

REFERENCE TITLE: **early ballots; tracking system**

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

SB 1411

Introduced by
Senator Mesnard

AN ACT

**AMENDING SECTION 16-550, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; APPROPRIATING MONIES;
RELATING TO EARLY VOTING.**

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-550. Receipt of voter's ballot; cure period; tracking
5 system

6 A. On receipt of the envelope containing the early ballot and the
7 ballot affidavit, the county recorder or other officer in charge of
8 elections shall compare the signatures thereon with the signature of the
9 elector on the elector's registration record. If the signature is
10 inconsistent with the elector's signature on the elector's registration
11 record, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
12 make reasonable efforts to contact the voter, advise the voter of the
13 inconsistent signature and allow the voter to correct or the county to
14 confirm the inconsistent signature. The county recorder or other officer
15 in charge of elections shall allow signatures to be corrected not later
16 than the fifth business day after a primary, general or special election
17 that includes a federal office or the third business day after any other
18 election. If the signature is missing, the county recorder or other
19 officer in charge of elections shall make reasonable efforts to contact
20 the elector, advise the elector of the missing signature and allow the
21 elector to add the elector's signature not later than 7:00 p.m. on
22 election day. If satisfied that the signatures correspond, the recorder
23 or other officer in charge of elections shall hold the envelope containing
24 the early ballot and the completed affidavit unopened in accordance with
25 the rules of the secretary of state.

26 B. The recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
27 thereafter safely keep the affidavits and early ballots in the recorder's
28 or other officer's office and may deliver them for tallying pursuant to
29 section 16-551. Tallying of ballots may begin immediately after the
30 envelope and completed affidavit are processed pursuant to this section
31 and delivered to the early election board.

32 C. The county recorder shall send a list of all voters who were
33 issued early ballots to the election board of the precinct in which the
34 voter is registered.

35 D. FOR A COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND
36 PERSONS AND THAT USES EARLY BALLOTS, THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER
37 IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE AN EARLY BALLOT TRACKING SYSTEM THAT
38 INDICATES WHETHER THE VOTER'S EARLY BALLOT HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND WHETHER
39 THE EARLY BALLOT HAS BEEN VERIFIED AND TABULATED. THE COUNTY RECORDER OR
40 OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE VOTERS WITH ACCESS TO
41 THE EARLY BALLOT TRACKING SYSTEM ON THE COUNTY'S WEBSITE.

42 ~~D.~~ E. This section does not apply to:

43 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section
44 16-191 to conduct its own elections.

1 2. A special district mail ballot election that is conducted
2 pursuant to article 8.1 of this chapter.

3 Sec. 2. Appropriation; secretary of state; early ballot
4 tracking system grants; exemption

5 A. The sum of \$700,000 is appropriated from the state general fund
6 in fiscal year 2022-2023 to the secretary of state for establishing a
7 grant program for counties and providing grants to counties for the
8 purposes of establishing early ballot tracking systems as prescribed in
9 section 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act.

10 B. Beginning July 1, 2022 and until December 31, 2023, the
11 secretary of state may award grants of not more than \$100,000 per county
12 to counties that do not have an early ballot tracking system available on
13 the county's website as of the effective date of this act.

14 C. The appropriation made in subsection A of this section is exempt
15 from the provisions of section 35-190, Arizona Revised Statutes, relating
16 to lapsing of appropriations, except all monies remain in unexpended and
17 unencumbered on December 31, 2023 revert to the state general fund.

18 Sec. 3. Effective date

19 Section 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act, is
20 effective from and after December 31, 2023.