

SENATE BILL No. 34

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to voting; penalties for voting crimes; prosecution of election crimes; amending K.S.A. 25-2409, 25-2416, 25-2423 and 25-2431 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 25-1128 and 25-2507 and repealing the existing sections.

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

New Section 1. (a) Voting more than once is intentionally:

(1) Voting or attempting to vote more than once in the same jurisdiction in an election held on a particular date;

(2) voting or attempting to vote in more than one jurisdiction in the United States in an election held on a particular date;

(3) inducing or aiding any person to vote more than once in the same jurisdiction in an election held on a particular date; or

(4) inducing or aiding any person to vote in more than one jurisdiction in the United States in an election held on a particular date.

(b) Voting more than once or attempting to commit the crime of voting more than once is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

(c) The provisions of K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 21-5301(c), and amendments thereto, shall not apply to a violation of attempting to commit the crime of voting more than once pursuant to this section.

(d) This section shall be part of and supplemental to article 24 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

New Sec. 2. (a) Independent authority to prosecute any person who has committed or attempted to commit any act that constitutes a Kansas elections crime defined in K.S.A. 25-1128, and amendments thereto or article 24 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto, shall be vested in:

(1) The district attorney or county attorney of the county where such act occurred;

(2) the Kansas attorney general; or

(3) the Kansas secretary of state.

(b) If one of the officers listed in subsection (a) has commenced the prosecution of a person who has committed or attempted to commit any act that constitutes a Kansas election crime, the other officers listed in subsection (a) may provide assistance to the prosecuting officer but shall not commence a separate prosecution.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2014 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 K.S.A. 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 designation by the voter, a person other than the voter may return the

advance voting ballot by personal delivery or mail. 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.

(h) Violation of any provision of this section is a ~~class C misdemeanor~~ *severity level 9, nonperson felony*.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-2409 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2409.

(a) Election bribery is conferring, offering or agreeing to confer, or soliciting, accepting or agreeing to accept any benefit as consideration to or from any person either to vote or withhold any person's vote, or to vote for or against any candidate or question submitted at any public election.

(b) *This section shall not apply to a business or organization that provides a product of value less than \$3 to any person who asserts that such person has voted, without regard to such voter's vote for or against any candidate or issue.*

(c) Election bribery is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-2416 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2416.

(a) Voting without being qualified is knowingly ~~and willfully~~: (a) voting or attempting to vote ~~at~~ *without being qualified*:

(1) *In any election district when not a lawfully registered voter in such election district; or*

(2) *at any election by a person who is not a citizen of the United States or who does not otherwise meet the qualifications of an elector.*

~~(b) Voting or offering to vote more than once at the same election.~~

~~(c) Inducing or aiding any person to vote more than once at the same election.~~

(b) Voting without being qualified or attempting to vote without being qualified is a ~~class A misdemeanor~~ *severity level 7, nonperson felony*.

(c) *The provisions of K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 21-5301(c), and amendments thereto, shall not apply to a violation of attempting to vote without being qualified pursuant to this section.*

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 25-2423 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2423.

(a) Election tampering is, while being charged with no election duty, making or changing any election record.

(b) Election tampering is a severity level ~~8~~ 7, nonperson felony.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-2431 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2431.

(a) False impersonation of a voter is representing oneself as another *person, whether real or fictitious*, and ~~thereas~~ *thereby* voting or attempting to vote.

(b) False impersonation of a voter is a severity level ~~9~~ 8, nonperson felony.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 25-2507 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2507. (a) "Poll book" means a book in which each voter may sign the voter's signature and a number is assigned by one of the clerks of the election board when the voter is given a ballot or set of ballots. If the county election officer determines that voters shall sign the poll book, such book shall also contain on each page the declaration prescribed by subsection (d).

(b) "Registration book" means: (1) A book or list containing the names and other information relating to registered voters. Registration books shall have the names entered therein before the same or copies thereof are delivered to the supervising judges. Registration books may also contain blank lines on which each voter shall sign the voter's signature. If the county election officer determines that voters shall sign the registration book, such book shall also contain on each page the declaration prescribed by subsection (d); or

(2) a book meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 25-2507(b)(1), and amendments thereto; containing blank lines on which each voter shall sign the voter's signature; containing on each page the declaration prescribed by subsection (d); and containing the numbers assigned by one of the clerks of the election board when voters are given ballots or sets of ballots.

(c) "Party affiliation lists" means a list containing the names of all registered voters of a county who have lawfully designated a party affiliation.

(d) "Declaration" means the following: "I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury that I am a registered voter in the state of Kansas,

county of _____, that I have not signed a name other than my own in order to represent myself as any other registered voter, and that I am qualified to vote and have not previously voted and will not vote again ~~at this election~~ *in the election held on this date, in this or any other jurisdiction in the United States, for any offices or ballot issues.*”

Sec. 9. K.S.A. 25-2409, 25-2416, 25-2423 and 25-2431 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 25-1128 and 25-2507 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the SENATE, and passed that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the HOUSE _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

APPROVED _____

Governor.