

As Introduced

**136th General Assembly
Regular Session
2025-2026**

S. B. No. 451

Senator Gavarone

To amend sections 109.71, 109.77, 2935.01, 3501.05, 1
3501.055, 3503.02, 3503.14, 3503.21, 3503.33, 2
3517.14, 3517.15, and 3517.16 and to enact 3
sections 111.50, 3503.34, and 3503.35 of the 4
Revised Code to make changes to the Election Law 5
regarding voter registration, voter roll 6
maintenance, and enforcement and to name 7
portions of this act the Interstate Voter 8
Assistance Act. 9

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

Section 1. That sections 109.71, 109.77, 2935.01, 3501.05, 10
3501.055, 3503.02, 3503.14, 3503.21, 3503.33, 3517.14, 3517.15, 11
and 3517.16 be amended and sections 111.50, 3503.34, and 3503.35 12
of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 13

Sec. 109.71. There is hereby created in the office of the 14
attorney general the Ohio peace officer training commission. The 15
commission shall consist of ten members appointed by the 16
governor with the advice and consent of the senate and selected 17
as follows: one member representing the public; one member who 18
represents a fraternal organization representing law enforcement 19
officers; two members who are incumbent sheriffs; two members 20
who are incumbent chiefs of police; one member from the bureau 21

of criminal identification and investigation; one member from 22
the state highway patrol; one member who is the special agent in 23
charge of a field office of the federal bureau of investigation 24
in this state; and one member from the department of education 25
and workforce, trade and industrial education services, law 26
enforcement training. 27

This section does not confer any arrest authority or any 28
ability or authority to detain a person, write or issue any 29
citation, or provide any disposition alternative, as granted 30
under Chapter 2935. of the Revised Code. 31

The commission is exempt from the requirements of sections 32
101.82 to 101.87 of the Revised Code. 33

As used in sections 109.71 to 109.801 of the Revised Code: 34

(A) "Peace officer" means: 35

(1) A deputy sheriff, marshal, deputy marshal, member of 36
the organized police department of a township or municipal 37
corporation, member of a township police district or joint 38
police district police force, member of a police force employed 39
by a metropolitan housing authority under division (D) of 40
section 3735.31 of the Revised Code, or township constable, who 41
is commissioned and employed as a peace officer by a political 42
subdivision of this state or by a metropolitan housing 43
authority, and whose primary duties are to preserve the peace, 44
to protect life and property, and to enforce the laws of this 45
state, ordinances of a municipal corporation, resolutions of a 46
township, or regulations of a board of county commissioners or 47
board of township trustees, or any of those laws, ordinances, 48
resolutions, or regulations; 49

(2) A police officer who is employed by a railroad company 50

and appointed and commissioned by the secretary of state	51
pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 4973.22 of the Revised Code;	52
(3) Employees of the department of taxation engaged in the	53
enforcement of Chapter 5743. of the Revised Code and designated	54
by the tax commissioner for peace officer training for purposes	55
of the delegation of investigation powers under section 5743.45	56
of the Revised Code;	57
(4) An undercover drug agent;	58
(5) Enforcement agents of the department of public safety	59
whom the director of public safety designates under section	60
5502.14 of the Revised Code;	61
(6) An employee of the department of natural resources who	62
is a natural resources law enforcement staff officer designated	63
pursuant to section 1501.013, a natural resources officer	64
appointed pursuant to section 1501.24, a forest-fire	65
investigator appointed pursuant to section 1503.09, or a	66
wildlife officer designated pursuant to section 1531.13 of the	67
Revised Code;	68
(7) An employee of a park district who is designated	69
pursuant to section 511.232 or 1545.13 of the Revised Code;	70
(8) An employee of a conservancy district who is	71
designated pursuant to section 6101.75 of the Revised Code;	72
(9) A police officer who is employed by a hospital that	73
employs and maintains its own proprietary police department or	74
security department, and who is appointed and commissioned by	75
the secretary of state pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 4973.22	76
of the Revised Code;	77
(10) Veterans' homes police officers designated under	78

section 5907.02 of the Revised Code;	79
(11) A police officer who is employed by a qualified nonprofit corporation police department pursuant to section 1702.80 of the Revised Code;	80 81 82
(12) A state university law enforcement officer appointed under section 3345.04 of the Revised Code or a person serving as a state university law enforcement officer on a permanent basis on June 19, 1978, who has been awarded a certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or department of natural resources peace officer basic training program;	83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90
(13) A special police officer employed by the department of mental health and addiction services <u>behavioral health</u> pursuant to section 5119.08 of the Revised Code or the department of developmental disabilities pursuant to section 5123.13 of the Revised Code;	91 92 93 94 95
(14) A member of a campus police department appointed under section 1713.50 of the Revised Code;	96 97
(15) A member of a police force employed by a regional transit authority under division (Y) of section 306.35 of the Revised Code;	98 99 100
(16) Investigators appointed by the auditor of state pursuant to section 117.091 of the Revised Code and engaged in the enforcement of Chapter 117. of the Revised Code;	101 102 103
(17) A special police officer designated by the superintendent of the state highway patrol pursuant to section 5503.09 of the Revised Code or a person who was serving as a special police officer pursuant to that section on a permanent	104 105 106 107

basis on October 21, 1997, and who has been awarded a 108
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 109
training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 110
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 111
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 112
program; 113

(18) A special police officer employed by a port authority 114
under section 4582.04 or 4582.28 of the Revised Code or a person 115
serving as a special police officer employed by a port authority 116
on a permanent basis on May 17, 2000, who has been awarded a 117
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 118
training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 119
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 120
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 121
program; 122

(19) A special police officer employed by a municipal 123
corporation who has been awarded a certificate by the executive 124
director of the Ohio peace officer training commission for 125
satisfactory completion of an approved peace officer basic 126
training program and who is employed on a permanent basis on or 127
after March 19, 2003, at a municipal airport, or other municipal 128
air navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as 129
defined in section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal 130
Regulations, 14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required 131
to be under a security program and is governed by aviation 132
security rules of the transportation security administration of 133
the United States department of transportation as provided in 134
Parts 1542. and 1544. of Title 49 of the Code of Federal 135
Regulations, as amended; 136

(20) A police officer who is employed by an owner or 137

operator of an amusement park that has an average yearly 138
attendance in excess of six hundred thousand guests and that 139
employs and maintains its own proprietary police department or 140
security department, and who is appointed and commissioned by a 141
judge of the appropriate municipal court or county court 142
pursuant to section 4973.17 of the Revised Code; 143

(21) A police officer who is employed by a bank, savings 144
and loan association, savings bank, credit union, or association 145
of banks, savings and loan associations, savings banks, or 146
credit unions, who has been appointed and commissioned by the 147
secretary of state pursuant to sections 4973.17 to 4973.22 of 148
the Revised Code, and who has been awarded a certificate by the 149
executive director of the Ohio peace officer training commission 150
attesting to the person's satisfactory completion of a state, 151
county, municipal, or department of natural resources peace 152
officer basic training program; 153

(22) An investigator, as defined in section 109.541 of the 154
Revised Code, of the bureau of criminal identification and 155
investigation who is commissioned by the superintendent of the 156
bureau as a special agent for the purpose of assisting law 157
enforcement officers or providing emergency assistance to peace 158
officers pursuant to authority granted under that section; 159

(23) A state fire marshal law enforcement officer 160
appointed under section 3737.22 of the Revised Code or a person 161
serving as a state fire marshal law enforcement officer on a 162
permanent basis on or after July 1, 1982, who has been awarded a 163
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 164
training commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 165
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 166
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 167

program;	168
(24) A gaming agent employed under section 3772.03 of the Revised Code;	169 170
(25) An employee of the state board of pharmacy designated by the executive director of the board pursuant to section 4729.04 of the Revised Code to investigate violations of Chapters 2925., 3715., 3719., 3796., 4729., and 4752. of the Revised Code and rules adopted thereunder;	171 172 173 174 175
<u>(26) An investigator appointed by the secretary of state under section 111.50 of the Revised Code.</u>	176 177
(B) "Undercover drug agent" has the same meaning as in division (B) (2) of section 109.79 of the Revised Code.	178 179
(C) "Crisis intervention training" means training in the use of interpersonal and communication skills to most effectively and sensitively interview victims of rape.	180 181 182
(D) "Missing children" has the same meaning as in section 2901.30 of the Revised Code.	183 184
(E) "Tactical medical professional" means an EMT, EMT-basic, AEMT, EMT-I, paramedic, nurse, or physician who is trained and certified in a nationally recognized tactical medical training program that is equivalent to "tactical combat casualty care" (TCCC) and "tactical emergency medical support" (TEMS) and who functions in the tactical or austere environment while attached to a law enforcement agency of either this state or a political subdivision of this state.	185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192
(F) "EMT-basic," "EMT-I," and "paramedic" have the same meanings as in section 4765.01 of the Revised Code and "EMT" and "AEMT" have the same meanings as in section 4765.011 of the	193 194 195

Revised Code.	196
(G) "Nurse" means any of the following:	197
(1) Any person who is licensed to practice nursing as a registered nurse by the board of nursing;	198 199
(2) Any certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, or certified nurse-midwife who holds a certificate of authority issued by the board of nursing under Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code;	200 201 202 203
(3) Any person who is licensed to practice nursing as a licensed practical nurse by the board of nursing pursuant to Chapter 4723. of the Revised Code.	204 205 206
(H) "Physician" means a person who is licensed pursuant to Chapter 4731. of the Revised Code to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery.	207 208 209
(I) "County correctional officer" has the same meaning as in section 341.41 of the Revised Code.	210 211
(J) (1) "Fire investigator" means an employee of a fire department charged with investigating fires and explosions who has been authorized, in accordance with sections 737.27 and 3737.24 of the Revised Code, to perform the duties of investigating the origin and cause of fires and explosions using the scientific method to investigate elements of the event including the circumstances, actions, persons, means, and motives that resulted in the fire or explosion or the report of a fire or explosion within this state.	212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220
(2) "Fire investigator" does not include a person who is acting as a fire investigator on behalf of an insurance company or any other privately owned or operated enterprise.	221 222 223

