

HOUSE BILL No. 2539

AN ACT concerning certain statewide elected officials; amending K.S.A. 25-101a and 25-1121 and K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 21-5903, 25-1122, 25-1124, 25-1128, 25-3104, 25-4403 and 25-4406 and repealing the existing sections.

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

Section 1. On and after January 1, 2019, K.S.A. 25-101a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-101a. (a) On the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November in 1978, and each four years thereafter, there shall be elected a governor and lieutenant governor running together, a secretary of state, an attorney general, a state treasurer and a state commissioner of insurance.

(b) *Every candidate for the office of secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer or state commissioner of insurance shall be a qualified elector of the state of Kansas by the deadline for filing for such office as provided in K.S.A. 25-205, and amendments thereto.*

(c) *Every candidate for the office of governor and lieutenant governor shall be a qualified elector and shall be 25 years of age or older by the deadline for filing for such office as provided in K.S.A. 25-205, and amendments thereto.*

(d) *Every candidate for the office of attorney general must be licensed to practice law within the state of Kansas.*

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 25-1122 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1122. (a) Any registered voter may file with the county election officer where the person is a resident, or where the person is authorized by law to vote as a former precinct resident, an application for an advance voting ballot. The signed application shall be transmitted only to the county election officer by personal delivery, mail, facsimile or as otherwise provided by law.

(b) If the registered voter is applying for an advance voting ballot to be transmitted in person, the voter shall provide identification pursuant to K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto.

(c) If the registered voter is applying for an advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail, the voter shall provide with the application for an advance voting ballot the voter's current and valid Kansas driver's license number, nondriver's identification card number or a photocopy of any other identification provided by K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto.

(d) A voter may vote a provisional ballot according to K.S.A. 25-409, and amendments thereto, if:

(1) The voter is unable or refuses to provide current and valid identification; or

(2) the name and address of the voter provided on the application for an advance voting ballot do not match the voter's name and address on the registration book. The voter shall provide a valid form of identification as defined in K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto, to the county election officer in person or provide a copy by mail or electronic means before the meeting of the county board of canvassers. At the meeting of the county board of canvassers the county election officer shall present copies of identification received from provisional voters and the corresponding provisional ballots. If the county board of canvassers determines that a voter's identification is valid and the provisional ballot was properly cast, the ballot shall be counted.

(e) No county election officer shall provide an advance voting ballot to a person who is requesting an advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail unless:

(1) The county election official verifies that the signature of the person matches that on file in the county voter registration records, *except that verification of the voter's signature shall not be required if a voter has a disability preventing the voter from signing*. Signature verification may occur by electronic device or by human inspection. In the event that the signature of a person who is requesting an advance voting ballot does not match that on file, the county election officer shall attempt to contact the person and shall offer the person another opportunity to provide the person's signature for the purposes of verifying the person's identity. If the county election officer is unable to reach the person, the county election officer may transmit a provisional ballot, however, such provisional ballot may not be counted unless a signature is included therewith that can be verified; and

(2) the person provides such person's full Kansas driver's license

number, Kansas nondriver's identification card number issued by the division of vehicles, or submits such person's application for an advance voting ballot and a copy of identification provided by K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto, to the county election officer for verification. If a person applies for an advance voting ballot to be transmitted by mail but fails to provide identification pursuant to this subsection or the identification of the person cannot be verified by the county election officer, the county election officer shall provide information to the person regarding the voter rights provisions of subsection (d) and shall provide the person an opportunity to provide identification pursuant to this subsection. For the purposes of this act, Kansas state offices and offices of any subdivision of the state will allow any person seeking to vote by an advance voting ballot the use of a photocopying device to make one photocopy of an identification document at no cost.

(f) Applications for advance voting ballots to be transmitted to the voter by mail shall be filed only at the following times:

(1) For the primary election occurring on the first Tuesday in August in both even-numbered and odd-numbered years, between April 1 of such year and the Tuesday of the week preceding such primary election.

(2) For the general election occurring on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November in both even-numbered and odd-numbered years, between 90 days prior to such election and the Tuesday of the week preceding such general election.

(3) For question submitted elections occurring on the date of a primary or general election, the same as is provided for ballots for election of officers at such election.

