As Introduced

133rd General Assembly
Regular Session   **S. B. No. 22**
2019-2020

Senator Uecker

Cosponsor: Senator Huffman, S.

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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 multi-precinct polling location	3
in which electronic 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
time, designate any number of election officers, not more than
one-half of whom shall be members of the same political party,
to perform their duties at any precinct in any election. The
board may appoint additional officials, equally divided between
the two major political parties, when necessary to expedite
voting. If the board of elections determines that four precinct
election officials are not required in a precinct for a special
election, the board of elections may select two of the
precinct's election officers, who are not members of the same
political party, to serve as the precinct election officials for
that precinct in that special election.

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

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

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

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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. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in   127
division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments   128
are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous   129
operation, finds that the composite is the resulting version of   130
the section in effect prior to the effective date of the section   131
as presented in this act.   132