

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

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1615

4  
5 By: Representative Ladyman  
6 By: Senator K. Hammer  
7

## 8 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.

## 16 Subtitle

17 TO AMEND ELECTION PROCEDURES; TO AMEND  
18 THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS;  
19 TO AMEND THE LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES;  
20 AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE  
21 INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE VOTER  
22 REGISTRATION LIST.

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24 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) 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.

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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.

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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.

(2)(A) An electronic poll book may be used by poll workers in 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

(viii) Determining if a voter has requested an  
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."

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:

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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