

**As Reconsidered and Passed by the Senate**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**Am. S. B. No. 21**

**Senator Uecker**

**Cosponsors: Senators Hoagland, Huffman, Hite, Coley, Balderson, Burke, Dolan, Eklund, Hackett, Jordan, Lehner, McColley, Obhof, Terhar, Wilson**

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**A BILL**

To amend section 3501.22 of the Revised Code to 1  
reduce the minimum number of precinct election 2  
officials in a precinct in which electronic 3  
pollbooks are used. 4

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 3501.22 of the Revised Code be 5  
amended to read as follows: 6

**Sec. 3501.22.** (A) (1) ~~On~~ Except as otherwise provided in 7  
division (A) (2) of this section, on or before the fifteenth day 8  
of September in each year, the board of elections by a majority 9  
vote shall, after careful examination and investigation as to 10  
their qualifications, appoint for each election precinct four 11  
residents of the county in which the precinct is located, as 12  
precinct election officials. Except as otherwise provided in 13  
division (C) of this section, all precinct election officials 14  
shall be qualified electors. The precinct election officials 15  
shall constitute the election officers of the precinct. Not more 16  
than one-half of the total number of precinct election officials 17  
shall be members of the same political party. The term of such 18

precinct officers shall be for one year. The board may, at any 19  
time, designate any number of election officers, not more than 20  
one-half of whom shall be members of the same political party, 21  
to perform their duties at any precinct in any election. The 22  
board may appoint additional officials, equally divided between 23  
the two major political parties, when necessary to expedite 24  
voting. If the board of elections determines that four precinct 25  
election officials are not required in a precinct for a special 26  
election, the board of elections may select two of the 27  
precinct's election officers, who are not members of the same 28  
political party, to serve as the precinct election officials for 29  
that precinct in that special election. 30

Vacancies for unexpired terms shall be filled by the 31  
board. When new precincts have been created, the board shall 32  
appoint precinct election officials for those precincts for the 33  
unexpired term. Any precinct election official may be summarily 34  
removed from office at any time by the board for neglect of 35  
duty, malfeasance, or misconduct in office or for any other good 36  
and sufficient reason. 37

Precinct election officials shall perform all of the 38  
duties provided by law for receiving the ballots and supplies, 39  
opening and closing the polls, and overseeing the casting of 40  
ballots during the time the polls are open, and any other duties 41  
required by section 3501.26 of the Revised Code. 42

A board of elections may designate two precinct election 43  
officials as counting officials to count and tally the votes 44  
cast and certify the results of the election at each precinct, 45  
and perform other duties as provided by law. To expedite the 46  
counting of votes at each precinct, the board may appoint 47  
additional officials, not more than one-half of whom shall be 48

members of the same political party. 49

Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(2) of this 50  
section, the board shall designate one of the precinct election 51  
officials who is a member of the dominant political party to 52  
serve as a voting location manager, whose duty it is to deliver 53  
the returns of the election and all supplies to the office of 54  
the board. For these services, the voting location manager shall 55  
receive additional compensation in an amount, consistent with 56  
section 3501.28 of the Revised Code, determined by the board of 57  
elections. 58

The board shall issue to each precinct election official a 59  
certificate of appointment, which the official shall present to 60  
the voting location manager at the time the polls are opened. 61

(2) If the board of elections, by a vote of at least three 62  
members of the board, opts to have a single voting location 63  
serve more than one precinct, the board may do ~~both~~ any of the 64  
following: 65

(a) Designate a single ~~presiding judge~~ voting location 66  
manager for the voting location. The ~~presiding judge~~ voting 67  
location manager shall be a member of the political party whose 68  
candidate received the highest number of votes for governor at 69  
the most recent general election for that office in the 70  
precincts whose polling places are located at the applicable 71  
voting location, when tallying the combined vote for governor in 72  
all such precincts. 73

(b) Combine the pollbooks for those precincts to create a 74  
single pollbook for the voting location; 75

(c) If electronic pollbooks are being used in the voting 76  
location, as described in section 3506.021 of the Revised Code, 77

appoint not less than two precinct election officials for each 78  
precinct. 79

(B) If the board of elections determines that not enough 80  
qualified electors in a precinct are available to serve as 81  
precinct officers, it may appoint persons to serve as precinct 82  
officers at a primary, special, or general election who are at 83  
least seventeen years of age and are registered to vote in 84  
accordance with section 3503.07 of the Revised Code. 85

(C) (1) A board of elections, in conjunction with the board 86  
of education of a city, local, or exempted village school 87  
district, the governing authority of a community school 88  
established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, or the 89  
chief administrator of a nonpublic school may establish a 90  
program permitting certain high school students to apply and, if 91  
appointed by the board of elections, to serve as precinct 92  
officers at a primary, special, or general election. 93

In addition to the requirements established by division 94  
(C) (2) of this section, a board of education, governing 95  
authority, or chief administrator that establishes a program 96  
under this division in conjunction with a board of elections may 97  
establish additional criteria that students shall meet to be 98  
eligible to participate in that program. 99

(2) (a) To be eligible to participate in a program 100  
established under division (C) (1) of this section, a student 101  
shall be a United States citizen, a resident of the county, at 102  
least seventeen years of age, and enrolled in the senior year of 103  
high school. 104

(b) Any student applying to participate in a program 105  
established under division (C) (1) of this section, as part of 106

the student's application process, shall declare the student's 107  
political party affiliation with the board of elections. 108

(3) No student appointed as a precinct officer pursuant to 109  
a program established under division (C)(1) of this section 110  
shall be designated as a voting location manager. 111

(4) Any student participating in a program established 112  
under division (C)(1) of this section shall be excused for that 113  
student's absence from school on the day of an election at which 114  
the student is serving as a precinct officer. 115

(D) In any precinct with six or more precinct officers, up 116  
to two students participating in a program established under 117  
division (C)(1) of this section who are under eighteen years of 118  
age may serve as precinct officers. Not more than one precinct 119  
officer in any given precinct with fewer than six precinct 120  
officers shall be under eighteen years of age. 121

**Section 2.** That existing section 3501.22 of the Revised 122  
Code is hereby repealed. 123

**Section 3.** Section 3501.22 of the Revised Code is 124  
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended 125  
by both Am. Sub. S.B. 109 and Sub. S.B. 216 of the 130th General 126  
Assembly. 127

The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in 128  
division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments 129  
are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous 130  
operation, finds that the composite is the resulting version of 131  
the section in effect prior to the effective date of the section 132  
as presented in this act. 133