

HOUSE BILL No. 2128

AN ACT concerning elections; amending K.S.A. 25-2407, 25-3005a and 25-4156 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 25-213 and repealing the existing sections.

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

Section 1. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 25-213 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-213. At all national and state primary elections, the national and state offices as specified for each in this section shall be printed upon the official primary election ballot for national and state offices and the county and township offices as specified for each in this section shall be printed upon the official primary election ballot for county and township offices. The official primary election ballots shall have the following heading:

**OFFICIAL PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT**

\_\_\_\_\_ Party

To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot make a cross or check mark in the square at the left of the person's name. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the person's name in the blank space, if any is provided, and make a cross or check mark in the square to the left.

The words national and state or the words county and township shall appear on the line preceding the part of the form shown above.

The form shown shall be followed by the names of the persons for whom nomination petitions or declarations have been filed according to law for political parties having primary elections, and for the national and state offices in the following order: United States senator, United States representative from \_\_\_\_\_ district, governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, commissioner of insurance, senator \_\_\_\_\_ district, representative \_\_\_\_\_ district, district judge \_\_\_\_\_ district, district magistrate judge \_\_\_\_\_ district, district attorney \_\_\_\_\_ judicial district, and member state board of education \_\_\_\_\_ district. For county and township offices the form shall be followed by the names of persons for whom nomination petitions or declarations have been filed according to law for political parties having primary elections in the following order: commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ district, county clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, county attorney, sheriff, township trustee, township treasurer, township clerk. When any office is not to be elected, it shall be omitted from the ballot. Other offices to be elected but not listed, shall be inserted in the proper places. For each office there shall be a statement of the number to vote for.

To the left of each name there shall be printed a square. Official primary election ballots may be printed in one or more columns. The names certified by the secretary of state or county election officer shall be printed on official primary election ballots and no others. In case there are no nomination petitions or declarations on file for any particular office, the title to the office shall be printed on the ballot followed by a blank line with a square, and such title, followed by a blank line, may be printed in the list of candidates published in the official paper. No blank line shall be printed following any office where there are nomination petitions or declarations on file for the office except following the offices of precinct committeeman and precinct committeewoman. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no person's name shall be printed more than once on either the official primary election ballot for national and state offices or the official primary election ballot for county and township offices. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot as a candidate of a political party shall be printed or written in as a candidate for any office on the official primary election ballot of any other political party. If a person is a candidate for the unexpired term for an office, the person's name may be printed on the same ballot as a candidate for the next regular term for such office. The name of any candidate on the ballot may be printed on the same ballot as such candidate and also as a candidate for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot for national and state offices shall be printed or written elsewhere on such ballot or on the official primary election ballot for county and township offices except for precinct committeeman or committeewoman. No name that is printed on the official primary election ballot for county and township offices shall be printed or written in on the official primary election ballot for national and state offices or elsewhere on such county and township ballot except for precinct committeeman or committeewoman.

No person shall be elected to the office of precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman where no nomination petitions or declarations have been filed, unless the person receives at least five write-in votes. As a result of a primary election, no person shall receive the nomination and no person's name shall be printed on the official general election ballot when no nomination petitions or declarations were filed, unless the person receives votes equal in number to not less than ~~10%~~ 5% of the ~~electors who voted for the office of secretary of state at the last preceding general election for such office~~ total of the current voter registration designated in the state, county or district in which the office is sought, *as compiled by the office of the secretary of state*, except that a candidate for township office may receive the nomination and have such person's name printed on the ballot where no nomination petitions or declarations have been filed if such candidate receives three or more write-in votes. No such person shall be required to obtain more than 5,000 votes.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-3005a is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-3005a. (a) As used in this act "authorized poll agent" means any one of the following persons:

- (1) Chairperson of county party committee;
- (2) chairpersons of committees concerned with question submitted elections;
- (3) chairperson of state party committee;
- (4) any candidate;
- (5) any precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman;
- (6) any write-in candidate who has filed an affidavit of write-in pursuant to K.S.A. 25-305, and amendments thereto;
- (7) any person appointed as provided in this section by any of the persons specified in this subsection.

(b) Every person appointed to be an authorized poll agent under authority of this act shall be so appointed in writing by the person making such appointment. Such written appointment *shall be filed with the county election office by hand delivery, express delivery service, facsimile transmission or any electronic method authorized by the secretary of state and a copy of such appointment* shall be carried by the authorized poll agent at all times such person is acting as such agent and shall be displayed upon demand of any member of any election board or any other election officer. *Each authorized poll agent shall wear a badge clearly identifying the wearer as an authorized poll agent. The badge shall contain the word "observer" in 32-point or larger type. The badge shall be issued by the county election officer.* Every appointment of an authorized poll agent shall be made in such form as is approved by the secretary of state. The number of authorized poll agents in each voting place at any one time appointed by any of the following shall be limited to the number indicated:

- (1) State and county chairpersons, one;
- (2) candidates, not to exceed one each;
- (3) precinct committeemen and committeewomen, one each;
- (4) the chairperson of each committee or organization concerned with any election on a question submitted, one each;
- (5) write-in candidates who have filed an affidavit or write-in pursuant to K.S.A. 25-305, and amendments thereto, one each.

(c) When any candidate or any precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman is acting as an authorized poll agent, such person shall carry identification which shall be supplied by the county election officer. Such identification shall indicate the authority by which such person is an authorized poll agent, and the same shall be in such form as is approved by the secretary of state. Whenever an authorized poll agent is required to carry identification under the provisions of this subsection such agent shall display the same upon demand of any member of any election board or any other election officer.

