

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

As Engrossed: H3/25/13

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1875

5 By: Representatives Slinkard, *Bell*
6

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 or county board of election commissioners at which a
28 qualified elector from any precinct in the county holding the election may
29 vote.
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31 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 1, is amended to add an
32 additional section to read as follows:

33 7-1-111. Vote centers.

34 (a)(1) The county clerk or county board of election commissioners may
35 establish one (1) or more vote centers in the county on election day under §
36 7-5-101.



1 (2) A vote center shall be available to any qualified elector
2 registered to vote in the county who applies to the *county clerk or county*
3 *board of election commissioners while the polls are open on election day.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (e) The *county clerk or county board of election commissioners shall*
27 furnish a vote center location that adequately allows the voter to personally
28 and secretly execute his or her vote.

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

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

33 (2) Establish standards for the maintenance and use of the
34 equipment used at a vote center;

35 (3) Establish standards for the testing and backup of the
36 equipment used at a vote center;

1 (4) Establish standards for a secure electronic connection
2 between a vote center and a county's computerized registration book; and
3 (5) Establish procedures for the conduct of the vote center in
4 the event that the electronic system fails.

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

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

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

10 (A) Establish election precincts; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (B) The order shall contain a:

26 (i) Written description; and

27 (ii) Map of the boundaries of the precincts altered
28 or established.

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

33 (2) Upon receipt of the changes, the Secretary of State
34 immediately shall forward a copy to the:

35 (A) Office of the Attorney General;

36 (B) Census State Data Center; and

1 (C) Cartography Section of the Arkansas State Highway and
2 Transportation Department.

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

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

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

14 (e)(1)(A) Before establishing one (1) or more vote centers in the
15 county under § 7-1-111, the county clerk shall certify to the Secretary of
16 State and the county quorum court that the county has a secure electronic
17 connection sufficient to prevent:

18 (i) An elector from voting more than once; and
19 (ii) Unauthorized access to a computerized
20 registration book maintained by the county clerk.

21 (B) If the county clerk has certified to the county
22 quorum court a determination of sufficiency under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of
23 this section, the county may adopt an ordinance to establish vote centers for
24 elections.

25 (C) The ordinance:

26 (i) Shall be filed with the county clerk, the county
27 board of election commissioners, and the Secretary of State; and

28 (ii) Is effective when it is filed with the county
29 clerk, the county board of election commissioners, and the Secretary of
30 State.

31 (2)(A) Except for school elections under § 6-14-106, a vote
32 center location for each election shall be the same as that established for
33 the immediately preceding general election unless changed by order of the
34 county clerk or county board of election commissioners.

35 (B) The county clerk or county board of election
36 commissioners shall not change a vote center location for any precinct less

1 than thirty (30) days before an election except in the event of an emergency.
2 (C) Notice of a change made to a vote center location
3 shall be posted at the vote center location used in the last election, and
4 except for school elections and special elections, the notice shall be
5 published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county at least
6 fifteen (15) days before the election.

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8 */s/Slinkard*
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