(K) "Fire department" means a fire department of the state	224
or an instrumentality of the state or of a municipal	225
corporation, township, joint fire district, or other political	226
subdivision.	227
(L) "At-risk youth" means an individual who is all of the	228
following:	229
(1) Under twenty-one years of age;	230
(2) One of the following:	231
(a) At risk of becoming an abused, neglected, or dependent	232
child, delinquent or unruly child, or juvenile traffic offender;	233
(b) An abused, neglected, or dependent child, delinquent	234
or unruly child, or juvenile traffic offender.	235
(3) Residing in a state correctional institution, a	236
department of youth services institution, or a residential	237
facility.	238
(M) "Residential facility" has the same meaning as in	239
section 2151.46 of the Revised Code.	240
Sec. 109.77. (A) As used in this section:	241
(1) "Felony" has the same meaning as in section 109.511 of	242
the Revised Code.	243
(2) "Companion animal" has the same meaning as in section	244
959.131 of the Revised Code.	245
(B) (1) Notwithstanding any general, special, or local law	246
or charter to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in	247
this section, no person shall receive an original appointment on	248
a permanent basis as any of the following unless the person	249
previously has been awarded a certificate by the executive	250

director of the Ohio peace officer training commission attesting	251
to the person's satisfactory completion of an approved state,	252
county, municipal, or department of natural resources peace	253
officer basic training program:	254
(a) A peace officer of any county, township, municipal	255
corporation, regional transit authority, or metropolitan housing	256
authority;	257
(b) A natural resources law enforcement staff officer,	258
forest-fire investigator, wildlife officer, or natural resources	259
officer of the department of natural resources;	260
(c) An employee of a park district under section 511.232	261
or 1545.13 of the Revised Code;	262
(d) An employee of a conservancy district who is	263
designated pursuant to section 6101.75 of the Revised Code;	264
(e) A state university law enforcement officer;	265
(f) A special police officer employed by the department of	266
mental health and addiction services <u>behavioral health</u> pursuant	267
to section 5119.08 of the Revised Code or the department of	268
developmental disabilities pursuant to section 5123.13 of the	269
Revised Code;	270
(g) An enforcement agent of the department of public	271
safety whom the director of public safety designates under	272
section 5502.14 of the Revised Code;	273
(h) A special police officer employed by a port authority	274
under section 4582.04 or 4582.28 of the Revised Code;	275
(i) A special police officer employed by a municipal	276
corporation at a municipal airport, or other municipal air	277
navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as defined	278

in section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, 279
14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required to be under a 280
security program and is governed by aviation security rules of 281
the transportation security administration of the United States 282
department of transportation as provided in Parts 1542. and 283
1544. of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as 284
amended; 285

(j) A gaming agent employed under section 3772.03 of the 286
Revised Code; 287

(k) An investigator appointed by the secretary of state 288
under section 111.50 of the Revised Code. 289

(2) Every person who is appointed on a temporary basis or 290
for a probationary term or on other than a permanent basis as 291
any of the following shall forfeit the appointed position unless 292
the person previously has completed satisfactorily or, within 293
the time prescribed by rules adopted by the attorney general 294
pursuant to section 109.74 of the Revised Code, satisfactorily 295
completes a state, county, municipal, or department of natural 296
resources peace officer basic training program for temporary or 297
probationary officers and is awarded a certificate by the 298
director attesting to the satisfactory completion of the 299
program: 300

(a) A peace officer of any county, township, municipal 301
corporation, regional transit authority, or metropolitan housing 302
authority; 303

(b) A natural resources law enforcement staff officer, 304
park officer, forest officer, preserve officer, wildlife 305
officer, or state watercraft officer of the department of 306
natural resources; 307

(c) An employee of a park district under section 511.232	308
or 1545.13 of the Revised Code;	309
(d) An employee of a conservancy district who is	310
designated pursuant to section 6101.75 of the Revised Code;	311
(e) A special police officer employed by the department of	312
mental health and addiction services <u>behavioral health</u> pursuant	313
to section 5119.08 of the Revised Code or the department of	314
developmental disabilities pursuant to section 5123.13 of the	315
Revised Code;	316
(f) An enforcement agent of the department of public	317
safety whom the director of public safety designates under	318
section 5502.14 of the Revised Code;	319
(g) A special police officer employed by a port authority	320
under section 4582.04 or 4582.28 of the Revised Code;	321
(h) A special police officer employed by a municipal	322
corporation at a municipal airport, or other municipal air	323
navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as defined	324
in section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations,	325
14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required to be under a	326
security program and is governed by aviation security rules of	327
the transportation security administration of the United States	328
department of transportation as provided in Parts 1542. and	329
1544. of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as	330
amended.	331
(3) For purposes of division (B) of this section, a state,	332
county, municipal, or department of natural resources peace	333
officer basic training program, regardless of whether the	334
program is to be completed by peace officers appointed on a	335
permanent or temporary, probationary, or other nonpermanent	336

basis, shall include training in the handling of the offense of 337
domestic violence, other types of domestic violence-related 338
offenses and incidents, protection orders and consent agreements 339
issued or approved under section 2919.26 or 3113.31 of the 340
Revised Code, crisis intervention training, and training on 341
companion animal encounters and companion animal behavior. The 342
requirement to complete training in the handling of the offense 343
of domestic violence, other types of domestic violence-related 344
offenses and incidents, and protection orders and consent 345
agreements issued or approved under section 2919.26 or 3113.31 346
of the Revised Code does not apply to any person serving as a 347
peace officer on March 27, 1979, and the requirement to complete 348
training in crisis intervention does not apply to any person 349
serving as a peace officer on April 4, 1985. Any person who is 350
serving as a peace officer on April 4, 1985, who terminates that 351
employment after that date, and who subsequently is hired as a 352
peace officer by the same or another law enforcement agency 353
shall complete training in crisis intervention as prescribed by 354
rules adopted by the attorney general pursuant to section 355
109.742 of the Revised Code. No peace officer shall have 356
employment as a peace officer terminated and then be reinstated 357
with intent to circumvent this section. 358

(4) Division (B) of this section does not apply to any 359
person serving on a permanent basis on March 28, 1985, as a park 360
officer, forest officer, preserve officer, wildlife officer, or 361
state watercraft officer of the department of natural resources 362
or as an employee of a park district under section 511.232 or 363
1545.13 of the Revised Code, to any person serving on a 364
permanent basis on March 6, 1986, as an employee of a 365
conservancy district designated pursuant to section 6101.75 of 366
the Revised Code, to any person serving on a permanent basis on 367

January 10, 1991, as a preserve officer of the department of 368
natural resources, to any person employed on a permanent basis 369
on July 2, 1992, as a special police officer by the department 370
of ~~mental health and addiction services~~ behavioral health 371
pursuant to section 5119.08 of the Revised Code or by the 372
department of developmental disabilities pursuant to section 373
5123.13 of the Revised Code, to any person serving on a 374
permanent basis on May 17, 2000, as a special police officer 375
employed by a port authority under section 4582.04 or 4582.28 of 376
the Revised Code, to any person serving on a permanent basis on 377
March 19, 2003, as a special police officer employed by a 378
municipal corporation at a municipal airport or other municipal 379
air navigation facility described in division (A)(19) of section 380
109.71 of the Revised Code, to any person serving on a permanent 381
basis on June 19, 1978, as a state university law enforcement 382
officer pursuant to section 3345.04 of the Revised Code and who, 383
immediately prior to June 19, 1978, was serving as a special 384
police officer designated under authority of that section, or to 385
any person serving on a permanent basis on September 20, 1984, 386
as a liquor control investigator, known after June 30, 1999, as 387
an enforcement agent of the department of public safety, engaged 388
in the enforcement of Chapters 4301. and 4303. of the Revised 389
Code. 390

(5) Division (B) of this section does not apply to any 391
person who is appointed as a regional transit authority police 392
officer pursuant to division (Y) of section 306.35 of the 393
Revised Code if, on or before July 1, 1996, the person has 394
completed satisfactorily an approved state, county, municipal, 395
or department of natural resources peace officer basic training 396
program and has been awarded a certificate by the executive 397
director of the Ohio peace officer training commission attesting 398

to the person's satisfactory completion of such an approved 399
program and if, on July 1, 1996, the person is performing peace 400
officer functions for a regional transit authority. 401

(C) No person, after September 20, 1984, shall receive an 402
original appointment on a permanent basis as a veterans' home 403
police officer designated under section 5907.02 of the Revised 404
Code unless the person previously has been awarded a certificate 405
by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer training 406
commission attesting to the person's satisfactory completion of 407
an approved police officer basic training program. Every person 408
who is appointed on a temporary basis or for a probationary term 409
or on other than a permanent basis as a veterans' home police 410
officer designated under section 5907.02 of the Revised Code 411
shall forfeit that position unless the person previously has 412
completed satisfactorily or, within one year from the time of 413
appointment, satisfactorily completes an approved police officer 414
basic training program. 415

(D) No bailiff or deputy bailiff of a court of record of 416
this state and no criminal investigator who is employed by the 417
state public defender shall carry a firearm, as defined in 418
section 2923.11 of the Revised Code, while on duty unless the 419
bailiff, deputy bailiff, or criminal investigator has done or 420
received one of the following: 421

(1) Has been awarded a certificate by the executive 422
director of the Ohio peace officer training commission, which 423
certificate attests to satisfactory completion of an approved 424
state, county, or municipal basic training program for bailiffs 425
and deputy bailiffs of courts of record and for criminal 426
investigators employed by the state public defender that has 427
been recommended by the Ohio peace officer training commission; 428

(2) Has successfully completed a firearms training program 429
approved by the Ohio peace officer training commission prior to 430
employment as a bailiff, deputy bailiff, or criminal 431
investigator; 432

