

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

State of Arkansas
84th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1028

By: Representatives Bledsoe, King, Agee

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS
AS POLL WORKERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

AN ACT TO CREATE A PROGRAM FOR HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
ELECTION PROCESS AS POLL WORKERS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 7, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

7-4-116. Election poll workers program for high school students.

(a)(1) The county board of election commissioners may conduct a special election day program for high school students in one (1) or more polling places designated by the county board.

(2) The high school students shall be selected by the county board in cooperation with the local high school principal, the local 4-H club, the local Boy Scout club, the local Girl Scout club, and any other local organization for youth designated by the county board.

(3)(A) A high school student selected for this program who has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday by the election day in which he or she is participating, shall be called an election page.

(B) A high school student selected for this program who has reached his or her eighteenth birthday by the election day in which he or she is participating and meets the qualifications in § 7-4-109, shall be an



1 election official.

2 (b) The program shall:

3 (1) Be designed to stimulate the student's interest in elections
4 and registering to vote;

5 (2) Provide assistance to the officers of election; and

6 (3) Assist in the safe entry and exit of elderly and disabled
7 voters from the polling place.

8 (c)(1) Each student selected as an election page shall:

9 (A) Be excused from school while working as an election
10 page;

11 (B) Serve under the direct supervision of the election
12 officials at his or her assigned polling place; and

13 (C) Observe strict impartiality at all times.

14 (2) An election page may observe the electoral process and seek
15 information from the election officers, but shall not handle or touch
16 ballots, voting machines, or any other official election materials, or enter
17 any voting booth.

18 (3) An election page shall be a volunteer position and shall not
19 receive any compensation for performing his or her duties.

20 (4) Before beginning any duties, an election page shall take,
21 before an election official, the following oath:

22 "I,....., do swear that I will perform the duties of an election page
23 of this election according to law and to the best of my abilities, and that I
24 will studiously endeavor to prevent fraud, deceit, and abuse, and that I will
25 not disclose how any voter shall have voted, unless required to do so as a
26 witness in a judicial proceeding or a proceeding to contest an election."

27 (d)(1) Each student selected to be an election official shall:

28 (A) Take the oath of the election officials in § 7-4-110;

29 (B) Serve under the supervision of the appropriate county
30 board of election commissioners;

31 (C) Observe strict impartiality at all times; and

32 (D) Be excused from school while working as an election
33 official.

34 (2) A high school student selected to be an election official
35 shall be compensated according to § 7-4-112.