

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1552

By: Representative Love

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN PERSONS CONDUCTING ELECTIONS; TO REQUIRE TRAINING FOR ALL COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, POLL WORKERS, AND CERTIFIED ELECTION MONITORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CERTAIN PERSONS CONDUCTING ELECTIONS; AND TO REQUIRE TRAINING FOR ALL COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS, POLL WORKERS, AND CERTIFIED ELECTION MONITORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-4-107(b)(2), concerning qualifications of election officials at the polling site, is amended to read as follows:

(2) Each polling site shall have a minimum of two (2) election clerks, one (1) election judge, and one (1) election sheriff. For ~~all a~~ regularly scheduled ~~elections~~ election, all election officials at a polling site shall have completed training under § 7-4-109, and at least one (1) election official at ~~each a~~ polling site shall have attended election training coordinated by the State Board of Election Commissioners within twelve (12) months prior to the election. The minority party election commissioner shall have the option to designate a number of election officials equal to one (1) less than the majority of election officials at



each polling site, with a minimum of two (2) election officials at each polling site. In the event that the county party representatives on the county board fail to agree upon any election official to fill ~~any~~ an election post allotted to the respective party twenty (20) days before the election, the county board shall appoint the remaining election officials.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-4-109 is amended to read as follows:

7-4-109. Qualifications of state and county commissioners ~~and other,~~ election officials, poll workers, and certified election monitors.

(a)(1) ~~The members~~ A member of the State Board of Election Commissioners, ~~the members of each~~ a county board of election commissioners, and an election ~~officials~~ official shall be a qualified ~~electors~~ elector of this state, able to read and write the English language, and shall not have been found guilty or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to the violation of ~~any~~ an election law of this state.

(2) ~~No~~ An election official, as defined in § 7-1-101, shall not be a candidate for ~~any~~ an office to be filled at ~~any~~ an election while serving as an election official.

(3) A member of the county board of election commissioners shall not be disqualified from serving as a member of the county board by the appearance on the ballot as a candidate for a position in his or her political party.

(b)(1) ~~Furthermore, all members~~ A member of ~~each~~ a county board shall be ~~residents~~ a resident of the county in which ~~they serve~~ he or she serves at the time of ~~their~~ his or her appointment or election. ~~All~~

(2)(A) An election ~~officials~~ official shall be ~~residents~~ a resident of the ~~precincts~~ precinct in which ~~they serve~~ he or she serves at the time of ~~their~~ his or her appointment.

(B) However, if at the time of posting election officials, ~~the county board by unanimous vote shall find~~ votes unanimously and certifies to the county clerk that it is impossible to obtain a qualified election ~~officials~~ official from any precinct ~~or precincts and~~ in the county, ~~the county board shall make certification of that finding to the county clerk,~~ ~~then other~~ another qualified ~~citizens~~ citizen of the county may be designated to serve in the precinct ~~or precincts.~~

(c)(1) ~~No~~ A person who is a paid employee of ~~any~~ a political party or

of ~~any person running~~ a candidate for ~~any~~ office on that county's ballot shall not ~~be eligible to~~ be a member of a county board or an election official.

(2)(A) ~~No~~ Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2)(B) of this section, a person serving on the county board shall not participate in ~~any person's~~ the campaign of a candidate listed on that county's ballot of of a write-in candidate seeking election in that county.

(B) ~~The making of a~~ A member of the county board may make a financial contribution to a candidate ~~shall not be considered participating in a candidate's campaign.~~

(3) ~~No~~ A person employed with a company that has ~~any~~ a business ~~dealings, contracts~~ dealing, contract, or pending ~~contracts before~~ contract with a county board to which he or she ~~would seek~~ seeks appointment shall not ~~be eligible to~~ be a candidate for the county board.

(d) ~~No~~ A person ~~may~~ shall not serve as an election official if:

(1) The person is married to or related within the second degree of consanguinity to ~~any~~ a candidate running for office in the ~~current~~ election ~~if;~~ and

(2) Another person makes an objection to his or her service ~~is made~~ to the county board within ten (10) calendar days after posting the list of officials.

(e)(1) Prior to the regularly scheduled preferential primary election, each member of the county board of election commissioners ~~for each county and at least two (2) election officials per polling site designated by the county board for each county,~~ poll worker, and certified election monitor shall attend election training coordinated by the state board.

(2) The state board shall determine the method and amount of compensation for attending the training.

APPROVED: 04/22/2013