

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 443 (Senator Carozza, *et al.*)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Local Boards of Elections - Board Counsel - Qualifications

This emergency bill modifies a provision that authorizes a local board of elections to appoint or retain an individual as counsel. The bill modifies the provision by requiring that the individual be a registered voter of the State, rather than a registered voter of the local board's county.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Each local board of elections is authorized to appoint or retain as counsel an individual who is a registered voter of its county and admitted to practice law in the State.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 621 (Delegate D. Jones, *et al.*) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Frederick, and Somerset counties;
Maryland State Board of Elections; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 17, 2026
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