(3) Prior to June 6, 1986, was authorized to carry a 433
firearm by the court that employed the bailiff or deputy bailiff 434
or, in the case of a criminal investigator, by the state public 435
defender and has received training in the use of firearms that 436
the Ohio peace officer training commission determines is 437
equivalent to the training that otherwise is required by 438
division (D) of this section. 439

(E) (1) Before a person seeking a certificate completes an 440
approved peace officer basic training program, the executive 441
director of the Ohio peace officer training commission shall 442
request the person to disclose, and the person shall disclose, 443
any previous criminal conviction of or plea of guilty of that 444
person to a felony. 445

(2) Before a person seeking a certificate completes an 446
approved peace officer basic training program, the executive 447
director shall request a criminal history records check on the 448
person. The executive director shall submit the person's 449
fingerprints to the bureau of criminal identification and 450
investigation, which shall submit the fingerprints to the 451
federal bureau of investigation for a national criminal history 452
records check. 453

Upon receipt of the executive director's request, the 454
bureau of criminal identification and investigation and the 455
federal bureau of investigation shall conduct a criminal history 456
records check on the person and, upon completion of the check, 457
shall provide a copy of the criminal history records check to 458

the executive director. The executive director shall not award 459
any certificate prescribed in this section unless the executive 460
director has received a copy of the criminal history records 461
check on the person to whom the certificate is to be awarded. 462

(3) The executive director of the commission shall not 463
award a certificate prescribed in this section to a person who 464
has been convicted of or has pleaded guilty to a felony or who 465
fails to disclose any previous criminal conviction of or plea of 466
guilty to a felony as required under division (E)(1) of this 467
section. 468

(4) The executive director of the commission shall revoke 469
the certificate awarded to a person as prescribed in this 470
section, and that person shall forfeit all of the benefits 471
derived from being certified as a peace officer under this 472
section, if the person, before completion of an approved peace 473
officer basic training program, failed to disclose any previous 474
criminal conviction of or plea of guilty to a felony as required 475
under division (E)(1) of this section. 476

(F)(1) Regardless of whether the person has been awarded 477
the certificate or has been classified as a peace officer prior 478
to, on, or after October 16, 1996, the executive director of the 479
Ohio peace officer training commission shall revoke any 480
certificate that has been awarded to a person as prescribed in 481
this section if the person does either of the following: 482

(a) Pleads guilty to a felony committed on or after 483
January 1, 1997; 484

(b) Pleads guilty to a misdemeanor committed on or after 485
January 1, 1997, pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement as 486
provided in division (D) of section 2929.43 of the Revised Code 487

in which the person agrees to surrender the certificate awarded 488
to the person under this section. 489

(2) The executive director of the commission shall suspend 490
any certificate that has been awarded to a person as prescribed 491
in this section if the person is convicted, after trial, of a 492
felony committed on or after January 1, 1997. The executive 493
director shall suspend the certificate pursuant to division (F) 494
(2) of this section pending the outcome of an appeal by the 495
person from that conviction to the highest court to which the 496
appeal is taken or until the expiration of the period in which 497
an appeal is required to be filed. If the person files an appeal 498
that results in that person's acquittal of the felony or 499
conviction of a misdemeanor, or in the dismissal of the felony 500
charge against that person, the executive director shall 501
reinstate the certificate awarded to the person under this 502
section. If the person files an appeal from that person's 503
conviction of the felony and the conviction is upheld by the 504
highest court to which the appeal is taken or if the person does 505
not file a timely appeal, the executive director shall revoke 506
the certificate awarded to the person under this section. 507

(G) (1) If a person is awarded a certificate under this 508
section and the certificate is revoked pursuant to division (E) 509
(4) or (F) of this section, the person shall not be eligible to 510
receive, at any time, a certificate attesting to the person's 511
satisfactory completion of a peace officer basic training 512
program. 513

(2) The revocation or suspension of a certificate under 514
division (E) (4) or (F) of this section shall be in accordance 515
with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. 516

(H) (1) A person who was employed as a peace officer of a 517

county, township, or municipal corporation of the state on 518
January 1, 1966, and who has completed at least sixteen years of 519
full-time active service as such a peace officer, or equivalent 520
service as determined by the executive director of the Ohio 521
peace officer training commission, may receive an original 522
appointment on a permanent basis and serve as a peace officer of 523
a county, township, or municipal corporation, or as a state 524
university law enforcement officer, without complying with the 525
requirements of division (B) of this section. 526

(2) Any person who held an appointment as a state highway 527
trooper on January 1, 1966, may receive an original appointment 528
on a permanent basis and serve as a peace officer of a county, 529
township, or municipal corporation, or as a state university law 530
enforcement officer, without complying with the requirements of 531
division (B) of this section. 532

(I) No person who is appointed as a peace officer of a 533
county, township, or municipal corporation on or after April 9, 534
1985, shall serve as a peace officer of that county, township, 535
or municipal corporation unless the person has received training 536
in the handling of missing children and child abuse and neglect 537
cases from an approved state, county, township, or municipal 538
police officer basic training program or receives the training 539
within the time prescribed by rules adopted by the attorney 540
general pursuant to section 109.741 of the Revised Code. 541

(J) No part of any approved state, county, or municipal 542
basic training program for bailiffs and deputy bailiffs of 543
courts of record and no part of any approved state, county, or 544
municipal basic training program for criminal investigators 545
employed by the state public defender shall be used as credit 546
toward the completion by a peace officer of any part of the 547

approved state, county, or municipal peace officer basic 548
training program that the peace officer is required by this 549
section to complete satisfactorily. 550

(K) This section does not apply to any member of the 551
police department of a municipal corporation in an adjoining 552
state serving in this state under a contract pursuant to section 553
737.04 of the Revised Code. 554

(L) The executive director of the commission shall issue a 555
certificate of completion of a training program required under 556
this section in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the Revised 557
Code to an individual if either of the following applies: 558

(1) The individual holds a certificate of completion of 559
such a program in another state. 560

(2) The individual has satisfactory work experience, a 561
government certification, or a private certification as 562
described in that chapter in the same profession, occupation, or 563
occupational activity as the profession, occupation, or 564
occupational activity for which the certificate is required in 565
this state in a state that does not require completion of such a 566
training program. 567

(M) (1) Except as provided in division (M) (2) of this 568
section, no certificate awarded by the executive director of the 569
Ohio peace officer training commission attesting to a person's 570
satisfactory completion of an approved state, county, municipal, 571
or department of natural resources peace officer basic training 572
program shall be deemed insufficient for an appointment to a 573
position listed in division (B) (1) of this section because of a 574
lapse in the person's service as a peace officer. 575

(2) The Ohio peace officer training commission shall 576

require a re-appointed peace officer to complete refresher 577
training of the following duration prior to performing the 578
functions of a peace officer, if the peace officer, having 579
previously been awarded a certificate by the executive director 580
of the commission attesting to the person's satisfactory 581
completion of an approved state, county, municipal, or 582
department of natural resources peace officer basic training 583
program or pursuant to Chapter 4796. of the Revised Code, for at 584
least one year prior to an appointment, was not employed as a 585
peace officer: 586

(a) If the period of lapse was at least one year, but less 587
than four years, up to forty hours; 588

(b) If the period of lapse was four years or longer, 589
eighty hours. 590

Sec. 111.50. The secretary of state may appoint one or 591
more investigators to carry out the investigative duties of the 592
secretary of state under sections 111.243 and 147.032 of the 593
Revised Code and to investigate complaints and allegations 594
received by the election integrity unit under sections 3501.055 595
and 3517.16 of the Revised Code. An investigator appointed under 596
this section shall be a peace officer in compliance with section 597
109.77 of the Revised Code. 598

Sec. 2935.01. As used in this chapter: 599

(A) "Magistrate" has the same meaning as in section 600
2931.01 of the Revised Code. 601

(B) "Peace officer" includes, except as provided in 602
section 2935.081 of the Revised Code, a sheriff; deputy sheriff; 603
marshal; deputy marshal; member of the organized police 604
department of any municipal corporation, including a member of 605

the organized police department of a municipal corporation in an 606
adjoining state serving in Ohio under a contract pursuant to 607
section 737.04 of the Revised Code; member of a police force 608
employed by a metropolitan housing authority under division (D) 609
of section 3735.31 of the Revised Code; member of a police force 610
employed by a regional transit authority under division (Y) of 611
section 306.35 of the Revised Code; state university law 612
enforcement officer appointed under section 3345.04 of the 613
Revised Code; enforcement agent of the department of public 614
safety designated under section 5502.14 of the Revised Code; 615
employee of the department of taxation to whom investigation 616
powers have been delegated under section 5743.45 of the Revised 617
Code; employee of the department of natural resources who is a 618
natural resources law enforcement staff officer designated 619
pursuant to section 1501.013 of the Revised Code, a forest-fire 620
investigator appointed pursuant to section 1503.09 of the 621
Revised Code, a natural resources officer appointed pursuant to 622
section 1501.24 of the Revised Code, or a wildlife officer 623
designated pursuant to section 1531.13 of the Revised Code; 624
individual designated to perform law enforcement duties under 625
section 511.232, 1545.13, or 6101.75 of the Revised Code; 626
veterans' home police officer appointed under section 5907.02 of 627
the Revised Code; special police officer employed by a port 628
authority under section 4582.04 or 4582.28 of the Revised Code; 629
police constable of any township; police officer of a township 630
or joint police district; a special police officer employed by a 631
municipal corporation at a municipal airport, or other municipal 632
air navigation facility, that has scheduled operations, as 633
defined in section 119.3 of Title 14 of the Code of Federal 634
Regulations, 14 C.F.R. 119.3, as amended, and that is required 635
to be under a security program and is governed by aviation 636
security rules of the transportation security administration of 637

the United States department of transportation as provided in 638
Parts 1542. and 1544. of Title 49 of the Code of Federal 639
Regulations, as amended; the house of representatives sergeant 640
at arms if the house of representatives sergeant at arms has 641
arrest authority pursuant to division (E)(1) of section 101.311 642
of the Revised Code; an assistant house of representatives 643
sergeant at arms; the senate sergeant at arms; an assistant 644
senate sergeant at arms; officer or employee of the bureau of 645
criminal identification and investigation established pursuant 646
to section 109.51 of the Revised Code who has been awarded a 647
certificate by the executive director of the Ohio peace officer 648
training commission attesting to the officer's or employee's 649
satisfactory completion of an approved state, county, municipal, 650
or department of natural resources peace officer basic training 651
program and who is providing assistance upon request to a law 652
enforcement officer or emergency assistance to a peace officer 653
pursuant to section 109.54 or 109.541 of the Revised Code; a 654
state fire marshal law enforcement officer described in division 655
(A) (23) of section 109.71 of the Revised Code; a gaming agent, 656
as defined in section 3772.01 of the Revised Code; an 657
investigator appointed by the secretary of state under section 658
111.50 of the Revised Code; and, for the purpose of arrests 659
within those areas, for the purposes of Chapter 5503. of the 660
Revised Code, and the filing of and service of process relating 661
to those offenses witnessed or investigated by them, the 662
superintendent and troopers of the state highway patrol. 663

