

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 940 (Senator Brochin)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Election Law - Polling Places - Election Judges

This bill expands the ability of a local board of elections to provide election judges, who are not registered with either the majority party or the principal minority party, to a polling place. The bill also modifies a restriction on a local board's ability to provide election judges, who are minors, to a polling place. **The bill takes effect January 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not expected to affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill removes certain existing restrictions on (1) the circumstances in which a local board of elections may provide election judges, who are not registered with either the majority party or the principal minority party, to a polling place and (2) the number of those judges who may be provided. The bill instead indicates that in addition to an existing requirement that each polling place have an equal number of election judges from the majority party and the principal minority party, a local board may provide additional election judges who are not registered with either the majority party or the principal minority party.

The bill also correspondingly modifies a restriction on the number of election judges who are minors that may be provided to a polling place, so that the number of election judges

who are minors may not exceed the least of (1) the number of election judges who belong to the majority party; (2) the number of election judges who belong to the principal minority party; or (3) the number of election judges who are not registered with either the majority party or the principal minority party.

Current Law: Each local board of elections must provide at least four election judges to be the staff for each polling place, but in a precinct with fewer than 200 registered voters, the local board may provide two election judges for that precinct's polling place.

Each polling place must have an equal number of election judges from the majority party and the principal minority party, except if the total number of election judges for a precinct is six or more, in which case a local board may provide (1) one or more election judges who are not registered with either the majority party or principal minority party and (2) one or more election judges who are minors. The number of election judges provided to a polling place who are not registered with either the majority party or principal minority party, or who are minors, may not exceed the lesser of (1) the number of election judges who belong to the majority party or (2) the number of election judges who belong to the principal minority party.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Board of Elections; Baltimore, Dorchester, Garrett, and Montgomery counties; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2018
mm/hlb

Analysis by: Scott D. Kennedy

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510