

Advance Ballots and Signature Requirements; Polling Places; Municipal Office Filing Date; Oaths of Office for Township Officers; School Board Changes; Sub. for SB 130

Sub. for SB 130 amends law concerning advance ballots and associated signature requirements; polling places; the filing date for municipal offices and the date certain newly elected township officers take the oath of office; dates appointed school board officials take office; school board regular meeting times; and school board voting plan elections.

Advance Ballots and Signature Requirements

The bill requires county election officers to make an attempt to contact each voter who submitted an advance voting ballot without a signature or with a signature that does not match the signature on file and allow the voter to correct the deficiency before the commencement of the final county canvass.

Polling Places

The bill allows all voters in a county to vote at any polling place on election day, at the discretion of the county election official.

Municipal Office Filing Date

The bill changes the filing deadline for any candidate in a municipal election from September 1 prior to the general election in odd-numbered years (or the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, if the filing deadline falls on such date) to June 1, or the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, before the primary election in even- and odd-numbered years, regardless of whether a primary is required.

Oaths of Office for Township Officers

The bill removes from the requirement for a newly elected trustee, clerk, or treasurer of any township or any appointed road overseer in any road district to take the oath of office that the oath be taken within 20 days after being notified of such election.

School Board-related Changes

The bill removes language requiring local board of education (board) officials who are replacing members of the board to be appointed by November 15.

The bill requires the first meeting of the board to be on or after the second Monday in January or at a later meeting during the calendar year, if so determined by the board at the first meeting, rather than in July.

The bill requires the board to adopt a resolution specifying the regular meeting time, the regular hour for the meeting to begin, the day of the week, and the week of the month on or after the second Monday in January and before February 1, or at a later date during the calendar year if so determined by the board, instead of during the month of July.

The bill removes the requirement school districts make changes in the method of elections or voting plans, or both, during the period beginning on the first Wednesday in November of each even-numbered year and ending on the first Tuesday in June of each odd-numbered year and requires a change in the method of elections or voting plan, or both, to be submitted to voters at any primary or general election, or at a special election called for that purpose.