

House Engrossed

early ballots; signatures; guidelines; challenges

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

# HOUSE BILL 2322

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 16-550, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, AS AMENDED BY LAWS  
2022, CHAPTER 271, SECTION 2; RELATING TO CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS.

(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 Status, as amended by  
3 Laws 2022, chapter 271, section 2, is amended to read:

4 16-550. Receipt of voter's ballot; cure period; signature  
5 verification

6 A. Except for early ballots tabulated as prescribed in section  
7 16-579.02, on receipt of the envelope containing the early ballot and the  
8 ballot affidavit, the county recorder or other officer in charge of  
9 elections shall compare the ~~signatures thereon~~ SIGNATURE ON THE ENVELOPE  
10 with the signature of the elector on the elector's registration record.  
11 If the signature is inconsistent with the elector's signature on the  
12 elector's registration record, the county recorder or other officer in  
13 charge of elections shall make reasonable efforts to contact the voter,  
14 advise the voter of the inconsistent signature and allow the voter to  
15 correct or the county to confirm the inconsistent signature. The county  
16 recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall allow signatures to  
17 be corrected not later than the fifth business day after a primary,  
18 general or special election that includes a federal office or the third  
19 business day after any other election. If the signature is missing, the  
20 county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall make  
21 reasonable efforts to contact the elector, advise the elector of the  
22 missing signature and allow the elector to add the elector's signature not  
23 later than 7:00 p.m. on election day. If satisfied that the signatures  
24 correspond, the recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall  
25 hold the envelope containing the early ballot and the completed affidavit  
26 unopened in accordance with the rules of the secretary of state.

27 B. THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S JULY 2020 SIGNATURE VERIFICATION GUIDE  
28 CONSTITUTES THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPARISON OF SIGNATURES.  
29 SIGNATURES THAT CANNOT BE VERIFIED SHALL BE REJECTED EXCEPT AS PRESCRIBED  
30 IN SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION.

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

37 ~~C.~~ D. The county recorder shall send a list of all voters who were  
38 issued early ballots to the election board of the precinct in which the  
39 voter is registered.

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

41 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section  
42 16-191 to conduct its own elections.

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