(C) "Prosecutor" includes the county prosecuting attorney 664
and any assistant prosecutor designated to assist the county 665
prosecuting attorney, and, in the case of courts inferior to 666
courts of common pleas, includes the village solicitor, city 667
director of law, or similar chief legal officer of a municipal 668

corporation, any such officer's assistants, or any attorney 669
designated by the prosecuting attorney of the county to appear 670
for the prosecution of a given case. 671

(D) "Offense," except where the context specifically 672
indicates otherwise, includes felonies, misdemeanors, and 673
violations of ordinances of municipal corporations and other 674
public bodies authorized by law to adopt penal regulations. 675

(E) "Tier one offense" means a violation of section 676
2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, 2903.04, 2903.06, 2903.11, 2903.12, 677
2903.21, 2903.211, 2905.01, 2905.02, 2905.32, 2907.02, 2907.03, 678
2907.04, 2907.05, 2907.321, 2907.322, 2907.323, 2909.02, 679
2909.03, 2909.24, 2911.01, 2911.02, 2911.11, 2919.25, 2921.34, 680
2923.161, 2950.04, 2950.041, 2950.05, or 2950.06 of the Revised 681
Code. 682

Sec. 3501.05. The secretary of state shall do all of the 683
following: 684

(A) Appoint all members of boards of elections; 685

(B) Issue instructions by directives and advisories in 686
accordance with section 3501.053 of the Revised Code to members 687
of the boards as to the proper methods of conducting elections. 688

(C) Prepare rules and instructions for the conduct of 689
elections; 690

(D) Publish and furnish to the boards from time to time a 691
sufficient number of indexed copies of all election laws then in 692
force; 693

(E) Edit and issue all pamphlets concerning proposed laws 694
or amendments required by law to be submitted to the voters; 695

(F) Prescribe the form of registration cards, blanks, and 696

records;	697
(G) Determine and prescribe the forms of ballots and the forms of all blanks, cards of instructions, pollbooks, tally sheets, certificates of election, and forms and blanks required by law for use by candidates, committees, and boards;	698 699 700 701
(H) Prepare the ballot title or statement to be placed on the ballot for any proposed law or amendment to the constitution to be submitted to the voters of the state;	702 703 704
(I) Except as otherwise provided in section 3519.08 of the Revised Code, certify to the several boards the forms of ballots and names of candidates for state offices, and the form and wording of state referendum questions and issues, as they shall appear on the ballot;	705 706 707 708 709
(J) Except as otherwise provided in division (I) (2) (b) of section 3501.38 of the Revised Code, give final approval to ballot language for any local question or issue approved and transmitted by boards of elections under section 3501.11 of the Revised Code;	710 711 712 713 714
(K) Receive all initiative and referendum petitions on state questions and issues and determine and certify to the sufficiency of those petitions;	715 716 717
(L) Require such reports from the several boards as are provided by law, or as the secretary of state considers necessary;	718 719 720
(M) Compel the observance by election officers in the several counties of the requirements of the election laws;	721 722
(N) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (N) (2) of this section, through the election integrity unit created under	723 724

section 3501.055 of the Revised Code, investigate the 725
administration of election laws, frauds, and irregularities in 726
elections in any county, and report violations of election laws 727
to the attorney general or prosecuting attorney, or both, for 728
prosecution; 729

(2) Receive and process complaints regarding any alleged 730
violation of a provision of law over which the Ohio election 731
integrity commission has jurisdiction, in accordance with 732
sections 3517.14 to 3517.18 of the Revised Code. 733

(O) Make an annual report to the governor containing the 734
results of elections, the cost of elections in the various 735
counties, a tabulation of the votes in the several political 736
subdivisions, and other information and recommendations relative 737
to elections the secretary of state considers desirable; 738

(P) Prescribe and distribute to boards of elections a list 739
of instructions indicating all legal steps necessary to petition 740
successfully for local option elections under sections 4301.32 741
to 4301.41, 4303.29, 4305.14, and 4305.15 of the Revised Code; 742

(Q) Adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised 743
Code for the removal by boards of elections of ineligible voters 744
from the statewide voter registration database and, if 745
applicable, from the poll list or signature pollbook used in 746
each precinct, which rules shall provide for all of the 747
following: 748

(1) A process for the removal of voters who have changed 749
residence, which shall be uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in 750
compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the National 751
Voter Registration Act of 1993, including a program that uses 752
the national change of address service provided by the United 753

States postal system through its licensees;	754
(2) A process for the removal of ineligible voters under section 3503.21 of the Revised Code;	755 756
(3) A uniform system for marking or removing the name of a voter who is ineligible to vote from the statewide voter registration database and, if applicable, from the poll list or signature pollbook used in each precinct and noting the reason for that mark or removal.	757 758 759 760 761
(R) (1) Prescribe a general program for registering voters or updating voter registration information, such as name and residence changes, by boards of elections, designated agencies, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and offices of county treasurers consistent with the requirements of section 3503.09 of the Revised Code;	762 763 764 765 766 767
(2) Prescribe a general program for registering voters or updating voter registration information through the registrar of motor vehicles and deputy registrars, consistent with the requirements of section 3503.11 of the Revised Code.	768 769 770 771
(S) Prescribe a program of distribution of voter registration forms through boards of elections, designated agencies, offices of the registrar and deputy registrars of motor vehicles, public high schools and vocational schools, public libraries, and offices of county treasurers;	772 773 774 775 776
(T) To the extent feasible, provide copies, at no cost and upon request, of the voter registration form in post offices in this state;	777 778 779
(U) Adopt rules pursuant to section 111.15 of the Revised Code for the purpose of implementing the programs for registering voters through boards of elections, designated	780 781 782

agencies, and the offices of the registrar and deputy registrars	783
of motor vehicles consistent with this chapter;	784
(V) Establish the full-time position of Americans with	785
Disabilities Act coordinator within the office of the secretary	786
of state to do all of the following:	787
(1) Assist the secretary of state with ensuring that there	788
is equal access to polling places for persons with disabilities;	789
(2) Assist the secretary of state with ensuring that each	790
voter may cast the voter's ballot in a manner that provides the	791
same opportunity for access and participation, including privacy	792
and independence, as for other voters;	793
(3) Advise the secretary of state in the development of	794
standards for the certification of voting machines, marking	795
devices, and automatic tabulating equipment.	796
(W) Establish and maintain a computerized statewide	797
database of all legally registered voters under section 3503.15	798
of the Revised Code that complies with the requirements of the	799
"Help America Vote Act of 2002," Pub. L. No. 107-252, 116 Stat.	800
1666, and provide training in the operation of that system;	801
(X) Ensure that all directives, advisories, other	802
instructions, or decisions issued or made during or as a result	803
of any conference or teleconference call with a board of	804
elections to discuss the proper methods and procedures for	805
conducting elections, to answer questions regarding elections,	806
or to discuss the interpretation of directives, advisories, or	807
other instructions issued by the secretary of state are posted	808
on a web site of the office of the secretary of state as soon as	809
is practicable after the completion of the conference or	810
teleconference call, but not later than the close of business on	811

the same day as the conference or teleconference call takes 812
place. 813

(Y) Publish a report on a web site of the office of the 814
secretary of state not later than one month after the completion 815
of the canvass of the election returns for each primary and 816
general election, identifying, by county, the number of absent 817
voter's ballots cast and the number of those ballots that were 818
counted, and the number of provisional ballots cast and the 819
number of those ballots that were counted, for that election. 820
The secretary of state shall maintain the information on the web 821
site in an archive format for each subsequent election. 822

(Z) Conduct voter education outlining voter 823
identification, absent voters ballot, provisional ballot, and 824
other voting requirements; 825

(AA) Establish a procedure by which a registered elector 826
may make available to a board of elections a more recent 827
signature to be used in the poll list or signature pollbook 828
produced by the board of elections of the county in which the 829
elector resides; 830

(BB) Disseminate information, which may include all or 831
part of the official explanations and arguments, by means of 832
direct mail or other written publication, broadcast, or other 833
means or combination of means, as directed by the Ohio ballot 834
board under division (F) of section 3505.062 of the Revised 835
Code, in order to inform the voters as fully as possible 836
concerning each proposed constitutional amendment, proposed law, 837
or referendum; 838

(CC) Be the single state office responsible for the 839
implementation of the "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee 840

Voting Act," Pub. L. No. 99-410, 100 Stat. 924, 42 U.S.C. 841
1973ff, et seq., as amended, in this state. The secretary of 842
state may delegate to the boards of elections responsibilities 843
for the implementation of that act, including responsibilities 844
arising from amendments to that act made by the "Military and 845
Overseas Voter Empowerment Act," Subtitle H of the "National 846
Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010," Pub. L. No. 847
111-84, 123 Stat. 3190. 848

