

SENATE BILL No. 171

AN ACT concerning elections; pertaining to efficiency in handling ballots from military personnel and other official services absentee voters; pertaining to advance voting ballots; pertaining to candidate filing deadlines; amending K.S.A. 25-205, 25-1218 and 25-4004 and K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-1124, 25-1128 and 25-1216 and repealing the existing sections.

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

Section 1. K.S.A. 25-1218 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1218. (a) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form of official federal services absentee ballots. Such ballots shall provide for voting for all officers, ~~other than precinct committeeman and committeewoman, for whom the voter would otherwise be entitled to vote and shall also provide for voting on any proposed amendment to the constitution of the state of Kansas and any other~~ and on any proposition or question which is to be submitted to a vote of the qualified electors of the state at large for which the voter would otherwise be entitled to vote. Such ballots shall be uniform in size and in style of type, and the type and paper shall conform generally to that used for the regular official ballots. The respective county election officers shall cause to be prepared and printed such numbers of ballots as may be appropriate for carrying out the provisions of this act.

(b) Such ballots shall contain the title of each office to be voted for, followed by the name and address of each nominated candidate for each office, the party or independent body nominating such candidate, a designation of the political subdivision to be represented, and a blank space for writing in the name of any other person for whom the voter desires to vote, ~~except that~~. *Except for precinct committee men and committee women* no such blank space shall be printed on the primary ballot following the title of any office for which there is a candidate.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-1124 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1124. (a) Upon receipt of the advance voting ballot, the voter shall cast such voter's vote as follows: The voter shall make a cross or check mark in the square or parentheses opposite the name of each candidate or question for whom the voter desires to vote. The voter shall make no other mark, and shall allow no other person to make any mark, upon such ballot. If the advance voting ballot was transmitted by mail, the voter personally shall place the ballot in the ballot envelope bearing the same number as the ballot and seal the envelope. The voter shall complete the form on the ballot envelope and shall sign the same. Except as provided by K.S.A. 25-2908, and amendments thereto, the ballot envelope shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted to the county election officer. If the advance voting ballot was transmitted to the voter in person in the office of the county election officer or at a satellite advance voting site, the voter may deposit such ballot into a locked ballot box without an envelope.

(b) Any sick, physically disabled or illiterate voter who is unable to apply for or mark or transmit an advance voting ballot, may request assistance by a person who has signed a statement required by subsection (d) in applying for or marking an advance voting ballot.

(c) Any voted ballot may be transmitted to the county election officer by the voter or by another person ~~upon request of~~ *designated in writing by* the voter. Any such voted ballot shall be transmitted to the county election officer before the close of the polls on election day.

(d) The county election officer shall allow a person to assist a sick, physically disabled or illiterate voter in applying for or marking an application or advance voting ballot, provided a written statement is signed by the person who renders assistance to the sick, physically disabled or illiterate voter and submitted to the county election officer with the application or ballot. The statement shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state and shall contain a statement from the person providing assistance that the person has not exercised undue influence on the voting decision of the sick, physically disabled or illiterate voter and that the person providing assistance has completed the application or marked the ballot as instructed by the sick, physically disabled or illiterate voter.

(e) Any person assisting a sick, physically disabled or illiterate voter in applying for or marking an advance voting ballot who knowingly and willfully fails to sign and submit the statement required by this section or who exercises undue influence on the voting decision of such voter shall be guilty of a severity level 9 nonperson felony.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-1128 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1128. (a) No voter shall mark or transmit to the county elec-

tion officer more than one advance voting ballot, or set of one of each kind of ballot, if the voter is entitled to vote more than one such ballot at a particular election.

(b) Except as provided in K.S.A. 25-1124, and amendments thereto, no person shall interfere with or delay the transmission of any advance voting ballot application from a voter to the county election officer, nor shall any person mail, fax or otherwise cause the application to be sent to a place other than the county election office. Any person or group engaged in the distribution of advance voting ballot applications shall mail, fax or otherwise deliver any application signed by a voter to the county election office within two days after such application is signed by the applicant.

(c) *Except as otherwise provided by law, no person other than the voter shall sign an application for an advance voting ballot for such voter.*

~~(c)~~ (d) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person other than the voter, shall mark, sign or transmit to the county election officer any advance voting ballot or advance voting ballot envelope.

~~(d)~~ (e) No person, unless authorized by K.S.A. 25-1122 or K.S.A. 25-1124, and amendments thereto, shall intercept, interfere with, or delay the transmission of advance voting ballots from the county election officer to the voter.

