

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1884

By: Representative Long

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE MARKING AND
COUNTING OF PAPER BALLOTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE MARKING
AND COUNTING OF PAPER BALLOTS.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-601(i), concerning the form of paper ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(i) Each paper ballot to be hand counted shall contain a watermark or an ultraviolet ink seal on the ballot with a unique placement of the watermark or an ultraviolet ink seal for each election cycle.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-603(4), concerning the counting of paper ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(4)(A) ~~Upon~~ Except as otherwise provided under subdivision (4)(E) of this section, upon the close of the polls, the poll workers immediately shall certify and attest the list of voters and continue the count to completion, within twenty-four (24) hours of the close of the polls, and with no significant breaks in the counting process.

(B)(i) A hand count of paper ballots shall be completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before the certification deadline.

(ii) If the hand count of paper ballots is not completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours before the certification deadline, the machine tabulated results under subdivision (1) of this section



shall be the certified results of the election.

(C)(i) If a poll worker becomes sick or incapacitated from any other cause, the remaining poll workers shall continue the count until it is completed.

(ii) The county board of election commissioners shall ensure there is a minimum of four (4) poll workers available to continue the count.

(D) All hand-count paper ballot totals shall be recorded by race in each precinct, and posted at the designated hand-count location upon the completion of the hand count of the paper ballots.

(E) Poll workers may be exempt from counting to completion under this subdivision (4)(A) if, while the paper ballots are not being counted, the paper ballots:

(i) Remain sealed in a double-locking hard shell ballot box; and

(ii) Are stored in a locked room that is guarded by a sheriff's deputy at all times;