(DD) Adopt rules, under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, 849
to establish procedures and standards for determining when a 850
board of elections shall be placed under the official oversight 851
of the secretary of state, placing a board of elections under 852
the official oversight of the secretary of state, a board that 853
is under official oversight to transition out of official 854
oversight, and the secretary of state to supervise a board of 855
elections that is under official oversight of the secretary of 856
state. 857

(EE) Perform other duties required by law. 858

Whenever a primary election is held under section 3513.32 859
of the Revised Code or a special election is held under section 860
3521.03 of the Revised Code to fill a vacancy in the office of 861
representative to congress, the secretary of state shall 862
establish a deadline, notwithstanding any other deadline 863
required under the Revised Code, by which any or all of the 864
following shall occur: the filing of a declaration of candidacy 865
and petitions or a statement of candidacy and nominating 866
petition together with the applicable filing fee; the filing of 867
protests against the candidacy of any person filing a 868
declaration of candidacy or nominating petition; the filing of a 869
declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate; the filing of 870

campaign finance reports; the preparation of, and the making of 871
corrections or challenges to, precinct voter registration lists; 872
the receipt of applications for absent voter's ballots or 873
uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots; the 874
supplying of election materials to precincts by boards of 875
elections; the holding of hearings by boards of elections to 876
consider challenges to the right of a person to appear on a 877
voter registration list; and the scheduling of programs to 878
instruct or reinstruct election officers. 879

In the performance of the secretary of state's duties as 880
the chief election officer, the secretary of state may 881
administer oaths, issue subpoenas within or without the state, 882
summon witnesses, compel the production of books, papers, 883
records, and other evidence, and fix the time and place for 884
hearing any matters relating to the administration and 885
enforcement of the election laws, including for the purposes 886
described in division (N) (2) of this section. 887

In any controversy involving or arising out of the 888
adoption of registration or the appropriation of funds for 889
registration, the secretary of state may, through the attorney 890
general, bring an action in the name of the state in the court 891
of common pleas of the county where the cause of action arose or 892
in an adjoining county, to adjudicate the question. 893

In any action involving the laws in Title XXXV of the 894
Revised Code wherein the interpretation of those laws is in 895
issue in such a manner that the result of the action will affect 896
the lawful duties of the secretary of state or of any board of 897
elections, the secretary of state may, on the secretary of 898
state's motion, be made a party. 899

The secretary of state may apply to any court that is 900

hearing a case in which the secretary of state is a party, for a 901
change of venue as a substantive right, and the change of venue 902
shall be allowed, and the case removed to the court of common 903
pleas of an adjoining county named in the application or, if 904
there are cases pending in more than one jurisdiction that 905
involve the same or similar issues, the court of common pleas of 906
Franklin county. 907

Public high schools and vocational schools, public 908
libraries, and the office of a county treasurer shall implement 909
voter registration programs as directed by the secretary of 910
state pursuant to this section. 911

Sec. 3501.055. (A) There is in the office of the secretary 912
of state the election integrity unit. 913

(B) Under the direction of the secretary of state, the 914
election integrity unit shall do all of the following: 915

(1) Investigate alleged violations of Title XXXV of the 916
Revised Code on the unit's own initiative, upon receiving a 917
complaint under this section, or upon the filing of a complaint 918
with the secretary of state under section 3517.16 of the Revised 919
Code; 920

(2) Allow the public to submit allegations of violations 921
of Title XXXV of the Revised Code to the unit; 922

(3) Submit a report to the governor and the general 923
assembly not later than the fifteenth day of January of each 924
year. The report shall include all of the following with respect 925
to the previous calendar year: 926

(a) The number of allegations the unit received from 927
members of the public; 928

(b) The number of allegations the unit investigated on its own initiative;	929 930
(c) The number of allegations the unit referred to another agency for further investigation or prosecution;	931 932
(d) All of the following concerning each allegation:	933
(i) The general nature of the allegation;	934
(ii) The county in which the violation is alleged to have occurred;	935 936
(iii) Whether the allegation has been referred to another agency for further investigation or prosecution, and if so, to which agency;	937 938 939
(iv) The current status of the investigation or any resulting criminal or civil proceeding.	940 941
(C) In performing its duties, the election integrity unit may administer oaths, issue subpoenas <u>within or without the state</u> , summon witnesses, compel the production of books, papers, records, and other evidence, and hold hearings.	942 943 944 945
(D) Within one year after receiving a referral for further investigation or prosecution from the election integrity unit, the prosecuting attorney shall either prosecute the violation or provide to the election integrity unit a written statement declining to prosecute the referral or requesting any additional evidence needed. If the prosecuting attorney requests additional evidence, the election integrity unit shall provide such evidence, if available, within ninety days after receiving the request. Within one hundred eighty days after receiving the additional evidence, the prosecuting attorney either shall prosecute the violation or provide a written statement to the	946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956

election integrity unit explaining a reason for declining to 957
prosecute. If the prosecuting attorney fails to provide this 958
statement within one hundred eighty days after receiving the 959
additional evidence, the election integrity unit may refer the 960
violation to the attorney general for further investigation or 961
prosecution. 962

Sec. 3503.02. All registrars and precinct election 963
officials, in determining the residence of a person offering to 964
register or vote, shall be governed by the following rules: 965

(A) That place shall be considered the residence of a 966
person in which the person's habitation is fixed and to which, 967
whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention of 968
returning. 969

(B) A person shall not be considered to have lost the 970
person's residence who leaves the person's home and goes into 971
another state or county of this state, for temporary purposes 972
only, with the intention of returning. 973

(C) A person shall not be considered to have gained a 974
residence in any county of this state into which the person 975
comes for temporary purposes only, without the intention of 976
making such county the permanent place of abode. 977

(D) The place where the family of a married person resides 978
shall be considered to be the person's place of residence; 979
except that when the spouses have separated and live apart, the 980
place where such a spouse resides the length of time required to 981
entitle a person to vote shall be considered to be the spouse's 982
place of residence. 983

(E) If a person removes to another state with the 984
intention of making such state the person's residence, the 985

person shall be considered to have lost the person's residence 986
in this state. 987

(F) Except as otherwise provided in division (G) of this 988
section, if a person removes from this state and continuously 989
resides outside this state for a period of four years or more, 990
the person shall be considered to have lost the person's 991
residence in this state, notwithstanding the fact that the 992
person may entertain an intention to return at some future 993
period. 994

(G) (1) If a person removes from this state to engage in 995
the services of the United States government, the person shall 996
not be considered to have lost the person's residence in this 997
state, and likewise should the person enter the employment of 998
the state, the place where such person resided at the time of 999
the person's removal shall be considered to be the person's 1000
place of residence. 1001

(2) If a person removes from this state to a location 1002
outside of the United States and the person does not become a 1003
resident of another state, the person shall not be considered to 1004
have lost the person's residence in this state. The place where 1005
the person resided at the time of the person's removal shall be 1006
considered to be the person's place of residence. 1007

(3) If a person is eligible to vote in this state under 1008
division (D) (2) of section 3511.011 of the Revised Code, the 1009
place where the person's parent or legal guardian resided in 1010
this state prior to that parent or legal guardian's removal to a 1011
location outside of the United States shall be considered to be 1012
the person's place of residence. 1013

(4) If an address that is considered to be a person's 1014

place of residence under division (G) of this section ceases to 1015
be a recognized residential address, the board of elections 1016
shall assign an address to the applicable person for voting 1017
purposes. 1018

(H) If a person goes into another state and while there 1019
exercises the right of a citizen by ~~voting~~ registering to vote 1020
in that state, the person shall be considered to have lost the 1021
person's residence in this state. 1022

(I) If a person does not have a fixed place of habitation, 1023
but has a shelter or other location at which the person has been 1024
a consistent or regular inhabitant and to which the person has 1025
the intention of returning, that shelter or other location shall 1026
be deemed the person's residence for the purpose of registering 1027
to vote. 1028

Sec. 3503.14. (A) The secretary of state shall prescribe 1029
the form and content of the registration, change of residence, 1030
and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall 1031
meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1032
1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following: 1033

(1) The voter's name; 1034

(2) The voter's current residence address; 1035

(3) The current date; 1036

(4) The voter's date of birth; 1037

(5) The voter to provide at least one of the following 1038
forms of identification: 1039

(a) The voter's Ohio driver's license or state 1040
identification card number; 1041

(b) The last four digits of the voter's social security number. 1042
1043

(6) A space for the voter to provide the voter's former residence address in this state or another state, if the voter is currently registered to vote at that address. 1044
1045
1046

(7) The voter's signature, accompanied by the following statement: "I declare under penalty of election falsification I am a citizen of the United States, will have lived in this state for 30 days immediately preceding the next election, and will be at least 18 years of age at the time of the general election. I understand that if I am registered to vote at another address in Ohio, my registration will be transferred. If I am registered to vote in another state, I request that my previous voter registration be canceled." 1047
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The forms shall include the following statement: 1056

"WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE." 1057
1058

The registration form shall include a space on which the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name and provide the person's address and a space on which the person registering an applicant shall name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant. 1059
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The forms shall include a box for the person filling out the form to check to indicate, if applicable, that the person has filled out all or part of the form on behalf of the applicant because the applicant declares that the applicant requires such assistance by reason of blindness, disability, or illiteracy. 1064
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Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state 1070

under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of 1071
state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that 1072
have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric 1073
character of the information provided by the voter so as to 1074
accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's 1075
information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of 1076
that data to the statewide voter registration database 1077
established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. 1078

(B) None of the following persons who are registering an 1079
applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal 1080
duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's 1081
address, or name the employer who is employing the person to 1082
register an applicant on a form prepared under this section: 1083

- (1) An election official; 1084
- (2) A county treasurer; 1085
- (3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1086
- (4) An employee of a designated agency; 1087
- (5) An employee of a public high school; 1088
- (6) An employee of a public vocational school; 1089
- (7) An employee of a public library; 1090
- (8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer; 1091
- (9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles; 1092
- (10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles; 1093
- (11) An employee of an election official. 1094

