

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1290**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 21, 2022

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1290 (1R).

This bill increases the compensation of election workers from \$200 per day to \$300 per day and appropriates \$7,000,000 to the Department of State.

Under current law, election workers are paid \$200 per day each time the primary election, the general election, or any special election is held. The State reimburses \$125 of the payment to election workers while the counties account for the rest. This bill increases the State's reimbursement to \$225 while keeping the counties sum at \$75.

As amended by the committee, the bill changes the compensation received by an election worker who fails to attend a training program from \$50 to the State minimum wage. The bill changes the lowest hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election from \$5.77 per hour to the State minimum wage. The bill increases the maximum hourly rate for election workers serving at a school election held at a time other than the general election, from \$14.29 under current law to \$21.43 per hour, which is commensurate with the \$300 daily rate for election workers. The bill changes the hourly compensation received by an election worker serving at an April school election who fails to attend a training program from \$3.85 per hour to the State minimum wage. The bill permits a county to provide, at its discretion, additional compensation to election workers in such county in an amount determined by the county, and the additional compensation would be an expense of the county.

The bill also permits a county to provide an election worker training program for district board members at the expense of the county. The bill clarifies that the Secretary of State handles election reimbursement matters rather than the Attorney General. Finally, the bill appropriates from the State General Fund to the Department of State the sum of \$7,000,000 to reimburse the counties for the costs of implementing the bill's provisions.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that increasing the State's reimbursement of the payment to election workers by \$100 per

day will increase costs to the Division of Elections in the Department of State by approximately \$7.74 million per election depending on the number of hours the poll workers actually work on Election Day and the type of election (i.e. primary, general, or special election).