

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

As Engrossed: H4/1/21

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(a), concerning qualifications of*
28 *state and county commissioners, election officials, poll workers, and*
29 *certified election monitors, is amended to add an additional subdivision to*
30 *read as follows:*

31 *(4) A person shall be eligible to serve as an election official*
32 *if the person is married to or related within the second degree of*
33 *consanguinity to a candidate running for office in the election who is*
34 *unopposed and the person is appointed to serve as an election official at a*
35 *polling place or vote center designated to serve a geographic area with a*
36 *population of less than one thousand (1,000) qualified electors.*



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

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

(A) Establish election precincts; and

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

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

(iii)(a) A polling site shall be established in all cities, municipalities, and towns of the state that require a polling site be established by ordinance.

(b) Cities of the second class and incorporated towns shall provide a suitable facility for a polling site that meets all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., and has adequate internet service available to execute the required activities of a polling site.

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

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

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

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

(a)(1) In any election conducted in this state, precinct voter 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.

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

(i) Voter lookup;

(ii) Voter verification;

1 (iii) Voter identification;
2 (iv) Precinct assignment;
3 (v) Ballot assignment;
4 (vi) Recording when a voter presents himself or
5 herself to an election official and requests a ballot; ~~and~~
6 (vii) Redirecting voters to the correct polling
7 site; and
8 (viii) Determining if a voter has requested an
9 absentee ballot.

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

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

17 "IF YOU SIGN THIS FORM AND YOU ARE NOT A LAWFULLY REGISTERED VOTER OR IF YOU
18 HAVE SUBMITTED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THIS ELECTION, YOU ARE MAKING A FALSE
19 STATEMENT AND MAY BE COMMITTING PERJURY. PERJURY IS PUNISHABLE BY UP TO A
20 \$10,000 FINE AND UP TO 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT."
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22 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-305(a)(11), concerning requirements to
23 vote and duties of poll workers, is amended to read as follows:

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

26 (B) Permit the person to cast a provisional ballot if the
27 person received an absentee ballot according to the precinct voter
28 registration list.
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30 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 7-5-418(c), concerning early voting
31 procedures, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

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

34 (B) Permit a person to cast a provisional ballot if the
35 person received an absentee ballot according to the precinct voter
36 registration list.

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/s/Ladyman