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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 417: Election Administration- State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors

Chairman Feldman and esteemed members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 417, which aims to address a lack of oversight and regulation of the local elections. Aligned with this, the bill requires the State Board of Elections to evaluate the performance of the State Administrator of Elections. The bill also requires the State Administrator to provide a performance evaluation of each local board of elections to the local boards themselves. This includes any recommended disciplinary actions for failure to comply with state law, regulations, and policies.

Senate Bill 417 requires each local board to confer with the State Administrator in appointing an election director, maintaining office/warehouse spaces, and providing for early voting center access. The bill requires, and not simply authorizes, election directors to take these actions. Senate Bill 417 requires election directors to take certain actions related to voting system equipment and security and requires directors to perform duties as delegated by their local board.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 417.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD