

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 940

(Senator Brochin)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Election Law - Polling Places - Election Judges

This bill lowers the minimum number of judges provided for a precinct – from six to four – at which a local board of elections may provide one or more election judges who are not registered with either the majority party or principal minority party, or who are minors. The bill retains the requirement that the number of election judges provided for a precinct who are not registered with either the majority party or principal minority party, or who are minors, may not exceed the lesser of the number of election judges who belong to the majority party or the number of election judges who belong to the principal minority party. **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

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
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