(4) For question submitted elections not occurring on the date of a primary or general election, between the time of the first published notice thereof and the Tuesday of the week preceding such question submitted election, except that if the question submitted election is held on a day other than a Tuesday, the final date for mailing of advance voting ballots shall be one week before such election.

(5) For any special election of officers, at such time as is specified by the secretary of state.

The county election officer of any county may receive applications prior to the time specified in this subsection and hold such applications until the beginning of the prescribed application period. Such applications shall be treated as filed on that date.

(g) Unless an earlier date is designated by the county election office, applications for advance voting ballots transmitted to the voter in person in the office of the county election officer shall be filed on the Tuesday next preceding the election and on each subsequent business day until no later than 12 noon on the day preceding such election. If the county election officer so provides, applications for advance voting ballots transmitted to the voter in person in the office of the county election officer also may be filed on the Saturday preceding the election. Upon receipt of any such properly executed application, the county election officer shall deliver to the voter such ballots and instructions as are provided for in this act.

An application for an advance voting ballot filed by a voter who has a temporary illness or disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language or by a person rendering assistance to such voter may be filed during the regular advance ballot application periods until the close of the polls on election day.

The county election officer may designate places other than the central county election office as satellite advance voting sites. At any satellite advance voting site, a registered voter may obtain an application for advance voting ballots. Ballots and instructions shall be delivered to the voter in the same manner and subject to the same limitations as otherwise provided by this subsection.

(h) Any person having a permanent disability or an illness ~~which that~~ has been diagnosed as a permanent illness is hereby authorized to make an application for permanent advance voting status. Applications for permanent advance voting status shall be in the form and contain such information as is required for application for advance voting ballots and also shall contain information ~~which that~~ establishes the voter's right to permanent advance voting status.

(i) On receipt of any application filed under the provisions of this

section, the county election officer shall prepare and maintain in such officer's office a list of the names of all persons who have filed such applications, together with their correct post office address and the precinct, ward, township or voting area in which the persons claim to be registered voters or to be authorized by law to vote as former precinct residents and the present resident address of each applicant. Names and addresses shall remain so listed until the day of such election. The county election officer shall maintain a separate listing of the names and addresses of persons qualifying for permanent advance voting status. All such lists shall be available for inspection upon request in compliance with this subsection by any registered voter during regular business hours. The county election officer upon receipt of the applications shall enter upon a record kept by such officer the name and address of each applicant, which record shall conform to the list above required. Before inspection of any advance voting ballot application list, the person desiring to make the inspection shall provide to the county election officer identification in the form of driver's license or other reliable identification and shall sign a log book or application form maintained by the officer stating the person's name and address and showing the date and time of inspection. All records made by the county election officer shall be subject to public inspection, except that the voter identification information required by subsections (b) and (c) and the identifying number on ballots and ballot envelopes and records of such numbers shall not be made public.

(j) If a person on the permanent advance voting list fails to vote in four consecutive general elections held on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November of each even-numbered and odd-numbered year, the county election officer may mail a notice to such voter. The notice shall inform the voter that the voter's name will be removed from the permanent advance voting list unless the voter renews the application for permanent advance voting status within 30 days after the notice is mailed. If the voter fails to renew such application, the county election officer shall remove the voter's name from the permanent advance voting list. Failure to renew the application for permanent advance voting status shall not result in removal of the voter's name from the voter registration list.

(k) The secretary of state may adopt rules and regulations in order to implement the provisions of this section and to define valid forms of identification.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2017 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) Any voter who has an illness or physical disability or who is not proficient in reading the English language ~~that~~ *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 (d) 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.*

(c) Any voted ballot may be transmitted to the county election officer by the voter or by another person designated in writing by the voter, *except if the voter has a disability preventing the voter from writing and signing a statement, the written and signed statement required by sub-*

*section (d) shall be sufficient.* Any such voted ballot shall be transmitted to the county election officer before the close of the polls on election day.

(d) 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 ~~or~~, marked the ballot, *or signed the application or ballot form* as instructed by the voter.

(e) 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. 4. K.S.A. 2017 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, *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.

