

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2624

5 By: Representative Sumpter  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING VOTING  
10 PROCEDURES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING  
13 VOTING PROCEDURES.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-309 is amended to read as follows:  
20 7-5-309. Voting procedure.

21 (a)(1) At general, primary, special, and school elections in counties  
22 which use paper ballots, the county board of election commissioners shall  
23 provide in each polling site at least one (1) voting booth for each fifty  
24 (50) registered electors voting in the last-preceding comparable election.

25 (2) Each voting booth shall be situated so as to permit voters  
26 to prepare their ballots screened from observation and shall be furnished  
27 with any supplies and conveniences as will enable the voter to prepare his or  
28 her ballot.

29 (3) The voting booths shall be situated in the polling site in  
30 plain view of the election officials.

31 (4) No person other than the election officials and those  
32 admitted for the purpose of voting shall be permitted within the immediate  
33 voting area, which shall be considered as within six feet (6') of the voting  
34 booths, except by authority of the election officials and then only when  
35 necessary to keep order and enforce the law.

36 (b)(1)(A) Upon receiving his or her ballot, the voter shall proceed to



1 mark it by placing an appropriate mark.

2 (B) No voter shall be allowed more than five (5) minutes  
3 to mark his or her ballot.

4 (2) The voter shall then personally deposit the ballot in the  
5 ballot box provided.

6 (c)(1) The voter shall not be required to sign, initial, or in any way  
7 identify himself or herself with the ballot, the ballot stub, or the list of  
8 voters other than in the manner set forth in this section.

9 (2) However, an election official may inspect the back of the  
10 ballot before the voter deposits it to see if it has been initialed by an  
11 election official.

12 (d) After having voted or having declined to do so, the voter shall  
13 immediately depart from the polling site.

14 (e)(1) If a paper ballot is left at a voting booth or anywhere else in  
15 the polling site without being inserted into the ballot box by the voter  
16 prior to departing the polling site, an election officer shall:

17 (A) Write "Abandoned" on the face of the paper ballot;

18 (B) Place the paper ballot in an envelope marked  
19 "Abandoned Ballot";

20 (C) Note in writing on the outside of the envelope all  
21 circumstances surrounding the abandoned ballot; and

22 (D) Preserve the abandoned ballot separately.

23 (2) The county board of election commissioners shall not count  
24 the ballot.

25 (f) If a paper ballot that is fed by a voter into an electronic vote  
26 tabulating device at the polling site is rejected by the device but is still  
27 in the receiving part of the counter and the voter has not reported to an  
28 election officer his or her desire to cancel or replace the ballot prior to  
29 departing the polling site, two (2) election officers shall take action to  
30 override warnings on the device and complete the process of casting the  
31 ballot.

32 (2) The election officers shall document:

33 (A) The time;

34 (B) The name of the voter;

35 (C) The names of the election officers completing the  
36 process of casting the ballot; and

1                    (D) All other circumstances surrounding the abandoned  
2 ballot.  
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