

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1461 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/13/13 H3/18/13 S4/8/13 S4/12/13*

89th General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL 1712

By: Representatives Bragg, Cozart, Dale, Hammer, Scott, Slinkard, Vines

By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN VOTING PROCEDURES AND VOTER
PRIVACY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING CERTAIN VOTING PROCEDURES AND
VOTER PRIVACY.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-309 is amended to read as follows:

7-5-309. Voting procedure.

~~(a)(1) At general, primary, special, and school elections in counties that use paper ballots, the county board of election commissioners shall provide voting booths for each polling site in a number deemed appropriate by the county board of election commissioners.~~

~~(2) Each voting booth shall be situated so as to permit a voter to prepare his or her ballot screened from observation and shall be furnished with any supplies and conveniences as will enable the voter to prepare his or her ballot.~~

~~(3) The voting booths shall be situated in the polling site in plain view of the poll workers.~~

~~(4) A person other than the poll workers and those admitted for the purpose of voting shall not be permitted within the immediate voting area, which shall be considered as within six feet (6') of the voting booths, except by authority of the election judge and then only when necessary to keep order and enforce the law.~~



~~(b)~~ Before giving the voter a ballot, a poll worker shall:

- (1) Initial the back of the ballot;
- (2) Remove the ballot stub; and
- (3) Place the stub into the stub box provided.

~~(e)~~(b)(1)(A) Upon receiving his or her ballot, the voter shall proceed to mark it by placing an appropriate mark.

(B) A voter shall not be allowed more than five (5) minutes to mark his or her ballot.

(2) The voter shall ~~then personally~~ deposit the marked ballot into the ballot box provided.

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

~~(2) However, a~~

(d) A poll worker may inspect the back of the ballot before the voter deposits it to see if it has been initialed by an election official.

(e) After having voted or ~~having~~ declined to ~~do so~~ vote, the voter shall immediately depart from the polling site.

(f) A person shall not ~~be permitted to~~ carry a ballot outside of the polling place.

(g)(1) If a paper ballot is left ~~at a voting booth or anywhere else~~ in the polling site ~~without being inserted into~~ outside of the ballot box ~~by~~ after the voter ~~before departing the polling site~~ has departed, a poll worker shall:

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

(B) Place the paper ballot into an envelope marked "Abandoned Ballot";

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

(D) Preserve the abandoned ballot separately.

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

(h)(1) If ~~a paper ballot that is fed by a voter into~~ an electronic vote tabulating device at the polling site ~~is rejected by the device but is still~~ has rejected a ballot that remains in the receiving part of the ~~counter~~ device ~~and the voter has not reported to a poll worker his or her desire to~~

~~cancel or replace the ballot before departing the polling site~~, two (2) poll workers shall ~~take action to~~ override warnings on the device and complete the process of casting the ballot only if:

(A) The voter has departed the polling site; and

(B) The voter did not indicate that he or she chose to cancel or replace the ballot.

(2) The poll workers shall document:

(A) The time;

(B) The name of the voter;

(C) The names of the poll workers completing the process of casting the ballot; and

(D) All other circumstances surrounding the abandoned ballot.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-310(a), concerning privacy in voting booths, is amended to read as follows:

(a)(1) Each voter shall be provided the privacy to mark his or her ballot. Privacy shall be provided by the poll workers at each polling site or by the county clerk, if the county clerk conducts early voting, to ensure that a voter desiring privacy is not singled out.

(2)(A) In a county that uses paper ballots, the county board of election commissioners shall:

(i) Provide voting booths at a polling site; and

(ii) Determine the appropriate number of voting booths at a polling site.

(B) A voting booth shall be:

(i) Constructed to permit the voter to prepare his or her ballot screened from observation;

(ii) Furnished with supplies and conveniences that will enable the voter to prepare his or her ballot; and

(iii) Situated in the plain view of a poll worker.

(C) If a person is not a poll worker and is not casting a ballot, he or she shall not be within six feet (6') of the voting booths, unless:

(i) The person is authorized by an election judge;

and

(ii) The person's presence is necessary to keep order or enforce the law.

(3) A person may not enter a polling place on election day during voting hours unless the person is:

(A) An election official;

(B) An authorized poll watcher;

(C) A voter present to cast his or her ballot;

(D) A person in the care of a voter if the person:

(i) Does not disrupt or interfere with the normal voting procedures; and

(ii) Is not eligible to vote in that election;

(E) A person lawfully assisting the voter;

(F) A law enforcement officer or emergency service personnel who are acting in the line of duty;

(G) A monitor authorized by the State Board of Election Commissioners or observer authorized by a federal agency with the authority to place the observer at the polling place;

(H)(i) A person with business in the polling place that is not connected to the election.

(ii) A person with business in the polling place that is not connected to the election shall remain outside of the voting room except to pass through or by the voting room with the purpose to conduct his or her business;

(I) A person that the county board of election commissioners has authorized to assist in conducting *the election*; and

(J) A person authorized by the State Board of Election Commissioners or county board of election commissioners.

/s/Bragg

APPROVED: 04/22/2013