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

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-1121 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1121. ~~It shall be the duty of~~ (a) The secretary of state ~~to~~ shall prescribe the general forms of advance voting ballots to be used in all primary and general elections and the form of the printed instructions to voters containing a statement of all the requirements of this act, to enable voters to comply with ~~such~~ the requirements of this act. ~~Such~~ The prescribed forms shall be transmitted to the county election officers 35 days before each primary and general election.

(b) *The secretary of state shall prescribe the general format of advance voting ballot envelopes. The envelopes shall include signature blocks for the advance voter; a signature block for the person, if any, assisting the advance voter; and a signature block for a person, if any, who signs the advance voting ballot envelope on behalf of the advance voter in situations when the advance voter is physically unable to sign the envelope.*

(c) *The advance ballot envelope shall contain the following statement after the signature block provided for the person who signs the advance ballot envelope on behalf of a person physically unable to sign such envelope:*

*“My signature constitutes an affidavit that the person for whom I signed the envelope is a person who is physically unable to sign such envelope. By signing this envelope, I swear this information is true and correct, and that signing an advance ballot envelope under false pretenses shall constitute the crime of perjury.”*

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 21-5903 is hereby amended to read as follows: 21-5903. (a) Perjury is intentionally and falsely:

(1) Swearing, testifying, affirming, declaring or subscribing to any material fact upon any oath or affirmation legally administered in any cause, matter or proceeding before any court, tribunal, public body, notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths; ~~or~~

(2) subscribing as true and correct under penalty of perjury any material matter in any declaration, verification, certificate or statement as permitted by K.S.A. 53-601, and amendments thereto; *or*

(3) *subscribing as true and correct under the penalty of perjury the affidavit as provided in K.S.A. 25-1121(c), and amendments thereto.*

(b) Perjury is a:

(1) Severity level 9, nonperson felony, except as provided in subsection (b)(2); and

(2) severity level 7, nonperson felony if the false statement is made upon the trial of a felony charge.

New Sec. 7. (a) After an election and prior to the meeting of the county board of canvassers to certify the official election results for any election in which the canvassers certify the results, the county election officer shall conduct a manual audit or tally of each vote cast, regardless of the method of voting, in 1% of all precincts, with a minimum of one precinct located within the county. The precinct or precincts shall be randomly selected and the selection shall take place after the election.

(b) (1) The audit shall be performed manually and shall review all paper ballots selected pursuant to subsection (a). The audit shall be performed by a sworn election board consisting of bipartisan trained board members. The county election officer will determine the members of the sworn election board who will conduct the audit.

(2) The audit will review contested races as follows:

(A) In presidential election years:

- (i) One federal race;
- (ii) one state legislative race; and
- (iii) one county race.

(B) In even numbered non-presidential election years:

- (i) One federal race;
- (ii) one statewide race;
- (iii) one state legislative race; and
- (iv) one county race.

(C) In odd-numbered election years, two local races will be randomly selected and the selection shall take place after the election.

(c) At least five days prior to the audit, notice of the time and location of the audit shall be provided to the public on the official county website. The audit shall be conducted in a public setting. Any candidate or entity

who is authorized to appoint a poll agent may appoint a poll agent for the audit.

(d) The results of the audit shall be compared to the unofficial election night returns and a report shall be submitted to the county election office and to the secretary of state's office prior to the meeting of the county board of canvassers. If a discrepancy is reported between the audit and the unofficial returns and cannot be resolved, the county election officer or the secretary of state may require audits of additional precincts. Once the audit has been completed, the results of the audit shall be used by the county board of canvassers when certifying the official election results.

(e) The secretary of state shall adopt rules and regulations governing the conduct and procedure of the audit, including the random selection of the precincts and offices involved in the audit.

(f) The provisions of this section shall apply to all counties for elections that take place after January 1, 2019.

Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 25-3104 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-3104. The original canvass of every election shall be performed by the election boards at the voting places. The county election officer shall present the original returns, together with the ballots, books and any other records of the election, for the purpose of canvass, to the county board of canvassers at any time between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. on the Monday next following any election held on a Tuesday, except that the county election officer may move the canvass to ~~the second Thursday following the election if notice is published prior to the canvass in a newspaper with general circulation in the county~~ *any business day not later than 13 days following any election. Notice of the time and place of the canvass shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county prior to the canvass.* For elections not held on a Tuesday, the canvass by the county board of canvassers shall be held on a day and hour designated by it, and not later than the ~~fifth~~ 13<sup>th</sup> day following the day of such election.

