

HOUSE BILL No. 2016

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to voter registration; including funeral home online obituary notices as sufficient grounds for removal of a deceased voter from the voter registration books; requiring that poll workers be citizens of the United States and live within the state of Kansas; prohibiting the disqualification of active military members, spouses or other dependents who are citizens of the United States as poll workers on the basis of residency or being a registered voter; relating to advance voting ballot applications; modifying the requirements for soliciting registered voters to submit advance voting applications; amending K.S.A. 25-2804 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 25-1122 and 25-2316c and repealing the existing sections.

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

New Section 1. (a) No county election officer shall disqualify an individual from serving as a poll worker at any election on the basis of residency or registered voter status if such individual is a citizen of the United States and an active military member or the spouse or other dependent of an active military member.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise restrict any poll worker qualifications based on the age of the individual, except as provided in K.S.A. 25-2804, and amendments thereto.

(c) "Active military member" means any person with full-time duty status in the armed forces of the United States, including members of the national guard and reserve.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 25-1122 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1122. (a) Any registered voter may file with the county election officer where such person is a resident, or where such person is authorized by law to vote as a former precinct resident, an application for an advance voting ballot. The signed application shall be transmitted only to the county election officer by personal delivery, mail, facsimile or as otherwise provided by law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

verifying the person's identity. If the county election officer is unable to reach the person, the county election officer may transmit a provisional ballot, however, such provisional ballot may not be counted unless a signature is included therewith that can be verified; and

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

(f) (1) Applications for advance voting ballots to be transmitted to the voter by mail shall be filed only at the following times:

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

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

(C) for the presidential preference primary election held pursuant to K.S.A. 25-4501a, and amendments thereto, between January 1 of the year in which such election is held and 30 days prior to the day of such election;

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

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

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

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

(g) (1) Unless an earlier date is designated by the county election office, applications for advance voting ballots transmitted to the voter in person shall be filed on the Tuesday next preceding the election and on each subsequent business day until no later than ~~12~~ 12:00 noon on the day preceding such election. If the county election officer so provides, applications for advance voting ballots transmitted to the voter in person in the office of the county election officer also may be filed on the Saturday preceding the election. Upon receipt of any such properly executed application, the county election officer shall deliver to the voter such ballots and instructions as are provided for in this act.

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

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

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

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

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

(k) (1) Any person who solicits by mail a registered voter to file an application for an advance voting ballot and includes an application for an advance voting ballot in such mailing shall include on ~~the exterior of such mailing, and on each a page contained therein, except the application,~~ in such mailing a clear and conspicuous label in ~~14-point~~ 10-point font or larger that includes:

(A) The name of the individual or organization that caused such solicitation to be mailed;

(B) ~~if an organization, the name of the president, chief executive officer or executive director of such organization;~~

~~(C)~~ the address of such individual or organization; and

~~(D)~~(C) the following statement: "Disclosure: This is not a government mailing. It is from a private individual or organization."

(2) The application for an advance voting ballot included in such mailing shall be the official application for advance ballot by mail provided by the secretary of state *or the appropriate county election*

office. No portion of such application shall be completed prior to mailing such application to the registered voter, *except that the date of the election may be printed on the application.*

(3) An application for an advance voting ballot shall include ~~an envelope addressed to the appropriate county election office for the mailing of such application~~ *information on how to mail such application to the appropriate county election office.* In no case shall the person who mails the application to the voter direct that the completed application be returned to such person.

(4) The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to:

(A) The secretary of state or any election official or county election office; or

(B) the official protection and advocacy for voting access agency for this state as designated pursuant to the federal help America vote act of 2002, public law 107-252, or any other entity required to provide information concerning elections and voting procedures by federal law.

(5) A violation of this subsection is a class C nonperson misdemeanor.

(l) (1) No person shall mail or cause to be mailed an application for an advance voting ballot, unless such person is a resident of this state or is otherwise domiciled in this state.

(2) Any individual may file a complaint in writing with the attorney general alleging a violation of this subsection. Such complaint shall include the name of the person alleged to have violated this subsection and any other information as required by the attorney general. Upon receipt of a complaint, the attorney general shall investigate and may file an action against any person found to have violated this subsection.

(3) Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is subject to a civil penalty of \$20. Each instance in which a person mails an application for an advance voting ballot in violation of this section shall constitute a separate violation.

(m) A county election officer shall not mail a ballot to a voter unless such voter has submitted an application for an advance voting ballot, except that a ballot may be mailed to a voter if such voter has permanent advance voting ballot status pursuant to subsection (h) or if the election is conducted pursuant to the mail ballot election act, K.S.A. 25-431 et seq., and amendments thereto.

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

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 25-2316c is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2316c. (a) When a registered voter changes name by marriage, divorce or legal proceeding, if the voter is otherwise qualified to vote at such voting place the voter shall be allowed to vote a provisional ballot at any election, or apply for an advance voting ballot, on the condition that the voter first completes the application for registration prescribed by K.S.A. 25-2309, and amendments thereto. Completion of the application shall authorize the county election officer to update the registration records, if appropriate, for voting in future elections. The county election officer shall send, by nonforwardable mail, a notice of disposition to any voter completing such application.