(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised 1095
Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own 1096

name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by 1097
the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling 1098
out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an 1099
applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate 1100
in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or 1101
to change the applicant's name or residence. The person 1102
registering the applicant shall sign the form and attest that 1103
the applicant indicated that the applicant desired to register 1104
to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence. 1105

(D) No registration, change of residence, or change of 1106
name form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a person 1107
registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name or 1108
failed to name the employer who is employing that person to 1109
register the applicant as required under division (A) of this 1110
section. 1111

~~(E)~~ (E) (1) A voter registration application is not 1112
required to contain the voter's former residence address to be 1113
considered valid. 1114

(2) A voter registration application submitted 1115
electronically through the registrar of motor vehicles or a 1116
deputy registrar pursuant to section 3503.11 or submitted online 1117
through the internet pursuant to section 3503.20 of the Revised 1118
Code is not required to contain a signature to be considered 1119
valid. The signature obtained under division (A) (3) of section 1120
3503.11 or under division (B) of section 3503.20 of the Revised 1121
Code, as applicable, shall be considered the applicant's 1122
signature for all election and signature-matching purposes. 1123

(F) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (C) of 1124
this section and in sections 3501.382 and 3505.24 of the Revised 1125
Code, no person shall preprint or fill out any portion of a 1126

voter registration, change of residence, or change of name form 1127
on behalf of an applicant. 1128

(2) A completed voter registration, change of residence, 1129
or change of name form is not valid if any portion of it has 1130
been completed by any person other than the applicant in 1131
violation of division (F) (1) of this section. 1132

(G) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" 1133
includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter 1134
registration forms or to assist persons in completing or 1135
returning those forms. 1136

Sec. 3503.21. (A) The registration of a registered elector 1137
shall be canceled upon the occurrence of any of the following: 1138

(1) The filing by a registered elector of a written 1139
request with a board of elections or the secretary of state, on 1140
a form prescribed by the secretary of state and signed by the 1141
elector, that the registration be canceled. The filing of such a 1142
request does not prohibit an otherwise qualified elector from 1143
reregistering to vote at any time. 1144

(2) The filing of a notice of the death of a registered 1145
elector as provided in section 3503.18 of the Revised Code; 1146

(3) The filing with the board of elections of a certified 1147
copy of the death certificate of a registered elector by the 1148
deceased elector's spouse, parent, or child, by the 1149
administrator of the deceased elector's estate, or by the 1150
executor of the deceased elector's will; 1151

(4) The conviction of the registered elector of a felony 1152
under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United 1153
States as provided in section 2961.01 of the Revised Code; 1154

(5) The adjudication of incompetency of the registered 1155
elector for the purpose of voting as provided in section 1156
5122.301 of the Revised Code; 1157

(6) The change of residence of the registered elector to a 1158
location outside the county of registration in accordance with 1159
division (B) of this section or as described in section 3503.33, 1160
3503.34, or 3503.35 of the Revised Code; 1161

(7) The failure of the registered elector, after having 1162
been mailed a confirmation notice, to do either of the 1163
following: 1164

(a) Respond to such a notice and vote at least once during 1165
a period of four consecutive years, which period shall include 1166
two general federal elections; 1167

(b) Update the elector's registration and vote at least 1168
once during a period of four consecutive years, which period 1169
shall include two general federal elections. 1170

(8) The receipt by the board of elections of a 1171
cancellation notice or request pursuant to section 111.44 of the 1172
Revised Code; 1173

(9) The receipt by the board of elections of a report from 1174
the secretary of state indicating that the person is not a 1175
United States citizen, as described in division (B)(1) of 1176
section 3503.152 of the Revised Code; 1177

(10) The circumstances described in division (D)(4) of 1178
section 3503.201 of the Revised Code; 1179

(11) The circumstances described in section 111.44 of the 1180
Revised Code; 1181

(12) The circumstances described in division (Q) of 1182

section 3501.05 of the Revised Code; 1183

(13) The circumstances described in division (C) of 1184
section 3503.24 of the Revised Code; 1185

(14) The determination by the board of elections that the 1186
elector is a fictitious person; 1187

(15) The determination by the board of elections that the 1188
registration is a duplicate. 1189

(B) (1) The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures 1190
to identify and cancel the registration in a prior county of 1191
residence of any registrant who changes the registrant's voting 1192
residence to a location outside the registrant's current county 1193
of registration. Any procedures prescribed in this division 1194
shall be uniform and nondiscriminatory, and shall comply with 1195
the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The secretary of state may 1196
prescribe procedures under this division that include the use of 1197
the national change of address service provided by the United 1198
States postal system through its licensees. Any program so 1199
prescribed shall be completed not later than ninety days prior 1200
to the date of any primary or general election for federal 1201
office. 1202

(2) The registration of any elector identified as having 1203
changed the elector's voting residence to a location outside the 1204
elector's current county of registration shall not be canceled 1205
unless the registrant is sent a confirmation notice on a form 1206
prescribed by the secretary of state and the registrant fails to 1207
respond to the confirmation notice or otherwise update the 1208
registration and fails to vote in any election during the period 1209
of two federal elections subsequent to the mailing of the 1210
confirmation notice. 1211

(C) The registration of a registered elector shall not be 1212
canceled except as provided in this section. 1213

(D) Boards of elections shall send their voter 1214
registration information to the secretary of state as required 1215
under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code. The secretary of 1216
state may prescribe by rule adopted pursuant to section 111.15 1217
of the Revised Code the format in which the boards of elections 1218
must send that information to the secretary of state. In the 1219
first quarter of each year, the secretary of state shall send 1220
the information to the national change of address service 1221
described in division (B) of this section and request that 1222
service to provide the secretary of state with a list of any 1223
voters sent by the secretary of state who have moved within the 1224
last twelve months. The secretary of state shall transmit to 1225
each appropriate board of elections whatever lists the secretary 1226
of state receives from that service. The board shall send a 1227
notice to each person on the list transmitted by the secretary 1228
of state requesting confirmation of the person's change of 1229
address, together with a postage prepaid, preaddressed return 1230
envelope containing a form on which the voter may verify or 1231
correct the change of address information. 1232

(E) The registration of a registered elector described in 1233
division (A) (7) or (B) (2) of this section shall be canceled not 1234
later than one hundred twenty days after the date of the second 1235
general federal election in which the elector fails to vote or 1236
not later than one hundred twenty days after the expiration of 1237
the four-year period in which the elector fails to vote or 1238
respond to a confirmation notice, whichever is later. 1239

(F) (1) When a registration is canceled pursuant to this 1240
section, the applicable board of elections shall send a written 1241

notice, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, to the 1242
address at which the elector was registered, informing the 1243
recipient that the elector's registration has been canceled, of 1244
the reason for the cancellation, and that if the cancellation 1245
was made in error, the elector may contact the board of 1246
elections to correct the error. 1247

(2) If the elector's registration is canceled in error, it 1248
shall be restored and treated as though it were never canceled. 1249

Sec. 3503.33. (A) If an elector applying for registration 1250
is already registered in another state or in another county 1251
within this state, the elector shall declare this fact to the 1252
registration officer and shall sign elector's registration 1253
application is an authorization to cancel-transfer the elector's 1254
previous registration on a form prescribed by the secretary of 1255
state to the board of elections of the elector's new county. 1256

~~The director of the board~~ (B) When, based on the 1257
information in the statewide voter registration database, it 1258
becomes apparent that an elector who is registered to vote in 1259
one county has registered to vote in a new county, the secretary 1260
of state shall instruct the boards of elections shall mail all 1261
such authorizations of both counties to the board of elections 1262
or comparable agency of the proper state and confirm that the 1263
registration records are for the same elector and, if so, to 1264
securely transmit a copy of the elector's previous registration 1265
record to the board of elections of the elector's new county. 1266
~~Upon the receipt of this authorization from the forwarding~~ 1267
~~county, the director of a~~ The board of elections in Ohio, upon a 1268
comparison of the elector's signature with the elector's 1269
signature as it appears on the registration files, of the 1270
elector's previous county shall remove the elector's previous 1271

registration record from the files, and place it ~~with the~~ 1272
~~cancellation authorization~~ in a separate file which shall be 1273
kept for a period of two calendar years. ~~The board shall notify~~ 1274
~~the elector at the present address as shown on the cancellation~~ 1275
~~authorization that his registration has been canceled.~~ 1276

(C) The secretary of state shall provide procedures for 1277
the boards of elections to follow under division (B) of this 1278
section, including procedures to ensure the secure transmission 1279
of voter registration records between the boards. 1280

Sec. 3503.34. (A) (1) If an elector applying for 1281
registration in another state is already registered in this 1282
state, and the elector provides the elector's former residence 1283
address in this state or otherwise indicates that the elector is 1284
registered in this state and requests on the registration form 1285
that the elector's previous registration be canceled, the 1286
elector's registration application is an authorization to cancel 1287
the elector's registration in this state. 1288

(2) Upon receiving a copy of the elector's registration 1289
application in the other state from an appropriate election 1290
official of that state, the secretary of state promptly shall 1291
transmit the application to the appropriate board of elections. 1292
The board shall compare the information in the application with 1293
the board's records and, if it determines that the elector in 1294
the board's records is the same elector who submitted the 1295
application, shall cancel the elector's registration and place 1296
it in a separate file, which shall be kept for a period of two 1297
calendar years. 1298

(B) (1) If an elector applying for registration in this 1299
state is already registered in another state and the elector 1300
provides the elector's former residence address or otherwise 1301

indicates that the elector is registered in the other state and 1302
requests on the registration form that the elector's previous 1303
registration be canceled, the elector's registration application 1304
is an authorization to cancel the elector's previous 1305
registration. Upon processing the registration application, the 1306
board of elections shall transmit the elector's new registration 1307
record and a copy of the elector's new registration form to the 1308
secretary of state in the manner prescribed by the secretary of 1309
state. 1310

