

sponsor amendment sb926.pdf

Uploaded by: Alonzo Washington

Position: FAV



SB0926/453827/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
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DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

14 MAR 23
08:46:37

BY: Senator A. Washington
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 926

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 7, strike “, except under certain circumstances”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, strike beginning with “**EXCEPT**” in line 7 down through “**A**” in line 8 and substitute “**A**”; strike in their entirety lines 13 through 18, inclusive; and in line 19, strike “**(III)**” and substitute “**(II)**”.

FTP-MD_SB925test_031523.pdf

Uploaded by: Charlie Cooper

Position: FAV



Get Money Out – Maryland

Baltimore County Progressive Democrats Club

Baltimore Nonviolence Center

Be the Change Bmore

Caucus of African American Leaders of Anne Arundel

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Common Cause Maryland

Don't Shop on Tuesdays

Do the Most Good

Indivisible Central Maryland

Indivisible Howard County

Indivisible Montgomery

Indivisible Worcester

J Walkers Action Group

League of Women Voters of Baltimore City

Maryland Peace Action

Maryland United for Peace and Justice

Matthew Henson Community Development Center

National Association of Social Workers - Maryland

Our Revolution Maryland

Progressive Maryland

Randallstown Branch NAACP

Represent Maryland

St. Ignatius Justice & Peace Committee

Southwest Baltimore County Democratic Club

WISE –Women Indivisible Strong Effective

March 15, 2023

**Support: SB 925 – Election Judges -
Minimum Compensation**

**Charlie Cooper, Convener, and Tina
Coplan**

For the People – Maryland is a coalition of state nonprofit advocacy and community organizations that stands for political equality, equal access to the ballot regardless of race, ethnicity, or party affiliation, and reducing the corrupting influence of concentrated wealth in our political system.

We testify in support of SB 925 Elections—Election Judges—Minimum Compensation. We strongly believe that election workers, especially in these times, deserve increased compensation for their time in attending training and for each long day served.

We believe that establishing a minimum daily compensation, with added transportation stipends and bonuses, would encourage greater participation as election judges among a younger demographic—those who need to become more involved in our electoral process. Increased compensation would attract election judges among those close to urban centers and in rural counties, where jobs in general are harder to come by.

Please promote increased participation in our electoral process by giving SB 925 your favorable report.

2023-03-15 SB 925 (OAG Support).pdf

Uploaded by: Hannibal Kemerer

Position: FAV

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March 15, 2023

TO: The Honorable Brian Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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

RE: SB925 - Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation

The Office of Attorney General (the "OAG") urges this Committee to report favorably Senator Alonzo Washington's Senate Bill 925. Senate Bill 925 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.¹ 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 Senate Bill 925.

cc: The Hon. Alonzo T. Washington & Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

¹ *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)

LWVMD testimony - SB 925 - Elections – Election Ju

Uploaded by: Janet Millenson

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT**

SB 925 - Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation

POSITION: Favorable

BY: Nancy Soreng – President

Date: March 15, 2023

The League of Women Voters of Maryland favors an election system that helps increase voter participation and one way voters participate is in staffing our polling places. However, in recent years it has become challenging to recruit and retain enough election workers to adequately serve the majority of Marylanders who choose to vote in person. Increasing election worker stipends can make a difference, which is why we support SB 925.

Election judges typically work at least two hours setting up on Monday night before Election Day, and at least 15 hours on Election Day itself. Early Voting days are also around 15 hours long. (In both cases, polls are open for voting from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election workers must arrive at 6 a.m. and stay until the site has closed down for the day.) Some jurisdictions currently pay as little as \$150 for this demanding effort. Training typically adds another three hours or more, with a separate small stipend that can be as low as \$25.

The League supports the state setting a minimum compensation level for election judges. This level would be a floor rather than a fixed amount, allowing jurisdictions flexibility to meet their recruiting needs. The state must also ensure that these judges receive mandatory training in their responsibilities as election workers.

SB 925 will set the statewide minimum daily compensation at \$250 for working Election Day or a day of Early Voting. The stipend for completing the required training will be at least \$50. Although many election judges volunteer because they consider it a civic responsibility or an inherently enjoyable activity, increasing the pay will help motivate other eligible Marylanders to participate.

The League of Women Voters therefore urges a favorable report on SB 925.

HB1200_SB925 - Election Judge Minimum Compensation

Uploaded by: Katherine Berry

Position: FAV



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

March 14, 2023

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Maryland House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

SB925: Favorable

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members:

My name is Katherine Berry, the Election Director in Carroll County, and the chair of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Legislative Committee. I am writing on behalf of MAEO to provide you with testimony and support of SB925 – Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation.

The Local Boards of Election are currently facing a crisis in staffing the polling places on Election Day. Historically, our judges tend to be retired individuals who have a strong desire to support their community, and are not driven by monetary compensation. However, in recent years, we have had to get creative in our recruitment efforts. This has included utilizing the page program and youth engagement, as well as taking advantage of administrative leave that the State and some county governments provide to government employees. Due to the pandemic and the hyperpartisanship surrounding election integrity, the task of recruiting, hiring, and training election judges has become increasingly difficult and now seem to be more driven by compensation.

We need stronger incentives that reflect not only our urgent need, but also our appreciation for the time and effort that our volunteer judges contribute without exploiting their patriotism. We have seen an increase in the amount of training required for election judges due to new legislation that passes and new voting equipment, so offering a baseline compensation of at least \$250 per day worked and \$50 for completing the training programs would help us with recruitment efforts.

At MAEO, we are committed to performing our jobs with efficiency, effectiveness, and absolute accuracy in the election results. We hope that you will consider SB925 to ensure fair compensation for our Election Judges and we would like to thank Senator Washington for his attentiveness to this important issue.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, please contact me at (410)386-2958 or Katherine.berry@maryland.gov.

SB0925.pdf

Uploaded by: Katja Harper

Position: FAV

Members of the Legislature,

I am testifying to express my support of SB0925. This past November, I served as an Election Judge in Frederick County. Fortunately for my assigned precinct, all of our assigned judges showed up in a timely fashion and no key positions were vacant. However, out of the approximately 12000 individuals that had signed up to be election judges throughout the county, over 200 did not show up for duty on November 8th. Having sufficient judges available is key to ensuring the smooth operation of elections and our democracy. Frederick County paid \$50 for the training session, and \$175 for election day, with chief judges receiving \$225. Raising this amount to \$250 would likely incentivize more judges to honor their commitment to serve, which will be badly needed for the next presidential election, where turnout is expected to be high. I would also suggest that the state work with county governments to better advertise this compensation, and perhaps consider making it tax-exempt to further incentivize participation. Thank you for your efforts in putting forth this bill, and I urge a favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Kat Harper
Frederick County

SB0925-Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Luka Saracevic

Position: FAV

My name is Luka Saracevic. I am a resident of District 16. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB0925, Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation.

During the 2022 Midterms, I volunteered as a Future Vote Ambassador. As a Future Vote Ambassador, I worked hand in hand with Election Judges who worked 17 long hours a day. Since I was under 16 I could only work 3-hour shifts, I ended up with the morning shift. I woke up at 5:15 to get ready for my 6 am start time. I worked for 3 hours at the door greeting voters and helping them through the process of voting. After 3 hours of face to face interaction with the public I was exhausted. I couldn't imagine working 17 hours from the 6 am start time to the almost 11 pm finish.

This bill would raise the minimum compensation for Election Judges to an appropriate amount for their efforts. Many of the amazing Maryland residents that spend their time volunteering have normal jobs. Many took days off, days they could spend vacationing or with their families, and they spent working the polls. I know that it is more than fair to compensate these people for their time and their efforts in making elections open to the public. Additionally, to secure polling staff for future elections, election staff must have an incentive to do this vital work.

Due to the efforts of the many poll workers, I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0925.

SB 925 - Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Com

Uploaded by: Morgan Drayton

Position: FAV

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.

DRM_SB 925_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Samuela Ansah

Position: FAV



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www.DisabilityRightsMD.org

EDUCATION, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 10, 2023

SB 925 – Elections – Election Judges-Minimum Compensation

Position: SUPPORT

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM – formerly Maryland Disability Law Center) is the Protection & Advocacy agency in Maryland, mandated to advance the civil rights of people with disabilities. Our mission is to advance the civil rights of persons with disabilities. We work to ensure that people with disabilities are able to fully participate in civic life, including the electoral process.

DRM supports SB 925 which establishes a daily minimum of \$250 per day for election judges. Election judges play an important role during elections by ensuring rules and procedures set out by the State and Local Boards of Elections are followed. They spend a minimum of 12 hours at the polls, including set up and break down and ensuring Election Day runs as smoothly as it should to protect and actualize the promise of democracy. They essentially run Election Day and as such should be compensated fairly for their time and effort.

An election judge who is fairly compensated and well trained is more likely to be pleasant, amicable, courteous, patient, and perform their responsibilities, including ensuring equal access to voting for persons with disabilities. Currently, election judges throughout the State are compensated differently based on their county and type of judge they are, however, setting a minimum threshold for compensation will increase equity across the State. This bill will incentivize more residents to become an election judge which is particularly important as some counties find it harder to employ election judges than others. Without the proper amount of election judges to serve a county, the voting experience is compromised.

Most importantly, election judges can make or break a voter's voting experience which can determine if they vote again. While election judges will interact with most voters, they can interact extensively with voters with disabilities who may need support in accessing voting. SB 925 recognizes the important role of election judges in our elections and provides appropriate remuneration for this role.

For these reasons DRM urges a favorable report on **SB 925**.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at samuelaa@disabilityrightsmd.org or by phone at 443-692-2512.