~~(e)~~ (f) No person shall willfully and falsely affirm, declare or subscribe to any material fact in an affirmation form for an advance voting ballot, or set of advance voting ballots if the voter is entitled to vote more than one kind of advance voting ballot at a particular election, or in a declaration form on an advance voting ballot envelope.

~~(f)~~ ~~Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any person from mailing, carrying or otherwise conveying advance voting ballots or sets of advance voting ballots to the county election officer upon request of advance voting voters.~~

(g) *A voter may return such voter's advance voting ballot to the county election office by personal delivery or by mail. Upon written designation showing the date and signature by the voter on the ballot envelope, a person other than the voter may be designated to return the advance voting ballot by personal delivery or mail. Any such person designated by the voter shall sign a statement and date such statement at the time the ballot is taken from the voter and which statement appears on the ballot envelope that such person has not exercised undue influence on the voting decisions of the voter and agrees to deliver the ballot as directed by the voter. Any person designated by a voter to deliver such voter's advance voting ballot shall mail or deliver the ballot and the designation and statement required by this section to the county election office. Such delivery shall occur within two business days after receiving the ballot from the voter but not later than the close of polls on election day.*

~~(g)~~ (h) Violation of any provision of this section is a ~~class C misdemeanor~~ *severity level 9 nonperson felony. No person may be found to have violated subsection (g) unless there is evidence the violation was knowingly and willfully done.*

Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-205 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-205.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the names of candidates for national, state, county and township offices shall be printed upon the official primary ballot when each shall have qualified to become a candidate by one of the following methods and none other: (1) They shall have had filed in their behalf, not later than 12:00 noon, ~~June 10~~ *June 1*, prior to such primary election, or if such date falls on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, then before 12:00 noon of the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, nomination petitions, as provided for in this act, except that in 1998, candidates for judge or district magistrate judge of the district court for positions created in 1998 in those judicial districts that have not approved the proposition of nonpartisan selection of judges of the district court shall have filed in their behalf, not later than 12:00 noon, July 1, 1998, nomination petitions, as provided for in this act; or (2) they shall have filed not later than the time for filing nomination petitions, as above provided, with the proper officer a declaration of intention to become a candidate, accompanied by the fee re-

quired by law. Such declaration shall be prescribed by the secretary of state.

(b) Nomination petitions shall be in substantially the following form:

I, the undersigned, an elector of the county of _____, and state of Kansas, and a duly registered voter, and a member of _____ party, hereby nominate _____, who resides in the township of _____ (or at number _____ on _____ street, city of _____), in the county of _____ and state of Kansas, as a candidate for the office of (here specify the office) _____, to be voted for at the primary election to be held on the first Tuesday in August in _____, as representing the principles of such party; and I further declare that I intend to support the candidate herein named and that I have not signed and will not sign any nomination petition for any other person, for such office at such primary election.

(HEADING)

Name of Signers.	Street Number or Rural Route (as registered).	Name of City.	Date of Signing.
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All nomination petitions shall have substantially the foregoing form, written or printed at the top thereof. No signature shall be counted unless it is upon a sheet having such written or printed form at the top thereof.

(c) Each signer of a nomination petition shall sign but one such petition for the same office, and shall declare that such person intends to support the candidate therein named, and shall add to such person's signature and residence, if in a city, by street and number (if any); or, otherwise by post-office address. No signature shall be counted unless the place of residence of the signer is clearly indicated and the date of signing given as herein required and if ditto marks are used to indicate address they shall be continuous and clearly made. Such sheets shall not be cut or pasted together.

(d) All signers of each separate nomination petition shall reside in the same county and election district of the office sought. The affidavit described in this paragraph of a petition circulator who is a resident of the state of Kansas and has the qualifications of an elector in the state of Kansas or of the candidate shall be appended to each petition and shall contain, at the end of each set of documents carried by each circulator, a verification, signed by the circulator or the candidate, to the effect that such circulator or the candidate personally witnessed the signing of the petition by each person whose name appears thereon.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (g), nomination petitions shall be signed:

(1) If for a state officer elected on a statewide basis or for the office of United States senator, by voters equal in number to not less than 1% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in the state as compiled by the office of the secretary of state;

(2) If for a state or national officer elected on less than a statewide basis, by voters equal in number to not less than 2% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in such district as compiled by the office of the secretary of state, except that for the office of district magistrate judge, by not less than 2% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in the county in which such office is to be filled as certified to the secretary of state in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3302, and amendments thereto;

(3) If for a county office, by voters equal in number to not less than 3% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in such district or county as compiled by the county election officer and certified to the secretary of state in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3302, and amendments thereto; and

(4) If for a township office, by voters equal in number to not less than 3% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in such township as compiled by the county election officer and certified to the secretary of state in accordance with K.S.A. 25-3302, and amendments thereto.

