



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

February 26, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB534 - Support

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is the professional membership organization representing local election officials and Election Boards across all 24 jurisdictions in Maryland. Our members are committed to ensuring the smooth and effective administration of elections, and to making Maryland elections accessible, secure, and fair.

Senate Bill 534 addresses an ongoing issue faced by our local boards by ensuring that compensation for training is provided only after an election judge has served on election day or during early voting. This provision is designed to ensure that only those who fulfill their commitment are compensated for training, addressing the issue of “no-show” judges who have cost local boards significant amounts of money.

MAEO fully supports the provision allowing public school students to receive both service-learning credit and election judge compensation. It's essential to recognize that when students serve as election judges, they are fulfilling a portion of their service-learning requirement. Receiving state mandated compensation should not diminish that service. We want to ensure that students do not have to choose between getting credit for fulfilling their service requirement and being paid for their time. Both should be available to them, as they are performing a valuable civic duty, just as other election judges are.

The compensation provided to students should be viewed in the same way as it is for all election judges—an important incentive and reward for their participation. Ensuring students are compensated appropriately reinforces the value of their contribution to the democratic process, while also encouraging future participation in civic duties.

We are grateful for your attention to this important issue and for your continued support of election officials in Maryland. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we respectfully urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 534.