(d) *Each person appointed to be an authorized poll agent shall:*

- (1) *Be a registered Kansas voter;*
- (2) *a member of any candidate's immediate family; or*
- (3) *be a person under 18 years of age but at least 14 years of age who meets all other requirements for qualification of an elector except that of age.*

~~(d)~~ (e) The provisions of this section shall apply to all elections.

(f) *Violations of this section shall be a class C nonperson misdemeanor.*

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 25-2407 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2407. Corrupt political advertising is:

(a) (1) Publishing or causing to be published in a newspaper or other periodical any paid matter which ~~is designed or tends to aid, injure or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to public office expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of any candidate,~~ unless such matter is followed by the word “advertisement” or the abbreviation “adv.” in a separate line together with the name of the chairman of the political or other organization inserting the same or the name of the person who is responsible therefor; or

~~(b) (2) broadcasting or causing to be broadcast by any radio or television station any paid matter which is designed or tends to aid, injure or defeat any candidate for nomination or election to public office expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of any candidate,~~ unless such matter is followed by a statement ~~that the preceding was an advertisement together with the name of the chairman of the~~ which states: “Paid for” or “Sponsored by” followed by the name of the sponsoring organization and the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the person who is responsible therefor; or

~~(c) (3) publishing or causing to be published in a newspaper or other periodical any paid matter which is intended to influence the vote of any person or persons for or against any question submitted for a proposition to amend the constitution or to authorize the issuance of bonds or any other question submitted at an election, unless such matter is followed by the word “advertisement” or the abbreviation “adv.” in a separate line together with the name of the chairman of the political or other organization inserting the same or the name of the person who is responsible therefor; or~~

~~(d) (4) broadcasting or causing to be broadcast by any radio or television station any paid matter which is intended to influence the vote of any person or persons for or against any question submitted for a proposition to amend the constitution or to authorize the issuance of bonds or any other question submitted at an election, unless such matter is followed by the a statement that the preceding was an advertisement together with the name of the chairman of the~~ which states: “Paid for” or “Sponsored by” followed by the name of the sponsoring organization and the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the person who is responsible therefor; or

(5) *publishing or causing to be published any brochure, flier or other political fact sheet which is intended to influence the vote of any person or persons for or against any question submitted for a proposition to amend the constitution or to authorize the issuance of bonds or any other question submitted at an election, unless such matter is followed by a statement which states: “Paid for” or “Sponsored by” followed by the name of the sponsoring organization and the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the individual who is responsible therefor.*

(b) Corrupt political advertising is a class C misdemeanor.

(c) *For the purposes of this section, the term “expressly advocate the nomination, election or defeat of a candidate” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in K.S.A. 25-4143 and amendments thereto.*

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-4156 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4156. (a) (1) Whenever any person sells space in any newspaper, magazine or other periodical to a candidate or to a candidate committee, party committee or political committee, the charge made for the use of such space shall not exceed the charges made for comparable use of such space for other purposes.

(2) Intentionally charging an excessive amount for political advertising is a class A misdemeanor.

(b) (1) Corrupt political advertising of a state or local office is:

(A) Publishing or causing to be published in a newspaper or other periodical any paid matter which expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local

office, unless such matter is followed by the word “advertisement” or the abbreviation “adv.” in a separate line together with the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the individual who is responsible therefor;

(B) broadcasting or causing to be broadcast by any radio or television station any paid matter which expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office, unless such matter is followed by a statement which states: “Paid for” or “Sponsored by” followed by the name of the sponsoring organization and the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the individual who is responsible therefor; or

(C) publishing or causing to be published any brochure, flier or other political fact sheet which expressly advocates the nomination, election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for a state or local office, unless such matter is followed by *a statement which states: “Paid for” or “Sponsored by” followed by the name of the chairperson or treasurer of the political or other organization sponsoring the same or the name of the individual who is responsible therefor.*

The provisions of this subsection (C) requiring the disclosure of the name of an individual shall not apply to individuals making expenditures in an aggregate amount of less than \$2,500 within a calendar year.

(2) Corrupt political advertising of a state or local office is a class C misdemeanor.

(c) If any provision of this section or application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid application or provision, and to this end the provisions of this section are declared to be severable.

New Sec. 5. Advance voting suppression is knowingly, with intent to impede, obstruct or exert undue influence on the election process: (a) Destroying or altering another person’s advance voting ballot applied for, or completed, by a registered voter, unless such registered voter consents in writing to such destruction or alteration;

(b) obstructing the delivery of an advance voting ballot to a voter or a completed advance voting ballot to the county election officer;

(c) failing to deliver any such advance voting ballot to the appropriate county election officer within two business days or before the close of polls on election day, whichever first occurs;

(d) exercising undue influence upon an advance voter in applying for, delivering or marking an advance voting ballot; or

(e) opening an advance voting ballot envelope sealed by the voter or examining or disclosing the contents of such voter’s advance voting ballot except as required to fulfill official duties as otherwise prescribed by law.

(f) Delivering an advance voting ballot to the United States mail, with first-class postage attached, at least five calendar days prior to election day for delivery to the county election officer shall not be a violation of this section.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) “Undue influence” means coercion, compulsion or restraint as to diminish the voter’s free agency, and by overcoming the power of resistance, obliges or causes such voter to adopt the will of another; and

(2) “deliver” means hand-deliver, mail or otherwise transmit an advance voting ballot.

Advance voting suppression is a severity level 9, nonperson felony.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 25-2407, 25-3005a and 25-4156 and K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 25-213 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas Register.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and passed that body

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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.*