

Senate Bill 366
FAVORABLE
General Assembly Vacancy - Political Party Central Committees – Procedures
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 15, 2023

Submitted by Seth Grimes, Montgomery County, Maryland

Chair Feldman and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

My name is Seth Grimes. I am a Montgomery County resident and a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee, speaking only for myself.

I support SB 366 as a step to promote transparency, accountability, and fairness in the legislative-vacancy appointment process.

The bill ensures an adequate minimum application period, for candidates to step forward to apply for vacancy appointment.

It requires a central committee to take sensible steps to advertise vacancies and, by requiring translation into languages other than English based on local standards, promotes applications from currently under-represented populations.

The requirement that applications be posted online facilitates public participation in what is currently an insider process. That applications be available online for at least thirty days after a central-committee vote promotes nomination accountability, as does requiring that the nomination meetings be announced and open to the public with public disclosure of each member's vote.

Finally, the central-committee-member vote-recusal requirement advances appointment fairness.

SB 366 promotes transparency, accountability, and fairness in the vacancy-nomination process and beneficially creates uniformity across the state. I urge a favorable committee report and Senate floor vote.

Thank you.

Seth Grimes
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