Sec. 9. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 25-4403 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4403. (a) The board of county commissioners and the county election officer of any county may provide an electronic or electromechanical voting system to be used at voting places, or for advance voting in the county at national, state, county, township, city and school primary and general elections and in question submitted elections.

(b) The board of county commissioners of any county in which the board of county commissioners and county election officer have determined that an electronic or electromechanical voting system shall be used may issue bonds to finance and pay for purchase, lease or rental of such a system.

(c) The board of county commissioners and the county election officer of any county may adopt, experiment with or abandon any electronic or electromechanical system herein authorized and approved for use in the state and may use such a system in all or any part of the voting areas within the county or in combination with an optical scanning voting system or with regular paper ballots. Whenever the secretary of state rescinds approval of any voting system, the board of county commissioners and the county election officer shall abandon ~~such~~ *the* system until changes therein required by the secretary of state have been made, or if the secretary of state advises that acceptable changes cannot be made therein, ~~such~~ *the* abandonment shall be permanent.

(d) *On and after the effective date of this act, no board of county commissioners in any county may purchase, lease or rent any direct recording electronic system, as defined in K.S.A. 25-4401(d), and amendments thereto. On and after the effective date of this act, no board of county commissioners in any county may purchase, lease or rent any electronic or electromechanical voting system, unless such system:*

(1) *Provides a paper record of each vote cast, produced at the time the vote is cast; and*

(2) *has the ability to be tested both before an election and prior to the date of canvass. Such test shall include the ability to match the paper record of the machine to the vote total contained in the machine.*

Sec. 10. K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 25-4406 is hereby amended to read as

follows: 25-4406. Electronic or electromechanical voting systems approved by the secretary of state:

(a) Shall provide for voting for the candidates for nomination or election of all political parties officially recognized pursuant to K.S.A. 25-302a, and amendments thereto;

(b) shall permit a voter to vote for any independent candidate for any office;

(c) shall provide for voting on constitutional amendments or other questions submitted;

(d) shall be so constructed that, as to primaries where candidates are nominated by political parties, the voter can vote only for the candidates for whom the voter is qualified to vote according to articles 2 and 33 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;

(e) shall afford the voter an opportunity to vote for any or all candidates for an office for whom the voter is by law entitled to vote and no more, and at the same time shall prevent the voter from voting for the same candidate twice for the same office;

(f) shall be so constructed that in presidential elections the presidential electors of any political party may be voted for by one action;

(g) shall provide for “write-in” votes;

(h) shall provide for voting in absolute secrecy, except as to persons who request assistance due to temporary illness or disability or a lack of proficiency in reading the English language;

(i) shall reject all votes for an office or upon a question submitted when the voter has cast more votes for such office or upon such question than the voter is entitled to cast;

(j) shall provide for instruction of voters on the operation of voting machines, illustrating the manner of voting by the use of such systems. The instruction may include printed materials or demonstration by election board workers; ~~and~~

(k) *shall provide a paper record of each vote cast, produced at the time the vote is cast;*

(l) *shall have the ability to be tested both before an election and prior to the date of canvass. The test shall include the ability to match the paper records of such machines to the vote totals contained in the machines; and*

(m) shall meet the requirements of the help America vote act of 2002 and other federal statutes and regulations governing voting equipment.

Sec. 11. K.S.A. 25-1121 and K.S.A. 2017 Supp. 21-5903, 25-1122, 25-1124, 25-1128, 25-3104, 25-4403 and 25-4406 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 12. On and after January 1, 2019, K.S.A. 25-101a is hereby repealed.

Sec. 13. This act shall take effect and be in force on and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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HOUSE adopted  
Conference Committee Report \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Speaker of the House.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Chief Clerk of the House.*

Passed the SENATE  
as amended \_\_\_\_\_

SENATE adopted  
Conference Committee Report \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*President of the Senate.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Governor.*