

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

*As Engrossed: H3/25/13 S4/8/13*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1875

5 By: Representatives Slinkard, *Bell*  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW A COUNTY WITH ELECTRONIC VOTER  
9 REGISTRATION RECORDS TO DESIGNATE VOTE CENTERS; TO  
10 ALLOW VOTERS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES TO VOTE IN ONE SITE  
11 REGARDLESS OF PRECINCT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

## Subtitle

14 TO ALLOW A COUNTY WITH ELECTRONIC VOTER  
15 REGISTRATION RECORDS TO DESIGNATE VOTE  
16 CENTERS; AND TO ALLOW VOTERS IN CERTAIN  
17 COUNTIES TO VOTE IN ONE SITE REGARDLESS  
18 OF PRECINCT.  
19  
20  
21

22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
23

24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101, concerning definitions under  
25 election law, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (35) "Vote center" means an election day location designated by  
27 the county clerk or county board of election commissioners at which a  
28 qualified elector from any precinct in the county holding the election may  
29 vote.  
30

31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 1, is amended to add an  
32 additional section to read as follows:

33 7-1-111. Vote centers.

34 (a)(1) The county clerk or county board of election commissioners may  
35 establish one (1) or more vote centers in the county on election day under §  
36 7-5-101.



1           (2) A vote center shall be available to any qualified elector  
2 registered to vote in the county who applies to the *county clerk or county*  
3 *board of election commissioners while the polls are open on election day.*

4           (b) If a vote center is used in an election, the vote center shall  
5 have a secure electronic connection to provide voting information to and  
6 receive voting information from a computerized registration book maintained  
7 by the county clerk.

8           (c) Before a person is permitted to cast a vote at a vote center, the  
9 county clerk or election official shall:

10           (1) Request that the voter identify himself or herself by  
11 stating his or her name, date of birth, and address in order to verify his or  
12 her registration and provide identification as required by law;

13           (2) Request that the voter provide identification as required by  
14 law;

15           (3) If the voter's name or address is not the same as that in  
16 the county voter registration record files, request that the voter complete  
17 an updated voter registration application form; and

18           (4)(A) Request that the voter sign a voting roster or voting  
19 request form that identifies his or her name, address, date of birth, and the  
20 date on the roster or form.

21           (B) The voting roster or voting request form shall contain  
22 the written or printed precinct number or ballot style of the voter.

23           (d) If the voter is not listed in the electronic county voter  
24 registration files, the *county clerk or election official is* unable to verify  
25 the voter's registration, and the voter contends that he or she is eligible  
26 to vote, the voter shall be directed to his or her polling site for the  
27 voter's precinct to cast a ballot.

28           (e) The *county clerk or county board of election commissioners shall*  
29 furnish a vote center location that adequately allows the voter to personally  
30 and secretly execute his or her vote.

31           (f) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules for the vote centers  
32 that:

33           (1) Designate the electronic equipment to be used to verify the  
34 registration record of a voter;

35           (2) Establish standards for the maintenance and use of the  
36 equipment used at a vote center;

1           (3) Establish standards for the testing and backup of the  
2 equipment used at a vote center;

3           (4) Establish standards for a secure electronic connection  
4 between a vote center and a county's computerized registration book; and

5           (5) Establish procedures for the conduct of the vote center in  
6 the event that the electronic system fails.

7  
8           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101 is amended to read as follows:

9           7-5-101. Precinct boundaries, ~~and~~ polling sites, and vote centers -  
10 Establishment and alteration.

11           (a)(1) The county board of election commissioners shall:

12                   (A) Establish election precincts; and

13                   (B)(i) Designate a polling site for each precinct.

14                           (ii) A polling site may serve two (2) or more  
15 precincts, including parts of precincts.

16           (2) Except as provided in § 6-14-106, the designation of polling  
17 sites shall be by a unanimous vote of the members of the county board  
18 present.

19           (b)(1) The county board by order may alter the boundaries of existing  
20 election precincts and establish new ones.

21           (2) A precinct shall not be altered and a new precinct shall not  
22 be created less than thirty (30) days before an election, except in the event  
23 of an emergency as determined by the county board.

24           (3)(A) An order to alter the boundaries of any precinct or  
25 establish any new one shall not be effective until it has been filed with the  
26 county clerk.

27                   (B) The order shall contain a:

28                           (i) Written description; and

29                           (ii) Map of the boundaries of the precincts altered  
30 or established.

31           (c)(1) Within thirty (30) days after the boundaries of an election  
32 precinct are altered or a new election precinct is established, the county  
33 clerk shall submit five (5) copies of the changes in the form of a map and  
34 written descriptions to the Secretary of State.

35           (2) Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State  
36 immediately shall forward a copy to the:

1 (A) Office of the Attorney General;  
2 (B) Census State Data Center; and  
3 (C) Cartography Section of the Arkansas State Highway and  
4 Transportation Department.

5 (d)(1) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, the polling sites  
6 for each election shall be the same as those established for the immediately  
7 preceding general election unless changed by order of the county board.

8 (2) The county board shall not change a polling site for any  
9 precinct less than thirty (30) days before an election, except in the event  
10 of an emergency.

11 (3) Notice of any changes made in polling sites shall be  
12 provided by posting information at the polling sites used in the last  
13 election and, except for school elections and special elections, the notice  
14 shall be mailed by the county clerk to each affected registered voter at  
15 least fifteen (15) days before the election.

16 (e)(1)(A) Before establishing one (1) or more vote centers in the  
17 county under § 7-1-111, the county clerk shall certify to the Secretary of  
18 State and the county quorum court that the county has a secure electronic  
19 connection sufficient to prevent:

20 (i) An elector from voting more than once; and  
21 (ii) Unauthorized access to a computerized  
22 registration book maintained by the county clerk.

23 (B) If the county clerk has certified to the county  
24 quorum court a determination of sufficiency under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of  
25 this section, the county may adopt an ordinance to establish vote centers for  
26 elections.

27 (C) The ordinance:

28 (i) Shall be filed with the county clerk, the county  
29 board of election commissioners, and the Secretary of State; and

30 (ii) Is effective when it is filed with the county  
31 clerk, the county board of election commissioners, and the Secretary of  
32 State.

33 (2)(A) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, a vote  
34 center location for each election shall be the same as that established for  
35 the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the  
36 county clerk or county board of election commissioners.

