AN ACT concerning elections; relating to advance voting ballots; requiring certain signed statements for delivery of such ballots on behalf of a voter; limiting the number of ballots that can be delivered; penalties for violations; amending K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-1124 and 25-1128 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

New Section 1. (a) No person shall knowingly transmit or deliver an advance voting ballot to the county election officer or polling place on behalf of a voter who is not such person, unless the person submits a written statement accompanying the ballot at the time of ballot delivery to the county election officer or polling place as provided in this section. Any written statement shall be signed by both the voter and the person delivering such ballot and shall be delivered only by such person. The statement shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and shall contain:

(1) A sworn statement from the person delivering such ballot affirming that such person has not:

(A) Exercised undue influence on the voting decision of the voter; or

(B) delivered more than five advance voting ballots on behalf of other persons during the election in which the ballot is being cast; and

(2) a sworn statement by the voter affirming that:

(A) The voter has authorized such person to deliver the voter's ballot to a county election officer or polling place; and

(B) such person has not exercised undue influence on the voting decision of the voter.

(b) No person shall deliver more than five advance voting ballots on behalf of other voters during an election.

(c) A violation of this section is a severity level 9, nonperson felony.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-1124 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1124. (a) Upon receipt of the advance voting ballot, the voter shall cast such voter's vote as follows: The voter shall make a cross or check mark in the square or parentheses opposite the name of each candidate or question for whom the voter desires to vote. The voter shall make no other mark, and shall allow no other person to make any mark, upon such ballot. If the advance voting ballot was transmitted by mail, the
voter personally shall place the ballot in the ballot envelope bearing the same number as the ballot and seal the envelope. The voter shall complete the form on the ballot envelope and shall sign the same. Except as provided by K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto, the ballot envelope shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted to the county election officer. If the advance voting ballot was transmitted to the voter in person in the office of the county election officer or at a satellite advance voting site, the voter may deposit such ballot into a locked ballot box without an envelope.

(b) The county election officer shall attempt to contact each person who submits an advance voting ballot where there is no signature or where the signature does not match with the signature on file and allow such voter the opportunity to correct the deficiency before the commencement of the final county canvass.

(c) Any voter who has an illness or physical disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language and is unable to apply for or mark or transmit an advance voting ballot, or any voter who has a disability preventing the voter from signing an application or the form on the ballot envelope, may request assistance by a person who has signed a statement required by subsection (e) in applying for or marking an advance voting ballot, or in signing an application or the form on the ballot envelope if the voter has a disability preventing the voter from signing.

(d) Any voted ballot may be transmitted to the county election officer by the voter—\textit{or Subject to the provisions of section 1, and amendments thereto, a voted ballot may be transmitted} by another person designated in writing by the voter \textit{as provided in section 1, and amendments thereto, except if the voter has a disability preventing the voter from writing and signing a statement, the written and signed statement required by subsection (e) shall be sufficient. Any such voted ballot shall be transmitted to the county election officer before the close of the polls on election day.}

(e) The county election officer shall allow a person to assist a voter who has an illness or physical disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language in applying for or marking an application or advance voting ballot, or to sign for a voter who has a disability preventing the voter from signing an application or advance voting ballot form, provided a written statement is signed by the person who renders assistance to the voter who has an illness or physical disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language and such statement is submitted to the county election officer with the application or ballot. The statement shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and shall contain a statement from the person providing assistance that the person has not exercised undue influence on the voting decision of the voter who has an illness or physical disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language
and that the person providing assistance has completed the application, marked the ballot, or signed the application or ballot form as instructed by the voter.

(f) Any person assisting a voter who has an illness or physical disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language in applying for or marking an advance voting ballot, or in signing an application or advance voting ballot form for a voter who has a disability preventing the voter from signing the application or advance voting ballot form, who knowingly fails to sign and submit the statement required by this section or who exercises undue influence on the voting decision of such voter shall be guilty of a severity level 9, nonperson felony.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-1128 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1128. (a) No voter shall knowingly mark or transmit to the county election officer more than one advance voting ballot, or set of one of each kind of ballot, if the voter is entitled to vote more than one such ballot at a particular election.

(b) Except as provided in K.S.A. 25-1124, and amendments thereto, no person shall knowingly interfere with or delay the transmission of any advance voting ballot application from a voter to the county election officer, nor shall any person mail, fax or otherwise cause the application to be sent to a place other than the county election office. Any person or group engaged in the distribution of advance voting ballot applications shall mail, fax or otherwise deliver any application signed by a voter to the county election office within two days after such application is signed by the applicant.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person other than the voter, shall knowingly mark, sign or transmit to the county election officer any advance voting ballot or advance voting ballot envelope.

(d) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall knowingly sign an application for an advance voting ballot for another person. This provision shall not apply if a voter has a disability preventing the voter from signing an application or if an immediate family member signs an application on behalf of another immediate family member with proper authorization being given.

(e) No person, unless authorized by K.S.A. 25-1122 or 25-1124, and amendments thereto, shall knowingly intercept, interfere with, or delay the transmission of advance voting ballots from the county election officer to the voter.

(f) No person shall knowingly and falsely affirm, declare or subscribe to any material fact in an affirmation form for an advance voting ballot or set of advance voting ballots.

(g) A voter may return such voter's advance voting ballot to the county election officer by personal delivery or by mail. Upon written...
Subject to the provisions of section 1, and amendments thereto, a person other than the voter may return the advance voting ballot by personal delivery or mail if authorized by the voter in writing as provided in section 1, and amendments thereto, except that a written designation shall not be required from a voter who has a disability preventing the voter from writing or signing a written designation. Any such person designated by the voter shall sign a statement that such person has not exercised undue influence on the voting decisions of the voter and agrees to deliver the ballot as directed by the voter in accordance with section 1, and amendments thereto.

(h) Violation of any provision of this section is a severity level 9, nonperson felony.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 25-1124 and 25-1128 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.