

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1875

5 By: Representative Slinkard
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW A COUNTY WITH ELECTRONIC VOTER
9 REGISTRATION RECORDS TO DESIGNATE VOTE CENTERS; TO
10 ALLOW VOTERS IN CERTAIN COUNTIES TO VOTE IN ONE SITE
11 REGARDLESS OF PRECINCT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO ALLOW A COUNTY WITH ELECTRONIC VOTER
15 REGISTRATION RECORDS TO DESIGNATE VOTE
16 CENTERS; AND TO ALLOW VOTERS IN CERTAIN
17 COUNTIES TO VOTE IN ONE SITE REGARDLESS
18 OF PRECINCT.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101, concerning definitions under
25 election law, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (35) "Vote center" means an election day location designated by
27 the county clerk at which a qualified elector from any precinct in the county
28 holding the election may vote.
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30 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
31 additional section to read as follows:

32 7-1-111. Vote centers.

33 (a)(1) The county clerk may establish one (1) or more vote centers in
34 the county on election day under § 7-5-101.

35 (2) A vote center shall be available to any qualified elector
36 registered to vote in the county who applies to the county clerk while the



1 polls are open on election day.

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

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

8 (1) Request that the voter identify himself or herself by
9 stating his or her name, date of birth, and address in order to verify his or
10 her registration;

11 (2) If the voter's name or address is not the same as that in
12 the county voter registration record files, request that the voter complete
13 an updated voter registration application form; and

14 (3)(A) Request that the voter sign a voting roster or voting
15 request form that identifies his or her name, address, date of birth, and the
16 date on the roster or form.

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

19 (d) If the voter is not listed in the electronic county voter
20 registration files, the county clerk is unable to verify the voter's
21 registration, and the voter contends that he or she is eligible to vote, the
22 voter shall be directed to his or her polling site for the voter's precinct
23 to cast a ballot.

24 (e) The county clerk shall furnish a vote center location that
25 adequately allows the voter to personally and secretly execute his or her
26 vote.

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

29 (1) Designate the electronic equipment to be used to verify the
30 registration record of a voter;

31 (2) Establish standards for the maintenance and use of the
32 equipment;

33 (3) Establish standards for the testing and backup of the
34 equipment;

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

1 (5) Provide guidelines for the number, location, and manner of
 2 operation of vote centers;

3 (6) Provide guidelines for the number of computers with a secure
 4 connection to the computerized registration book, voting devices or machines,
 5 provisional ballots, and other supplies; and

6 (7) Establish procedures for the conduct of the vote center in
 7 the event that the electronic system fails.

8
 9 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-101 is amended to read as follows:

10 7-5-101. Precinct boundaries, ~~and~~ polling sites, and vote centers –
 11 Establishment and alteration.

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

13 (A) Establish election precincts; and

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

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

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

20 (b)(1) The county board by order may alter the boundaries of existing
 21 election precincts and establish new ones.

22 (2) A precinct shall not be altered and a new precinct shall not
 23 be created less than thirty (30) days before an election, except in the event
 24 of an emergency as determined by the county board.

25 (3)(A) An order to alter the boundaries of any precinct or
 26 establish any new one shall not be effective until it has been filed with the
 27 county clerk.

28 (B) The order shall contain a:

29 (i) Written description; and

30 (ii) Map of the boundaries of the precincts altered
 31 or established.

32 (c)(1) Within thirty (30) days after the boundaries of an election
 33 precinct are altered or a new election precinct is established, the county
 34 clerk shall submit five (5) copies of the changes in the form of a map and
 35 written descriptions to the Secretary of State.

36 (2) Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State

1 immediately shall forward a copy to the:

2 (A) Office of the Attorney General;

3 (B) Census State Data Center; and

4 (C) Cartography Section of the Arkansas State Highway and
5 Transportation Department.

6 (d)(1) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, the polling sites
7 for each election shall be the same as those established for the immediately
8 preceding general election unless changed by order of the county board.

9 (2) The county board shall not change a polling site for any
10 precinct less than thirty (30) days before an election, except in the event
11 of an emergency.

12 (3) Notice of any changes made in polling sites shall be
13 provided by posting information at the polling sites used in the last
14 election and, except for school elections and special elections, the notice
15 shall be mailed by the county clerk to each affected registered voter at
16 least fifteen (15) days before the election.

17 (e)(1)(A)(i) Upon a request from the county clerk, the Secretary of
18 State shall evaluate and determine whether the county has a secure electronic
19 connection sufficient to prevent:

20 (a) An elector from voting more than once; and

21 (b) Unauthorized access to a computerized
22 registration book maintained by the county clerk.

23 (ii) If the secure electronic connection is
24 determined to be sufficient, the Secretary of State shall certify the
25 determination to the county clerk.

26 (B) If the Secretary of State has certified to a county
27 clerk a determination of sufficiency under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this
28 section, the county may adopt an ordinance to establish vote centers for
29 elections.

30 (C) The ordinance:

31 (i) Shall be filed with the county clerk and the
32 Secretary of State; and

33 (ii) Is effective when it is filed with the county
34 clerk and the Secretary of State.

35 (2)(A) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, a vote
36 center location for each election shall be the same as that established for

1 the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the
2 county clerk.

3 (B) The county clerk shall not change a vote center
4 location for any precinct less than thirty (30) days before an election
5 except in the event of an emergency.

6 (C) Notice of a change made to a vote center location
7 shall be posted at the vote center location used in the last election, and
8 except for school elections and special elections, the notice shall be
9 published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least
10 fifteen (15) days before the election.

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