

House Engrossed Senate Bill
ballot tabulation; hand count comparison

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
First Regular Session
2023

SENATE BILL 1471

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR A TABULATION OF CERTAIN BALLOTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

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

2 Section 1. Ballot retabulation; hand count comparison;
3 staffing estimate; report; delayed repeal

4 A. Beginning not later than September 1, 2023, the officer in
5 charge of elections in a county with a population of more than two million
6 persons shall, and a county with a population of more than four hundred
7 thousand may, randomly select four hundred ballots from the ballot test
8 decks randomized by precincts used for logic and accuracy testing for the
9 2022 general election and shall recount all races using one hundred of
10 those ballots from each precinct. The recounting shall include the use of
11 duplication boards, adjudications boards and other functions generally
12 used or required in ballot tabulations. The hand count boards shall
13 consist of volunteers who are members of the three largest political
14 parties in the state and shall include on each team a member of at least
15 two different political parties. Notwithstanding section 16-624, Arizona
16 Revised Statutes, the county treasurer shall provide the specified ballots
17 to the officer in charge of elections. The county officer in charge of
18 elections shall process separately the selected 2022 general election
19 ballots as follows:

20 1. The actual ballots shall be counted through a county ballot
21 tabulator and the results of that tabulation shall remain confidential
22 until after the hand count prescribed in this section is completed.

23 2. The actual ballots shall be photocopied and the photocopies
24 shall be hand counted using the procedures prescribed in the secretary of
25 state's instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section
26 16-452, Arizona Revised Statutes. During the hand counting, the officer
27 in charge of elections shall calculate how many ballots per hour each hand
28 counting team is able to process.

29 3. The officer in charge of elections shall compare the tabulator
30 total and the hand count total for each precinct and if there is any
31 difference in the totals, the actual ballots shall be retabulated using a
32 different tabulator and the hand counted photocopies of ballots shall be
33 recounted using different hand counters.

34 4. After determining the average number of ballots counted for each
35 hand counting team, the officer in charge of elections shall estimate how
36 many persons working sixteen hours each day would be required to hand
37 count the entire number of ballots cast in the November 2022 election.

38 B. The officer in charge of elections shall report on the results
39 of the tabulations and calculations, including the number of ballots
40 counted per hand counting team per hour. The officer in charge of
41 elections shall provide that report to the governor, the president of the
42 senate, the speaker of the house of representatives and the county
43 recorder and shall file a copy with the secretary of state.

44 C. This section is repealed from and after February 29, 2024.

1 Sec. 2. Legislative intent

2 The legislature intends that the retabulation and hand count
3 required in section 1 of this act may be conducted as early as July 1,
4 2023 and be required for counties with more than two million persons but
5 be optional for counties with more than four hundred thousand but less
6 than two million persons.