

State of Arkansas

76th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1987

SENATE BILL 472

By: Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee

"AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'VOTER REGISTRATION STUDY COMMISSION' TO MAKE A STUDY OF THE ACCURACY OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION ROLLS OF THIS STATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established a temporary State commission to be known as the "Voter Registration Study Commission", hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", consisting of the Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Auditor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate or some other member of the Senate designated by him to serve in his place, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives or some other member of the House of Representatives designated by him to serve in his place.

The members of said Commission shall serve without pay but shall be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses for meals, lodging, and travel incurred in connection with attending meetings of the Commission or performing Commission duties, to be paid from funds appropriated for the support of their respective offices. Provided that, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be entitled to receive per diem and mileage at the rate authorized by law for attending Joint Interim Committee meetings by members of the General Assembly, said allowances to be paid from funds appropriated for such purposes, and shall be in lieu of reimbursement for expenses incurred.

SECTION 2. The Governor shall serve as Chairman of the Commission, but in the event he declines to serve as Chairman, the Commission shall elect one of its members as Chairman. If the Governor, the Secretary of State, or the State Auditor are unable to attend any Commission meeting, they may designate

a representative of their office to attend, as a voting member, in their place.

SECTION 3. The Commission is hereby authorized to:

(1) make a representative sample study of the voter registration rolls in not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) counties in this State, for the purpose of determining the extent to which voters are registered at the wrong address or in the wrong voting precinct, or at an address that is not sufficient to determine the correct voting precinct;

(2) determine whether the present laws dealing with the correction of addresses on the voter registration lists or the removal of names from the voter registration lists are adequate, and whether said laws provide proper safeguards to protect the rights of voters before names are removed from the voter registration lists; and

(3) determine whether the county clerks of the various counties in this State have sufficient manpower and resources to maintain their voter registration rolls on a current and accurate basis.

SECTION 4. The Commission is authorized to employ one or more consulting firms to make the representative sample studies as authorized in this Act, and shall pay for the cost of such services from funds provided the Commission for such purpose.

SECTION 5. The Commission shall complete its study and prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for submission to the regular session of the General Assembly to convene in January of 1989, and may attach thereto copies of proposed legislation that the Commission may deem necessary to amend the present voter registration laws to strengthen the administration and enforcement thereof.

The Commission shall cease to exist upon the convening of the 1989 regular session of the General Assembly.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

