

House Engrossed

election officer certification training; yearly

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

HOUSE BILL 2580

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-407 AND 16-550, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 16, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 16-553; 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 16-407, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 16-407. Election officers; qualifications; certificates;
5 certification programs; plan; exemption; election
6 training fund

7 A. Except as provided in subsection E of this section, a person may
8 not perform the duties or exercise the authority of an election officer or
9 of the clerk of the board of supervisors or the county recorder in
10 performance of election duties in or on behalf of any county unless the
11 person is the holder of an election officer's certificate issued by the
12 secretary of state ~~before January 1 of each general election year~~. ~~THE~~
13 ~~SECRETARY OF STATE MAY NOT ISSUE AN ELECTION OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE AFTER~~
14 ~~JUNE 1 IN ANY GENERAL ELECTION YEAR. AN ELECTION OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE~~
15 ~~EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31 IN THE YEAR AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION.~~

16 B. The secretary of state shall provide for the examination of
17 applicants for election officer certificates. The secretary of state may
18 not issue a certificate to a person who has not demonstrated to the
19 satisfaction of the secretary of state that the person is competent to
20 perform the work of an election officer or of the clerk of the board of
21 supervisors or the county recorder in the performance of election
22 duties.

23 C. The secretary of state shall provide for election officer
24 certification programs of which successful completion by a person attests
25 to the attendance at, participation in and completion of a course of
26 instruction in the technical, legal and administrative aspects of
27 conducting elections within this state.

28 D. On or before December 31 of each year of a general election, the
29 secretary of state shall submit an election officer education, training
30 and certification plan to the president of the senate and the speaker of
31 the house of representatives. The plan shall outline the achievements and
32 problems of the previous two year period and specify the expected
33 education, training and certification activities of the coming two year
34 period.

35 E. Subsection A of this section does not apply to elected
36 officials, clerical and secretarial personnel, counting center personnel
37 and precinct election board members and election officials in cities or
38 towns.

39 F. For city and town employees who work on elections, the city or
40 town may train its own employees if the city or town training program is
41 approved by the secretary of state or, if the city or town chooses to
42 enroll the city or town employees in the certification program prescribed
43 by this section, the city or town shall reimburse the secretary of state
44 for the costs of conducting the training. An election training fund is
45 established consisting of monies received pursuant to this subsection.

1 The secretary of state shall administer the fund. Monies in the fund are
2 continuously appropriated and the secretary of state shall use monies in
3 the fund to pay the costs of training officials from cities and towns
4 pursuant to this subsection.

5 Sec. 2. Section 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
6 read:

7 16-550. Receipt of voter's ballot; cure period; tracking
8 system

9 A. Except for early ballots tabulated as prescribed in section
10 16-579.02 or, beginning in 2026, received at a voting location after a
11 voter's identification is confirmed as prescribed by section 16-579,
12 subsection A, paragraph 4, on receipt of the envelope containing the early
13 ballot and the mail ballot affidavit, the county recorder or other officer
14 in charge of elections shall compare the signature on the envelope with
15 the signature of the elector on the elector's registration record as
16 prescribed by ~~section~~ SECTIONS 16-550.01 AND 16-553. If the signature is
17 inconsistent with the elector's signature on the elector's registration
18 record, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
19 make reasonable efforts to contact the voter, advise the voter of the
20 inconsistent signature and allow the voter to correct or the county to
21 confirm the inconsistent signature. The county recorder or other officer
22 in charge of elections shall allow signatures to be corrected not later
23 than the fifth business day after a primary, general or special election
24 that includes a federal office or the third business day after any other
25 election. If the election is a primary, general or special election that
26 includes a federal office, in addition to the office's regular business
27 hours, the county recorder's and city or town clerks' offices shall be
28 open during regular business hours to allow for curing signatures during
29 the Friday and weekend before and the Friday and weekend after the
30 election. If the signature is missing, the county recorder or other
31 officer in charge of elections shall make reasonable efforts to contact
32 the elector, advise the elector of the missing signature and allow the
33 elector to add the elector's signature not later than 7:00 p.m. on
34 election day. If satisfied that the signatures correspond, the recorder
35 or other officer in charge of elections shall hold the envelope containing
36 the early ballot and the completed mail affidavit unopened in accordance
37 with the rules of the secretary of state. Signatures that cannot be
38 verified pursuant to section 16-550.01 or cured pursuant to this section
39 shall be rejected. Beginning with the first missing or mismatched
40 signature that is identified after the period of early voting begins
41 through the Monday immediately preceding the election, the county recorder
42 or other officer in charge of elections shall submit daily to the
43 political parties that are qualified for continued representation on the
44 state ballot an updated list of all voters whose signatures are missing or
45 inconsistent with the voter's signature on the voter's registration

