

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

Anne Arundel County Delegation

President, Women Legislators of Maryland



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 161
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3211
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 586
Election Law - Election Judges - Compensation
February 11th 2024 1 PM**

For the record, I am Delegate Dana Jones representing District 30A in the House of Delegates.

Chair Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee, I come before you today to introduce HB 586 Election Law - Election Judges - Compensation.

First, this bill addresses an ongoing problem that Local Boards of Elections have been experiencing regarding “no-show” judges. Currently, judges are paid at least \$50 for each course of instruction to serve as an election judge. This payment is irrespective of their actual future service as an election judge. At present, there have been significant occurrences around the State of prospective judges taking part and being paid for training, but failing to fulfill their duty as an election judge. We are still finalizing the complete scope of the impact, but based on data collected so far this issue is costing LBE’s tens of thousands of dollars per cycle. I am happy to share this data with Committee members.

This legislation adjusts the timing of training payment so that judges are only paid for training after completing their service as an election judge. This adjustment ensures that judges are correctly paid for their time training, but only after they fulfill their commitment as an election judge.

Second, we want to encourage our youth to participate in civic engagement. To do this, this bill will allow public school students to earn service-learning hours for graduation, while also

receiving compensation for their hard work. This incentivizes our young citizens to foster a deeper sense of civic responsibility and introduces them to the significance of this work.

Serving as an election judge, and participating in the election process, provides judges with first hand experience of how our system really works. This public service is truly unique compared to other options to fulfill SSL hours. As our local boards struggle to recruit enough election officials, it is vital that we recognize students for their civil service as an election judge regardless of their receipt of compensation for their time.

With that, I respectfully urge the Committee to move favorably on HB 586.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Delegate Dana Jones