

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1042 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: S3/25/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1863

By: Representative Lemons

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS; TO RECOGNIZE AN ELECTION COORDINATOR AS AN ELECTION OFFICIAL; TO ESTABLISH A DEADLINE FOR A COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TO FILE MEETING MINUTES; TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING TO BE CONDUCTED BY COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS; AND TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ELECTION OFFICIALS AND ELECTION DEADLINES.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-1-101(10), concerning the definition of "election official", is amended to read as follows:

(10) "Election official" or "election officer" means a person who is a member of the county board of election commissioners, a person who performs election coordinator duties, ~~or~~ a person who is a poll worker designated by a county board of election commissioners to be an election clerk, election judge, or election sheriff, or a deputy county clerk or a person assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-1-113 is amended to read as follows:
7-1-113. Vote centers.



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

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

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

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

(1) Request that the voter identify himself or herself by stating his or her name, date of birth, and address in order to verify his or her registration and provide identification as required by law;

(2) Request that the voter provide identification as required by law;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) Designate the electronic equipment to be used to verify the

registration record of a voter;

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

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

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

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

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-4-105 is amended to read as follows:

7-4-105. County board of election commissioners – Officers – Meetings.

(a) The county board of election commissioners shall hold office until their successors are appointed and qualified. The commissioners shall meet ~~at the courthouse at least thirty (30) days prior to the general election~~ no later than February 28 of odd-numbered years and shall organize themselves into a county board of election commissioners by electing one (1) member chair. Each commissioner shall have one (1) vote. Two (2) commissioners shall constitute a quorum, and the concurring votes of any two (2) shall decide questions before them unless otherwise provided by law.

(b) The chair of a county board of election commissioners shall notify all commissioners of all meetings. Any meeting of two (2) or more commissioners when official business is conducted shall be public and held pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act of 1967, § 25-19-101 et seq. The county board shall keep minutes of all meetings when official business is conducted, and the minutes shall be filed of record with the county clerk within the sooner of:

(1) One hundred twenty (120) days of a meeting; or

(2) Ten (10) days of the following meeting.

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-4-109(b)(2), concerning qualifications of state and county commissioners, election officials, poll workers, and certified election monitors, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(C) An election coordinator, deputy clerk, or person assigned by a county clerk to conduct early voting does not have to be a

resident of the precinct or county in which he or she serves.

/s/Lemons

APPROVED: 04/04/2015