1 record. Beginning on the Wednesday immediately following the election
2 through the end of the signature cure period after a primary, general or
3 special election that includes a federal office, or the third business day
4 after the election for any other election, the county recorder or other
5 officer in charge of elections shall submit daily to the political parties
6 that are qualified for continued representation on the state ballot an
7 updated list of all voters whose signatures are inconsistent with the
8 voter's signature on the voter's registration record and all voters who
9 voted with a conditional provisional ballot. This list of voters whose
10 signatures require curing shall include for those voters all voter
11 information that is provided to the political parties that are qualified
12 for continued representation on the state ballot as prescribed by section
13 16-168.

14 B. The recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall
15 thereafter safely keep the mail ballot affidavits and early ballots in the
16 recorder's or other officer's office and may deliver them for tallying
17 pursuant to section 16-551.

18 C. Processing and tabulation of individual ballots may begin
19 immediately after the envelope and completed mail ballot affidavit are
20 processed pursuant to this section and delivered to the early election
21 board and shall continue without delay until completed. Until election
22 day, the early election board and the county recorder or other officer in
23 charge of elections shall:

24 1. Not access an aggregated complete results file of early voting
25 and vote by mail ballots that were processed and tabulated by the end of
26 the early voting period.

27 2. Not produce for internal or external use an aggregated results
28 report or associated files of complete results.

29 3. Only produce a partial results report or associated files if it
30 is part of the internal preparation for the hand count pursuant to section
31 16-602 or for the logic and accuracy testing required pursuant to section
32 16-449.

33 4. Not publicly release complete or partial results, whether for
34 internal or external use, until all precincts have reported or one hour
35 after the closing of the polls on election day, whichever is earlier.

36 D. The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections
37 shall post on its website within forty-eight hours after all ballot
38 tabulation is complete all system log files and other similar files from
39 the election management system that verify compliance with subsection C of
40 this section.

41 E. The county recorder shall send a list of all voters who were
42 issued early ballots to the election board of the precinct in which the
43 voter is registered.

1 F. For a county that uses early ballots, the county recorder or
2 other officer in charge of elections shall provide an early ballot
3 tracking system that indicates whether the voter's early ballot has been
4 received and whether the early ballot has been verified and sent to be
5 tabulated or rejected. The county recorder or other officer in charge of
6 elections shall provide voters with access to the early ballot tracking
7 system on the county's website.

8 G. This section does not apply to:

9 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section
10 16-191 to conduct its own elections.

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

13 Sec. 3. Title 16, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona Revised Statutes,
14 is amended by adding section 16-553, to read:

15 16-553. Signature verification evaluators; political parties;
16 boards

17 A. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, NOT LESS THAN NINETY DAYS BEFORE
18 THE ELECTION, THE COUNTY CHAIRPERSONS OF THE TWO LARGEST POLITICAL PARTIES
19 MAY DESIGNATE FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS QUALIFIED ELECTORS
20 FROM THE COUNTY TO SERVE AS SIGNATURE VERIFICATION EVALUATORS FOR EARLY
21 ELECTION BOARDS. IF THE DESIGNATED PERSONS ARE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE
22 COUNTY, THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL APPOINT THE DESIGNATED
23 PERSONS AS SIGNATURE VERIFICATION EVALUATORS.

24 B. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS MAY ESTABLISH TRAINING
25 REQUIREMENTS FOR SIGNATURE VERIFICATION EVALUATORS DESIGNATED BY POLITICAL
26 PARTIES AS PRESCRIBED BY SUBSECTION A OF THIS SECTION AND MAY REQUIRE THE
27 DESIGNEES TO WORK A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF HOURS AND DAYS. THE OFFICER IN
28 CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL PROVIDE FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION TO MAXIMIZE
29 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARTICIPATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, CAREGIVING
30 COMMITMENTS AND WORK COMMITMENTS.

31 C. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS IS NOT REQUIRED TO COMPENSATE
32 THE PERSONS DESIGNATED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

33 D. NOT MORE THAN ONE-HALF OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS DESIGNATED
34 PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BE DESIGNATED BY A SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY.

35 (ENACTED WITHOUT THE EMERGENCY)

36 Sec. 4. Emergency

37 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
38 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
39 law.