

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1615

5 By: Representative Ladyman
6 By: Senator K. Hammer
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ELECTION PROCEDURES; TO AMEND THE
10 REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS; TO AMEND THE
11 LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES; TO AMEND THE LAW
12 CONCERNING THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE VOTER
13 REGISTRATION LIST; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

16 TO AMEND ELECTION PROCEDURES; TO AMEND
17 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS;
18 TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES;
19 AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE
20 INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE VOTER
21 REGISTRATION LIST.
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25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-4-109(d), concerning qualifications of
28 state and county commissioners, election officials, poll workers, and
29 certified election monitors, is amended to read as follows:

30 (d)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (d)(2) of this section, a A
31 person shall not serve as an election official if:

32 ~~(1)(A)~~ The person is married to or related within the
33 second degree of consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the
34 election; and

35 ~~(2)(B)~~ Another person makes an objection to ~~his or her~~ the
36 person's service to the county board of election commissioners within ten



1 (10) calendar days after ~~posting~~ the posting of the list of election
 2 officials.

3 (2) A person shall be eligible to serve as an election official
 4 if the person is:

5 (A) Married to or related within the second degree of
 6 consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election who is
 7 unopposed; and

8 (B) Serving as an election official at a polling place or
 9 vote center designated to serve a geographic area with a population of less
 10 than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors.

11
 12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101(a), concerning the establishment
 13 and alteration of precinct boundaries, polling sites, and vote centers, is
 14 amended to read as follows:

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

16 (A) Establish election precincts; and

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

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

20 (iii)(a) A polling site shall be established in all,
 21 cities, municipalities, and towns of the state.

22 (b) A municipality may opt out of the
 23 requirement under subdivision (a)(1)(B)(iii)(a) of this section by ordinance.

24 (2) Except as provided in § 6-14-106, the designation of polling
 25 sites shall be by a unanimous vote of the members of the county board of
 26 election commissioners present.

27 (3) If an existing polling site is closed by a majority vote of
 28 the county board of election commissioners, the closure shall be approved by
 29 State Board of Election Commissioners not less than sixty (60) days before an
 30 election except in the event of an emergency as determined by unanimous vote
 31 of the State Board of Election Commissioners.

32
 33 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-107 is amended to read as follows:

34 7-5-107. Use of voter registration lists by poll workers.

35 (a)(1) In any election conducted in this state, precinct voter
 36 registration lists shall be used by poll workers in each polling place.

1 (2)(A) An electronic poll book may be used by poll workers in
 2 each polling place.

3 (B) The functions of an electronic poll book may include
 4 without limitation:

- 5 (i) Voter lookup;
- 6 (ii) Voter verification;
- 7 (iii) Voter identification;
- 8 (iv) Precinct assignment;
- 9 (v) Ballot assignment;
- 10 (vi) Recording when a voter presents himself or
 11 herself to an election official and requests a ballot; ~~and~~
- 12 (vii) Redirecting voters to the correct polling
 13 site; and
- 14 (viii) Determining if a voter has requested an
 15 absentee ballot.

16 (b) Precinct voter registration lists shall contain the name, address
 17 including zip code, and date of birth of each registered voter within the
 18 precinct, including those who have been designated inactive, the precinct
 19 number and county wherein the precinct is located, the name and date of the
 20 election, and a space for the voter's signature.

21 (c) The following shall be printed at the top of each page of the
 22 precinct voter registration list:

23 "IF YOU SIGN THIS FORM AND YOU ARE NOT A LAWFULLY REGISTERED VOTER OR IF YOU
 24 HAVE SUBMITTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THIS ELECTION, YOU ARE MAKING A FALSE
 25 STATEMENT AND MAY BE COMMITTING PERJURY. PERJURY IS PUNISHABLE BY UP TO A
 26 \$10,000 FINE AND UP TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT."
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28 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-305(a)(11), concerning requirements to
 29 vote and duties of poll workers, is amended to read as follows:

30 (11)(A) Verify if a person requested an absentee ballot
 31 according to the precinct voter registration list; and

32 (B) Permit the person to cast a provisional ballot if the
 33 person received an absentee ballot according to the precinct voter
 34 registration list.
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36 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-5-418(c), concerning early voting

1 procedures, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

2 (6)(A) Verify if a person requested an absentee ballot according
3 to the precinct voter registration list; and

4 (B) Permit a person to cast a provisional ballot if the
5 person received an absentee ballot according to the precinct voter
6 registration list.

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