

March 14, 2023

Testimony on SB 925
Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Common Cause Maryland supports SB 925, which would establish minimum daily compensation for Election Judges at \$250 for every voting and early voting day.

In the past, across the state have had trouble recruiting election judges which resulted in long waiting lines on Election Day. Having an adequate number of staffers at the polls is crucial to the safe and secure administration of our elections, and this legislation would increase local boards' ability to recruit and retain volunteers.

In the 2022 election, Maryland election officials struggled to find enough election judges to fully staff the polls. And in an era where elections are being heavily scrutinized, election judges are also facing a growing number of election-related intimidation, harassment, and threats. In addition to expanding the number of available election judges, this policy could also have the effect of encouraging judges who have served previously returning to volunteer for future elections.

SB 925 would help to recruit and retain election judges in Maryland, making the process of casting a ballot more convenient and accessible for all voters within the state. Recruiting an adequate number of Election Judges means protecting the electoral process for all.

For these reasons, we recommend a favorable report.