

# **Genie O. Massey**

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## **Senate Education, Energy & the Environment Committee**

### **HB700 - Election Law – Election Judges – Revisions**

**March 27, 2024**

#### **Position: Support**

Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Our local Boards of Elections must recruit and train many thousands to work as election judges. These workers ensure our elections run smoothly, transparently, and fairly, dedicating long hours to ensure election integrity and a positive experience for voters.

The development of campaign materials to recruit new election judges and the provision to standardize the paperwork involved in the hiring process will support the local Boards of Election in the recruiting process significantly. Providing additional compensation for election judges who have previously served introduces a deserved recognition of experience and loyalty to this crucial civic duty. Such a measure is likely to encourage seasoned judges to continue their service, thereby maintaining a knowledgeable and efficient pool of election officials. Furthermore, authorizing public school students to earn service-learning hours in addition to receiving compensation for serving as election judges is a visionary step. It encourages civic engagement among our youth, educates them on the electoral process, and fosters a sense of responsibility and pride in contributing to their community.

In conclusion, HB700I serves not just the immediate needs of election administration but the broader goal of ensuring our election processes are supported by dedicated, respected, and adequately compensated citizens. I urge the committee to report favorably on HB700, thereby Thank you for considering this vital piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Genie O. Massey