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February 28, 2023

**TO:** The Honorable Vanessa Atterbear  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

**RE:** HB1200 - Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation - **Support**

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The Office of Attorney General (the "OAG") urges this Committee to report favorably Delegate Dana Jones' House Bill 1200. House Bill 1200 would increase the minimum compensation for election judges to \$250 per day of service, while preserving the higher levels of compensation for election judges that currently exist in certain counties of the State. This bill recognizes the important work performed by election judges at the thousands of early voting centers and election-day polling places during elections across the State, and the long hours they serve performing that work. Additionally, this bill addresses the recruiting and retention rate of elections workers which has fallen in recent election cycles.<sup>1</sup> Polls are open on early voting and election days from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, but the work of election judges starts long before and ends well after those times, respectively.

Election judges stand tirelessly at the front lines of democracy; their work makes it possible. For the foregoing reasons, the OAG urges a favorable report on House Bill 1200.

cc: The Hon. Dana C. Jones & Members of the Ways and Means Committee

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<sup>1</sup> *Maryland Boards of elections again face poll worker shortage* (2022) WBAL. WBAL. Available at: <https://www.wbal.com/article/maryland-election-judge-openings-poll-worker-shortage/41694906> (Accessed: February 23, 2023).

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or [sbrantley@oag.state.md.us](mailto:sbrantley@oag.state.md.us)