

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 327  
Ways and Means

(Delegate D. Jones)

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Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation

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This bill establishes that the compensation of an election judge, for each Election Day and each early voting day served, may not be less than \$200 per day. The bill modifies or repeals several county-specific provisions that set the compensation or minimum compensation for election judges at a rate of \$200 per day or lower. **The bill takes effect October 1, 2023.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill does not directly affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** Local government expenditures increase by up to \$600,000 annually beginning in FY 2024. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** A local board of elections is authorized to fix the compensation of election judges within limits authorized by the county's governing body. State law, however, specifies compensation rates, or minimum compensation rates, for election judges in certain counties (Allegany, Baltimore, Calvert, Harford, Prince George's, and Washington) and Baltimore City. An election judge must be paid for each Election Day and each early voting day that the election judge serves.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Local government expenditures increase by up to \$600,000 annually beginning in fiscal 2024 (which includes the additional costs for all affected counties), due

to additional compensation paid to election judges in counties that currently have election judge compensation rates lower than \$200 per day. This estimate is based primarily on past information collected by the State Board of Elections on numbers of election judges, and associated election judge compensation rates, that counties had planned to use for the 2020 primary election (prior to changes in the format of that election due to the pandemic) and adjusting that information to account for increases in the number of early voting centers since then pursuant to Chapter 43 of 2021. The actual impact in fiscal 2024 and future years may be less than the approximate estimate of \$600,000 to the extent counties (1) have already increased their election judges' compensation in comparison to what was planned for the 2020 primary election (including to account for increased voting hours on early voting days under Chapters 659 and 660 of 2021) or (2) will increase their election judges' compensation for the 2024 or future elections even in the absence of the bill.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** State Board of Elections; Montgomery and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 4, 2022  
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