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (3) of 1311
this section, at least once per calendar quarter, the secretary 1312
of state shall securely transmit a report to the chief election 1313
official of each state from which one or more electors has moved 1314
to Ohio since the last report was transmitted to that state 1315
under this division. The report shall include, for each elector 1316
identified as having moved to Ohio from that state since the 1317
last report was transmitted, the information in the elector's 1318
new registration record, a copy of the elector's new 1319
registration form, and any other information requested by the 1320
chief election official of that state that is necessary for 1321
voter roll maintenance. 1322

(3) Before first transmitting a report to the chief 1323
election official of a state under division (B) (2) of this 1324
section, the secretary of state shall enter into an agreement 1325
with that chief election official for the secretary of state to 1326
transmit the reports. The secretary of state shall not transmit 1327
a report under division (B) (2) of this section to any state with 1328
which the secretary of state does not have such an agreement. 1329
The agreement shall include procedures to ensure that the 1330
information in the reports that is not a public record subject 1331
to disclosure under section 3503.13 of the Revised Code is 1332

disclosed only to the appropriate election officials in that 1333
state for the purpose of voter roll maintenance and is not 1334
inadvertently disclosed to any other person or for any other 1335
purpose. 1336

(C) At least once per calendar quarter, the secretary of 1337
state shall submit to the general assembly a report of all of 1338
the following: 1339

(1) The total number of electors concerning whom the 1340
secretary of state received reports from the chief election 1341
officials of other states since the last report prepared under 1342
division (C) of this section, indicating that the electors have 1343
moved to another state, and how many of those electors' 1344
registrations in this state have been canceled under division 1345
(A) of this section; 1346

(2) The total number of electors whose information the 1347
secretary of state transmitted to the chief election officials 1348
of other states under division (B) (2) of this section since the 1349
last report prepared under division (C) of this section; 1350

(3) The information described in division (C) (2) of this 1351
section, disaggregated by state. 1352

Sec. 3503.35. Upon receiving notice from an appropriate 1353
election official in another state that an elector has 1354
registered to vote in that state, other than under division (A) 1355
of section 3503.34 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state 1356
shall notify the board of elections of the county in which the 1357
elector is registered to vote and the board promptly shall 1358
cancel the elector's registration. 1359

Sec. 3517.14. (A) (1) There is in the office of the 1360
secretary of state the Ohio election integrity commission, 1361

consisting of the following five members <u>and two alternate</u>	1362
<u>members:</u>	1363
(a) A chairperson appointed by the secretary of state;	1364
(b) One member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;	1365 1366
(c) One member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;	1367 1368
(d) One member appointed by the president of the senate;	1369
(e) One member appointed by the senate minority leader;	1370
<u>(f) One alternate member appointed by the secretary of</u>	1371
<u>state;</u>	1372
<u>(g) One alternate member appointed by the legislative</u>	1373
<u>leader of the largest political party in the senate of which the</u>	1374
<u>secretary of state is not a member.</u>	1375
(2) (a) Subject to division (A) (2) (b) of this section, each	1376
member of the commission shall be a registered elector to whom	1377
at least one of the following applies:	1378
(i) The person is an attorney in good standing before the	1379
supreme court of Ohio.	1380
(ii) The person has at least four years of work experience	1381
in election administration.	1382
(b) At all times, at least three members of the commission	1383
shall be attorneys in good standing before the supreme court of	1384
Ohio. If, at any time that multiple appointments to the	1385
commission are made simultaneously, too few of the intended	1386
appointees are attorneys, the following appointing officials	1387
shall have priority in selecting their preferred appointees who	1388

are not attorneys, in the order stated, and the appointing 1389
officials with lower priority shall select appointees who are 1390
attorneys: the secretary of state, the speaker of the house of 1391
representatives, the president of the senate, the senate 1392
minority leader, and the house minority leader. 1393

(c) Each alternate member or temporary alternate member of 1394
the commission shall be a registered elector who is an attorney 1395
in good standing before the supreme court of Ohio. 1396

(3) The members of the commission appointed under 1397
divisions (A) (1) (a), (c), and (d) of this section shall serve 1398
initial terms of four years beginning on January 1, 2026, and 1399
the members appointed under divisions (A) (1) (b) and (e) of this 1400
section shall serve initial terms of two years beginning on 1401
January 1, 2026. Thereafter, all terms shall be four years. 1402

(4) The alternate members of the commission shall serve 1403
initial terms ending on December 31, 2028. The next alternate 1404
members shall serve terms of two years beginning on January 1, 1405
2029, and thereafter, all terms of alternate members shall be 1406
two years. 1407

(B) Each member or alternate member of the commission 1408
shall hold office from the date of the member's appointment 1409
until the end of the term for which the member was appointed. A 1410
member or alternate member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring 1411
prior to the expiration of the term for which the member's 1412
predecessor was appointed shall hold office for the remainder of 1413
that term. A member or alternate member shall continue in office 1414
subsequent to the expiration date of the member's term until the 1415
member's successor takes office or until a period of sixty days 1416
has elapsed, whichever occurs first. 1417

(C) A vacancy on the commission may be caused by death or 1418
resignation or by removal under division (I) of this section. 1419
Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as for the 1420
original appointment. 1421

~~(D)~~ (D) (1) Each member of the commission while in the 1422
performance of the business of the commission shall be entitled 1423
to receive compensation at the rate of twenty-five thousand 1424
dollars per year. ~~Members~~ 1425

(2) Each alternate member or temporary alternate member of 1426
the commission shall receive compensation at the rate of five 1427
hundred dollars per matter heard under division (B) of section 1428
3517.15 of the Revised Code. 1429

(3) Members, alternate members, and temporary alternate 1430
members shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and 1431
necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. 1432

(E) No member of the commission shall serve for more than 1433
two successive terms of four years. Terms are considered 1434
successive unless separated by a period of at least four years. 1435
In determining a person's eligibility to be a member of the 1436
commission, all of the following apply: 1437

(1) Time spent as a member in fulfillment of a term to 1438
which another person was first appointed shall not be 1439
considered, provided that a period of at least four years has 1440
passed between the time, if any, when the person previously was 1441
a member and the time the person is appointed to fulfill the 1442
unexpired term. 1443

(2) A person who is appointed to serve a full term and 1444
resigns before completing the term is considered to have served 1445
the full term. 1446

- (3) A two-year term served under division (A) (3) of this section is considered a full term of four years. 1447
1448
- (F) (1) No member, alternate member, or temporary alternate member of the Ohio election integrity commission shall do or be any of the following: 1449
1450
1451
- (a) Hold, or be a candidate for, an elected public office; 1452
- (b) Serve on a committee supporting or opposing a candidate or ballot question or issue; 1453
1454
- (c) Be an officer of the state central committee, a county central committee, or a district, city, township, or other committee of a political party or an officer of the executive committee of the state central committee, a county central committee, or a district, city, township, or other committee of a political party; 1455
1456
1457
1458
1459
1460
- (d) Be a legislative agent as defined in section 101.70 of the Revised Code or an executive agency lobbyist as defined in section 121.60 of the Revised Code; 1461
1462
1463
- (e) Solicit or be involved in soliciting contributions on behalf of a candidate, campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or political contributing entity; 1464
1465
1466
1467
- (f) Be compensated for providing goods or services to a candidate, campaign committee, political party, legislative campaign fund, political action committee, or political contributing entity; 1468
1469
1470
1471
- (g) Be a person or employee who is excluded from the definition of public employee pursuant to division (C) of section 4117.01 of the Revised Code. 1472
1473
1474

(2) No member, alternate member, or temporary alternate member of the commission shall make a contribution to, or for the benefit of, a campaign committee or committee in support of or opposition to a ballot question or issue, a political party, a legislative campaign fund, a political action committee, or a political contributing entity.

(G) (1) The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the written request of a majority of the members. The meetings and hearings of the commission under sections 3517.15 to 3517.18 of the Revised Code are subject to section 121.22 of the Revised Code.

(2) The commission shall adopt rules for its procedures in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. Four of the five members constitute a quorum. Except as otherwise provided in this section and in sections 3517.15 to 3517.18 of the Revised Code, no action shall be taken without the concurrence of a majority of the members.

(H) The secretary of state shall employ the technical, professional, and clerical employees that are necessary for the commission to carry out its duties, and the attorney general shall provide legal counsel to the commission upon the commission's request.

(I) (1) The secretary of state, the speaker or minority leader of the house of representatives, or the president or minority leader of the senate may file a complaint in the supreme court of Ohio, seeking the removal of a member, alternate member, or temporary alternate member of the commission on any of the following grounds:

(a) That the member does not meet the applicable

requirements of division (A) (2) of this section; 1504

(b) That the member has violated division (F) of this 1505
section; 1506

(c) ~~That~~ In the case of a regular member, that the member 1507
has been absent from three or more meetings of the commission in 1508
a calendar year; 1509

(d) That the member is guilty of misconduct in office, as 1510
described in section 3.07 of the Revised Code. 1511

(2) The court shall hear a complaint filed with it under 1512
division (I) (1) of this section on an expedited basis. If the 1513
court determines that the charges in the complaint are true, the 1514
court shall order the member removed from the commission, and 1515
the seat shall be considered vacant. 1516

Sec. 3517.15. (A) (1) No prosecution shall commence for a 1517
violation of a provision in sections 145.054, 742.043, 3307.073, 1518
3309.073, 3517.08 to 3517.12, 3517.13, 3517.20 to 3517.22, 1519
3599.03, 3599.031, or 5505.045 of the Revised Code unless a 1520
complaint has been filed with the secretary of state under 1521
section 3517.16 of the Revised Code and all proceedings under 1522
sections 3517.16 to 3517.18 of the Revised Code are completed. 1523