(b) When a registered voter changes residence, the voter shall reregister in order to be eligible to vote, except that when a registrant has moved from an address on the registration book to another address within the county and has not reregistered, the registrant shall be allowed to vote a provisional ballot at any election, or to apply for an advance voting ballot, on the condition that the registrant first completes the application for registration prescribed by K.S.A. 25-2309, and amendments thereto. Completion of the application shall authorize the county election officer to update the registration record, if appropriate, for voting in future elections. The county election officer shall send, by nonforwardable mail, a notice of disposition to any such

voter. Whenever the county election officer receives from any other election officer a notice of registration of a voter in a different place than that shown in the records of the county election officer, the officer shall remove the name of the voter from the registration book and party affiliation list.

(c) Every application for registration completed under this section shall be returned to the county election officer with the registration books.

(d) A registrant shall not be removed from the registration list on the ground that the registrant has changed residence unless the registrant:

(1) Confirms in writing that the registrant has moved outside the county in which the registrant is registered, or registers to vote in any other jurisdiction; or

(2) (A) (i) has failed to respond to the notice described in subsection (e)(1) through (e)(4); or (ii) the notice described in subsection (e)(5) is returned as undeliverable; and (B) has not appeared to vote in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second federal general election that occurs after the date of the notice.

(e) A county election officer shall send a confirmation notice, upon which a registrant may state such registrant's current address, within 45 days of the following events:

(1) A notice of disposition of an application for voter registration is returned as undeliverable;

(2) change of address information supplied by the national change of address program identifies a registrant whose address may have changed;

(3) if it appears from information provided by the postal service that a registrant has moved to a different residence address in the county in which the registrant is currently registered;

(4) if it appears from information provided by the postal service that a registrant has moved to a different residence address outside the county in which the registrant is currently registered; or

(5) if the registrant has no election-related activity for any four-calendar-year period. No election-related activity means that the elector has not voted, attempted to vote, requested or submitted an advance ballot application, filed an updated voter registration card, signed a petition, which is required by law to be verified by the county election officer or the secretary of state, or responded to any official election mailing transmitted by the county election office.

The confirmation notice shall be sent by forwardable mail and shall include a postage prepaid and preaddressed return card in a form prescribed by the chief state election official.

(f) (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, when a voter dies or is disqualified for voting, the registration of the voter shall be void, and the county election officer shall remove such voter's name from the registration books and the party affiliation lists.

~~Whenever (1)(2) The county election officer shall remove the name of a registered voter from the registration books and the party affiliation lists in such officer's office when:~~

(A) An obituary notice appears in a newspaper having general circulation in the county reports the death of ~~a such registered voter; or~~ ~~(2) a;~~

(B) ~~an obituary notice published online by a funeral home located in the county reports the death of such registered voter;~~

(C) ~~such registered voter requests in writing that such voter's name be removed from registration; or (3);~~

(D) ~~a court of competent jurisdiction orders removal of the name of a such registered voter from registration lists; or (4); or~~

(E) ~~the name of a such registered voter appears on a list of deceased residents compiled by the secretary of health and environment as provided in K.S.A. 65-2422, and amendments thereto; or appears on a copy of a death certificate provided by the secretary of health and~~

environment; or appears in information provided by the social security administration; ~~the county election officer shall remove from the registration books and the party affiliation lists in such officer's office the name of any person shown by such list or death certificate to be deceased.~~

(3) The county election officer shall not use or permit the use of ~~such~~ any lists of deceased residents or copies of ~~such lists~~ for any other purpose than *as* provided in this section.

(g) When the chief state election official receives written notice of a felony conviction in a United States district court, such official shall notify within five days the county election officer of the jurisdiction in which the offender resides. Upon notification of a felony conviction from the chief state election official, or from a county or district attorney or a Kansas district court, the county election officer shall remove the name of the offender from the registration records.

(h) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person whose name has been removed from the registration books shall be entitled to vote until such person has registered again.

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-2804 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2804. (a) Each person recommended as provided in K.S.A. 25-2803(a), and amendments thereto, shall be ~~a resident of the area served by the voting place in which such person is to be a judge or clerk~~ *citizen of the United States and live within the state of Kansas.*

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, All judges and clerks shall have the qualifications of an elector in the election at which they serve, and be a citizen of the United States and live within the state of Kansas.~~ No judge or clerk shall be a candidate for any office, other than the office of precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman, to be elected at such election. The county election officer may appoint persons who are at least 16 years of age to serve as election judges or clerks if such persons meet all other requirements ~~for qualification of an elector~~ and have a letter of recommendation from a school teacher, counselor or administrator. No more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the persons appointed to each election board may be under the age of 18.

(c) The county election officer may establish a pool of trained judges and clerks who shall be recommended by the county chairpersons specified in K.S.A. 25-2803(a), and amendments thereto. Judges and clerks in such pool may serve at voting places other than their own if:

(1) The chairpersons specified in K.S.A. 25-2803(a), and amendments thereto, or either of them, have failed to make appropriate recommendations;

(2) it is impossible to obtain judges and clerks for a voting place in any other way; or

(3) voting machines are used, in which case the third judge, who shall be trained in the use of voting machines, need not necessarily live in the area of the voting place.

(d) Any judge or clerk serving in a voting place not located in the area in which such judge or clerk resides or serving on a special election board established under K.S.A. 25-1133(c), and amendments thereto, shall be allowed to vote an advance voting ballot in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 25-1119, and amendments thereto, or shall be excused from duties as such judge or clerk to vote at the voting place in the area where such judge or clerk resides.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-2804 and K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 25-1122 and 25-2316c are hereby repealed.

Sec. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

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

HOUSE adopted
Conference Committee Report_____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended_____

SENATE adopted
Conference Committee Report_____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.