

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

As Engrossed: S3/25/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1863

5 By: Representative Lemons
6

7 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION
9 OF ELECTIONS; TO RECOGNIZE AN ELECTION COORDINATOR AS
10 AN ELECTION OFFICIAL; TO ESTABLISH A DEADLINE FOR A
11 COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TO FILE
12 MEETING MINUTES; TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING
13 TO BE CONDUCTED BY COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION
14 COMMISSIONERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
15

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17 **Subtitle**

18 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
19 ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS; AND TO AMEND
20 THE LAW CONCERNING ELECTION OFFICIALS AND
21 ELECTION DEADLINES.
22

23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101(10), concerning the definition of
27 "election official", is amended to read as follows:

28 (10) "Election official" or "election officer" means a person who
29 is a member of the county board of election commissioners, a person who
30 performs election coordinator duties, ~~or~~ a person who is a poll worker
31 designated by a county board of election commissioners to be an election
32 clerk, election judge, or election sheriff, or a deputy county clerk or a
33 person assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting;
34

35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-1-113 is amended to read as follows:
36 7-1-113. Vote centers.



1 (a)(1) The ~~county clerk or~~ county board of election commissioners may
2 establish one (1) or more vote centers in the county on election day under §
3 7-5-101.

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

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

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

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

16 (2) Request that the voter provide identification as required by
17 law;

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

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

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

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

31 (e) The ~~county clerk or~~ county board of election commissioners shall
32 furnish a vote center location that adequately allows the voter to personally
33 and secretly execute his or her vote.

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

36 (1) Designate the electronic equipment to be used to verify the

1 registration record of a voter;

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

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

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

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

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11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-4-105 is amended to read as follows:

12 7-4-105. County board of election commissioners – Officers – Meetings.

13 (a) The county board of election commissioners shall hold office until
14 their successors are appointed and qualified. The commissioners shall meet ~~at~~
15 ~~the courthouse at least thirty (30) days prior to the general election~~ no
16 later than February 28 of odd-numbered years and shall organize themselves
17 into a county board of election commissioners by electing one (1) member
18 chair. Each commissioner shall have one (1) vote. Two (2) commissioners shall
19 constitute a quorum, and the concurring votes of any two (2) shall decide
20 questions before them unless otherwise provided by law.

21 (b) The chair of a county board of election commissioners shall notify
22 all commissioners of all meetings. Any meeting of two (2) or more
23 commissioners when official business is conducted shall be public and held
24 pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq. The
25 county board shall keep minutes of all meetings when official business is
26 conducted, and the minutes shall be filed of record with the county clerk
27 within the sooner of:

28 (1) One hundred twenty (120) days of a meeting; or

29 (2) Ten (10) days of the following meeting.

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31 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-4-109(b)(2), concerning qualifications of
32 state and county commissioners, election officials, poll workers, and
33 certified election monitors, is amended to add an additional subdivision to
34 read as follows:

35 (C) An election coordinator, deputy clerk, or person
36 assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting does not have to be a

1 resident of the precinct or county in which he or she serves.

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/s/Lemons

APPROVED: 04/04/2015