(2) A complaint may be filed with the secretary of state 1524
under section 3517.16 of the Revised Code for a violation of a 1525
provision in sections 3501.35, 3599.13, 3599.14, or 3599.21, 1526
division (A) of section 3599.11, or division (A) (1) or (2) of 1527
section 3599.12 of the Revised Code that occurs on or after ~~the~~ 1528
~~effective date of this amendment~~ September 30, 2025. A 1529
prosecution may commence for a violation of such a provision at 1530
any time before or after a complaint has been filed with the 1531
secretary of state under section 3517.16 of the Revised Code. 1532

(B) (1) The Ohio election integrity commission shall hear 1533
all matters referred to the commission by the secretary of state 1534
under division (E) (3) of section 3517.16 of the Revised Code. 1535

(2) No member, alternate member, or temporary alternate 1536
member of the commission shall participate in any meeting, 1537
deliberation, or vote on any matter in which the person is a 1538
party, is involved, or otherwise has a conflict of interest. A 1539
member, alternate member, or temporary alternate member shall 1540
recuse the person's self from any such matter. A member, 1541
alternate member, or temporary alternate member may recuse the 1542
person's self from any other matter to avoid any appearance of 1543
impropriety. 1544

(3) When a member is recused under division (B) (2) of this 1545
section, the alternate member of the commission who was 1546
appointed by an authority who is a member of the same political 1547
party as the authority that appointed the recused member shall 1548
serve in the recused member's place, solely for the purpose of 1549
participating in any meeting, deliberation, or vote on the 1550
relevant matter. An alternate member shall participate in no 1551
other meeting, deliberation, or vote of the commission. 1552

(4) When an alternate member is recused under division (B) 1553
(2) of this section or is unavailable to serve in place of a 1554
member because multiple members are recused, the authority who 1555
appointed the alternate member shall appoint a temporary 1556
alternate member to serve in the alternate member's place, 1557
solely for the purpose of participating in any meeting, 1558
deliberation, or vote on the relevant matter. A temporary 1559
alternate member shall participate in no other meeting, 1560
deliberation, or vote of the commission. The temporary alternate 1561
member's term of office ends at the disposition of the relevant 1562

matter. 1563

(5) When a temporary alternate member is recused under 1564
division (B) (2) of this section, the authority who appointed the 1565
temporary alternate member shall appoint another temporary 1566
alternate member in accordance with division (B) (4) of this 1567
section. 1568

(C) The commission may recommend legislation and render 1569
advisory opinions concerning the provisions of the Revised Code 1570
listed in division (A) of this section for persons over whose 1571
acts the commission has or may have jurisdiction. When the 1572
commission renders an advisory opinion relating to a specific 1573
set of circumstances involving any of those sections stating 1574
that there is no violation of a provision in those sections, the 1575
person to whom the opinion is directed or a person who is 1576
similarly situated may reasonably rely on the opinion and is 1577
immune from criminal prosecution and a civil action, including, 1578
without limitation, a civil action for removal from public 1579
office or employment, based on facts and circumstances covered 1580
by the opinion. An advisory opinion issued by the Ohio elections 1581
commission that is in effect as of ~~the effective date of this~~ 1582
~~amendment~~ September 30, 2025, is considered an advisory opinion 1583
of the Ohio election integrity commission, unless and until the 1584
Ohio election integrity commission amends or rescinds the 1585
advisory opinion. 1586

~~(C)~~ (D) The secretary of state and the boards of elections 1587
shall furnish the information that the commission requests. The 1588
commission or a member of the commission may administer oaths, 1589
and the commission may issue subpoenas to any person in the 1590
state compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production 1591
of relevant papers, books, accounts, and reports. Section 101.42 1592

of the Revised Code governs the issuance of subpoenas insofar as 1593
applicable. Upon the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena or 1594
to be sworn or to answer as a witness, the commission may apply 1595
to the court of common pleas of Franklin county under section 1596
2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall hold proceedings in 1597
accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code. 1598

~~(D)~~ (E) The Ohio election integrity commission shall 1599
establish a web site on which it shall post, at a minimum, all 1600
decisions and advisory opinions issued by the commission, all 1601
decisions and advisory opinions issued by the Ohio elections 1602
commission before ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ September 1603
30, 2025, and copies of each election law as it is amended by 1604
the general assembly. The Ohio election integrity commission 1605
shall update the web site regularly to reflect any changes to 1606
those decisions and advisory opinions and any new decisions and 1607
advisory opinions. 1608

Sec. 3517.16. (A) (1) Any person who has personal knowledge 1609
of a violation of a provision of the Revised Code listed in 1610
division (A) of section 3517.15 of the Revised Code may file a 1611
complaint with the secretary of state, on a form prescribed by 1612
the secretary of state and signed under penalty of perjury. 1613

(2) An official at a board of elections may file a 1614
complaint with the secretary of state, on a form prescribed by 1615
the secretary of state and signed under penalty of perjury, 1616
alleging a violation of a provision of the Revised Code listed 1617
in division (A) of section 3517.15 of the Revised Code. 1618

(3) The election integrity unit of the office of the 1619
secretary of state may initiate a complaint alleging a violation 1620
of a provision of the Revised Code listed in division (A) of 1621
section 3517.16 of the Revised Code. 1622

(B) (1) Subject to division (F) of this section, the election integrity unit shall review each complaint filed with the secretary of state under division (A) (1) or (2) of this section. If the complaint does not allege a violation of a provision of the Revised Code listed in division (A) of section 3517.15 of the Revised Code or, in the case of a complaint filed under division (A) (1) of this section, is not based on personal knowledge, the secretary of state shall dismiss the complaint. Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) of this section, a dismissal under this division is without prejudice.

(2) After a complaint is dismissed under division (B) (1) of this section on the ground that the complaint is not based on personal knowledge, if the same person files another complaint alleging the same or a substantially similar violation and the complaint is not based on personal knowledge, the secretary of state shall dismiss the complaint with prejudice.

(3) If the complaint is not dismissed under division (B) (1) or (2) of this section, the election integrity unit shall investigate the complaint.

(C) Subject to division (F) of this section, the election integrity unit shall draft a report to the secretary of state concerning each complaint filed under division (A) of this section that is not dismissed under division (B) of this section. The report shall recommend that the secretary of state make a particular finding and, if applicable, impose a fine or refer the matter for prosecution, in accordance with section 3517.17 of the Revised Code.

(D) The election integrity unit may join two or more complaints if the unit determines that the allegations in each complaint are of the same or similar character, are based on the

same act or failure to act, or are based on two or more acts or 1653
failures to act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. 1654
If one complaint contains two or more allegations, the unit may 1655
separate the allegations if they are not of the same or similar 1656
character, if they are not based on the same act or failure to 1657
act, or if they are not based on two or more acts or failures to 1658
act constituting parts of a common scheme or plan. If the unit 1659
separates the allegations in a complaint, the unit may make 1660
separate recommendations under division (C) of this section for 1661
each allegation. 1662

(E) (1) Upon receiving the recommendation of the election 1663
integrity unit under division (C) of this section, the secretary 1664
of state shall review the report and recommendation and shall do 1665
one of the following: 1666

(a) Refer the matter back to the unit for further 1667
investigation and a revised recommendation under division (C) of 1668
this section; 1669

(b) Make a finding in accordance with section 3517.17 of 1670
the Revised Code, and, if applicable, impose a fine or refer the 1671
matter for prosecution. 1672

(2) The secretary of state shall serve notice of the 1673
secretary of state's decision under division (E) (1) (b) of this 1674
section on the person who is alleged to have committed the 1675
violation in accordance with section 119.05 of the Revised Code. 1676

(3) If the secretary of state finds that a violation has 1677
occurred and imposes a fine and, within fourteen days after 1678
service of the notice is complete under section 119.05 of the 1679
Revised Code, the person objects to the secretary of state's 1680
decision, the secretary of state shall not impose ~~a~~ the ~~fine or~~ 1681

~~refer the matter for prosecution,~~ and immediately shall refer 1682
the matter to the Ohio election integrity commission for its 1683
determination under section 3517.17 of the Revised Code. 1684

(4) If the secretary of state finds that a violation has 1685
occurred and imposes a fine and the person does not object to 1686
the secretary of state's decision within fourteen days after 1687
receiving the notice, the secretary of state's decision is final 1688
and, ~~if applicable,~~ the secretary of state shall impose a the 1689
~~fine or refer the matter for prosecution as determined under~~ 1690
~~division (E) (1) (b) of this section.~~ 1691

(F) (1) If any of the following apply to a complaint, the 1692
secretary of state shall proceed under division (F) (2) of this 1693
section: 1694

(a) The secretary of state is a party to the complaint. 1695

(b) A candidate for an office for which the secretary of 1696
state is also a candidate is a party to the complaint or is 1697
otherwise involved in the complaint. 1698

(c) The complaint involves a contribution, expenditure, or 1699
independent expenditure made to advocate the election or defeat 1700
of the secretary of state or a candidate for an office for which 1701
the secretary of state is also a candidate. 1702

(d) The secretary of state determines that the secretary 1703
of state otherwise has a conflict of interest with respect to 1704
the complaint or that the secretary of state should proceed 1705
under division (F) (2) of this section to avoid any appearance of 1706
impropriety. 1707

(2) Notwithstanding any contrary provision of divisions 1708
(B) to (E) of this section, when division (F) (1) of this section 1709
applies to a complaint, the secretary of state shall request the 1710

attorney general to designate one or more persons to fulfill the 1711
duties of the election integrity unit described in divisions (B) 1712
to (D) of this section. The attorney general shall designate 1713
those persons and shall fulfill the duties of the secretary of 1714
state under divisions (B) to (D) of this section. 1715

Section 2. That existing sections 109.71, 109.77, 2935.01, 1716
3501.05, 3501.055, 3503.02, 3503.14, 3503.21, 3503.33, 3517.14, 1717
3517.15, and 3517.16 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 1718

Section 3. Sections 3503.14, 3503.21, 3503.33, 3503.34, 1719
and 3503.35 of the Revised Code, as amended or enacted by this 1720
act, shall be known as the Interstate Voter Assistance Act. 1721