in both postage and staff time. **Without legislative protection, counties could be subjected to unfunded mandates in future elections.**

In 2020, after our ballot-printing contractor, SeaChange, backed out, [staff signed a new \\$7,000,000 contract](#). The SBE Board was not informed until later. Under SB158, the State Administrator would be required to disclose ALL contracts to the Board. Members would vote on contracts over \$50,000 to prevent a situation like this from ever happening again.

Too often, SBE labels equipment, contracts, and other election goods and services as coming from “special funds.” SB158 would require more transparency in its invoices to LBEs. By itemizing, counties can verify the accuracy before submitting payment. Counties shouldn’t have to write a blank check without accountability.

**I urge a favorable report on SB158 to codify SBE/LBE cost splits and increase transparency and fiscal responsibility of the SBE.**