

SENATE BILL 58

G1

1lr1493

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: November 1, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Local Boards of Elections – Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the local boards of elections to require that
4 a majority of the members of the boards be registered members of the political party
5 with the largest number of registered voters in the county, rather than being of the
6 majority party, and the remainder of the members of the boards be registered
7 members of the political party with the second largest number of registered voters
8 in the county, rather than being of the principal minority party; making conforming
9 changes; and generally relating to local boards of elections.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 2–201(b), (g)(1), and (i)(4), 2–202(d), and 11–301(g)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 2–201.

19 (b) (1) (i) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection,
20 each local board consists of five regular members.

21 (ii) Three regular members shall [be of the majority party, and two]
22 **BE REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER**
23 **OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (III) TWO regular members shall [be of the principal minority party]
2 BE REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY WITH THE SECOND LARGEST
3 NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.

4 (2) (i) In Prince George's County, the local board consists of five regular
5 members and three substitute members.

6 (ii) 1. Four regular members and two substitute members shall
7 be [of the majority party, and one] REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY
8 WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.

9 2. One regular member and one substitute member shall be
10 [of the principal minority party] REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY
11 WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.

12 (3) (i) In Montgomery County, the local board consists of five regular
13 members and two substitute members.

14 (ii) 1. Three regular members and one substitute member shall
15 be [of the majority party, and two] REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY
16 WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.

17 2. TWO regular members and one substitute member shall
18 be [of the principal minority party] REGISTERED MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTY
19 WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.

20 (g) (1) The Governor shall request the county central committee representing
21 the [majority party or the principal minority party, as] appropriate[,] POLITICAL PARTY
22 to submit a list of at least four eligible individuals from which the Governor may make an
23 appointment of a regular member of a local board or a substitute member of the local board.

24 (i) (4) In Prince George's County, if a vacancy occurs on the local board among
25 the members from the [majority] party WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED
26 VOTERS IN THE COUNTY, the Governor shall designate one of the substitute members
27 from that party to fill the vacancy.

28 2-202.

29 (d) In Montgomery County, the local board shall require an affirmative vote of
30 not fewer than three duly confirmed regular members of the local board, at least one of
31 whom shall be a member of the [principal minority] POLITICAL party WITH THE SECOND
32 LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY, to appoint an election
33 director.

1 11-301.

2 (g) At least one member of the board of canvassers present shall be a registered
3 voter of the [principal minority] **POLITICAL party WITH THE SECOND LARGEST NUMBER**
4 **OF REGISTERED VOTERS IN THE COUNTY.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2021.