

As Reported by Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

132nd General Assembly

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Am. S. B. No. 21

Senator Uecker

Cosponsors: Senators Hoagland, Huffman, Hite, Coley

A BILL

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

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

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

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

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