(f) Subject to the requirements of K.S.A. 25-202, and amendments thereto, any political organization filing nomination petitions for a majority of the state or county offices, as provided in this act, shall have a separate primary election ballot as a political party and, upon receipt of such nomination petitions, the respective officers shall prepare a separate state and county ballot for such new party in their respective counties or districts thereof in the same manner as is provided for existing parties.

(g) In any year in which districts are reapportioned for the offices of

representative in the United States congress, senator and representative in the legislature of the state of Kansas or member of the state board of education:

(1) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or before May ~~10~~ 1, nomination petitions for nomination to such offices shall be signed by voters equal in number to not less than 1% of the total of the current voter registration of the party designated in the district as compiled by the office of the secretary of state.

(2) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or after May ~~11~~ 2, nomination petitions for nomination to the following offices shall be signed by registered voters of the party designated in the district equal in number to not less than the following:

- (A) For the office of representative in the United States congress 1,000 registered voters;
- (B) for the office of member of the state board of education 300 registered voters;
- (C) for the office of state senator 75 registered voters; and
- (D) for the office of state representative 25 registered voters.

(h) In any year in which districts are reapportioned for the offices of representative in the United States congress, senator and representative in the legislature of the state of Kansas or member of the state board of education:

(1) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or before June ~~10~~ 1, the deadline for filing nomination petitions and declarations of intention to become a candidate for such office, accompanied by the fee required by law, shall be 12:00 noon on June ~~24~~ 15, or if such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a holiday, then before 12:00 noon of the next following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

(2) If new boundary lines are defined and districts established in the manner prescribed by law on or after June ~~11~~ 2, the deadline for filing nomination petitions and declarations of intention to become a candidate for such office, accompanied by the fee required by law, shall be 12:00 noon on July ~~12~~ 3, or if such date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, then before 12:00 noon of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday.

Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-4004 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4004. The provisions of K.S.A. 25-205, and amendments thereto, shall not apply to the offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The names of candidates for governor and lieutenant governor shall be printed upon the official primary ballot when each pair thereof shall have qualified to become candidates in one or the other of the following methods and none other: *First*, they shall have had filed in their behalf, not later than ~~twelve o'clock~~ 12:00 noon, ~~June 10~~ June 1, prior to such primary election, or if such date falls on Saturday, Sunday or a legal holiday, then before twelve o'clock noon the following business day, nomination papers, commonly called nomination petitions, as provided for in K.S.A. 25-4005, and amendments thereto; or, *second*, they shall have filed not later than the time for filing nomination papers, as above provided, with the secretary of state, as hereinafter prescribed, a declaration of intention to become candidates, accompanied by a fee as provided in K.S.A. 25-4006, and amendments thereto.

Sec. 6. K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-1216 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-1216. (a) Every person who is qualified and eligible to vote by federal services absentee ballot under the provisions of this act may make application for such ballot to the county election officer of the county of such voter's residence or to the secretary of state. Such application shall be made by postcard application provided for and prescribed in the federal act or on a form to be prescribed by the secretary of state. Any such application shall be valid for any election at which such voter otherwise is entitled to vote between the date of the application through the next two regularly scheduled general elections for national or state office.

(b) If the voter is residing outside the United States or is a member of the United States armed forces or a spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces and a qualified elector and cannot vote timely by

mail, the voter may apply for registration and an absentee ballot by facsimile or *electronic mail*. The voter may also request that the county election officer transmit to such voter by facsimile or *electronic mail* a ballot, or a second ballot, as the case may be. The voter may then either mail or transmit by facsimile or *electronic mail* such voter's voted ballot, back to the county election officer.

If the voter chooses to transmit the voted ballot to the county election officer by facsimile or *electronic mail*, the transmittal shall contain the following statement: "I understand that by faxing or *electronically mailing* my voted ballot I am voluntarily waiving my right to a secret ballot." This statement shall be followed by the voter's signature and the date. Upon receipt of the transmittal, the county election officer shall place the voted ballot along with the signed statement and affidavit in an appropriately marked envelope and seal it. The county election officer and such officer's staff shall take the steps necessary to keep the voted ballots received by facsimile or *electronic mail* as confidential as practicable.

Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-205, 25-1218 and 25-4004 and K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 25-1124, 25-1128 and 25-1216 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 8. 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 SENATE, and passed that body

SENATE adopted
Conference Committee Report _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

Passed the HOUSE
as amended _____

HOUSE adopted
Conference Committee Report _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

APPROVED _____

Governor.