

**DANA JONES**  
*Legislative District 30A*  
Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Vice Chair, Health and Social Services

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review

Vice Chair, Anne Arundel  
County Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 161  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3211 · 301-858-3211  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3211  
Dana.Jones@house.state.md.us

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**Testimony of Delegate Dana Jones**  
**Before the Ways and Means Committee**

**In Support of HB 459**  
**Election Administration – State Administrator, Local Boards, and Election Directors**  
**February 13th, 2024, 1 PM**

For the record - I am Delegate Dana Jones.

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, I come before you today to introduce HB 459, which will establish a yearly performance review process for both State and local election administrators, and develop security protocols and standard operating procedures for election materials and machines.

Fundamentally, this bill improves accountability and transparency for the State and local administrators of elections. At the State level, in years past this body has seen a lack of accountability over election procedures when concerns have been raised. HB 459's yearly reviews for the State Administrator, especially in light of recent legislation, will help ensure all responsibilities and duties of the office are being satisfactorily executed.

At the local level, yearly reviews by the State Administrator, of local board administrators, will help local boards ensure compliance. Local Boards of Elections should be following the SBE's policies and regulations in addition to Federal and State law. However, with the complexity and level of detail involved, it can be difficult for local boards to become familiar with these details outside of what the directors tell the board members. Information from the State Administrator will simply help empower the local boards as they make informed decisions for their locality, for both performance review and hiring decisions. Critically, as written directly in the bill, this assistance does not infringe on the exclusive authority of local boards to appoint an election director.

Finally, HB 459 includes requirements for local boards to maintain a warehouse for voting equipment and machines, in addition to establishing standard procedures for alerting the State Board of security violations. These provisions are crucial to ensuring State equipment is secured and managed properly.

According to the most recent Office of Legislative Audits report on the State Board of Elections, there are opportunities for the SBE to strengthen existing oversight processes of voter registration and its election oversight responsibilities.<sup>1</sup> HB 459 will ensure accountability from the State Administrator, strengthen oversight and communication between the SBE and local boards, and develop security standards for our election equipment.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 459.



Delegate Dana Jones

---

<sup>1</sup> [Fiscal compliance audit of the State Board of Elections for period 12.13.18 - 7.31.22](#), Office of Legislative Audits, 2.9.24