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**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

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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.<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 Senate Bill 925.

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