Senate Engrossed

primary; identification; canvass; recounts; ballots.

State of Arizona Senate Fifty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session 2024

SENATE BILL 1733

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 16-411, 16-461, 16-510, 16-542, 16-547 AND 16-550, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING TITLE 16, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 8, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 16-550.01; AMENDING SECTIONS 16-551, 16-552, 16-579, 16-584, 16-622, 16-642, 16-645, 16-646, 16-648, 16-662, 16-663 AND 16-664, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; 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 16-411, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 3 read: 4 16-411. Designation of election precincts and polling places: 5 voting centers; electioneering; wait times 6 A. The board of supervisors of each county, on or before October 1 7 of each year preceding the year of a general election, by an order, shall 8 establish a convenient number of election precincts in the county and 9 define the boundaries of the precincts as follows: 1. The election precinct boundaries shall be established so as to 10 11 be included within election districts prescribed by law for elected officers of the state and its political subdivisions, including community 12 13 college district precincts, except those elected officers provided for in 14 titles 30 and 48. 2. If after October 1 of the year preceding the year of a general 15 16 election the board of supervisors must further adjust precinct boundaries 17 due to the redistricting of election districts as prescribed by law and to 18 comply with this subsection, the board of supervisors shall adjust these 19 precinct boundaries as soon as is practicable. 20 B. At least twenty days before a general or primary election, and 21 at least ten days before a special election, the board shall designate one 22 polling place within each precinct where the election shall be held, 23 except that: 24 1. On a specific finding of the board, included in the order or 25 resolution designating polling places pursuant to this subsection, that no 26 suitable polling place is available within a precinct, a polling place for 27 that precinct may be designated within an adjacent precinct. 2. Adjacent precincts may be combined if boundaries so established 28 29 are included in election districts prescribed by law for state elected officials and political subdivisions including community college districts 30 31 but not including elected officials prescribed by titles 30 and 48. The 32 in charge of elections may also split a precinct officer for 33 administrative purposes. The polling places shall be listed in separate sections of the order or resolution. 34 3. On a specific finding of the board that the number of persons 35 36 who are listed as early voters pursuant to section 16-544 and who are not 37 expected to have their ballots tabulated at the polling place as prescribed in section 16-579.02 is likely to substantially reduce the 38 number of voters appearing at one or more specific polling places at that 39 40 election, adjacent precincts may be consolidated by combining polling 41 places and precinct boards for that election. The board of supervisors shall ensure that a reasonable and adequate number of polling places will 42 43 be designated for that election. Any consolidated polling places shall be 44 listed in separate sections of the order or resolution of the board.

1 4. On a specific resolution of the board, the board may authorize 2 the use of voting centers in place of or in addition to specifically 3 designated polling places. A voting center shall allow any voter in that 4 county to receive the appropriate ballot for that voter on election day 5 after presenting identification as prescribed in section 16-579 and to 6 lawfully cast the ballot. Voting centers may be established in 7 coordination and consultation with the county recorder, at other county 8 offices or at other locations in the county deemed appropriate.

9 5. On a specific resolution of the board of supervisors that is 10 limited to a specific election date and that is voted on by a recorded 11 vote, the board may authorize the county recorder or other officer in 12 charge of elections to use emergency voting centers as follows:

13 (a) The board shall specify in the resolution the location and the14 hours of operation of the emergency voting centers.

(b) A qualified elector voting at an emergency voting center shall provide identification as prescribed in section 16-579, except that notwithstanding section 16-579, subsection A, paragraph 2, for any voting at an emergency voting center, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections may allow a qualified elector to update the elector's voter registration information as provided for in the secretary of state's instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452.

22 (c) If an emergency voting center established pursuant to this section becomes unavailable and there is not sufficient time for the board 23 24 of supervisors to convene to approve an alternate location for that 25 emergency voting center, the county recorder or other officer in charge of 26 elections may make changes to the approved emergency voting center 27 location and shall notify the public and the board of supervisors 28 regarding that change as soon as practicable. The alternate emergency 29 voting center shall be as close in proximity to the approved emergency 30 voting center location as possible.

31 C. If the board fails to designate the place for holding the 32 election, or if it cannot be held at or about the place designated, the justice of the peace in the precinct, two days before the election, by an 33 order, copies of which the justice of the peace shall immediately post in 34 three public places in the precinct, shall designate the place within the 35 36 precinct for holding the election. If there is no justice of the peace in 37 the precinct, or if the justice of the peace fails to do so, the election board of the precinct shall designate and give notice of the place within 38 the precinct of holding the election. For any election in which there are 39 40 no candidates for elected office appearing on the ballot, the board may 41 consolidate polling places and precinct boards and may consolidate the tabulation of results for that election if all of the following apply: 42

1 1. All affected voters are notified by mail of the change at least 2 thirty-three days before the election.

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2. Notice of the change in polling places includes notice of the 4 new voting location, notice of the hours for voting on election day and notice of the telephone number to call for voter assistance.

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3. All affected voters receive information on early voting that 7 includes the application used to request an early voting ballot.

8 D. The board is not required to designate a polling place for 9 special district mail ballot elections held pursuant to article 8.1 of this chapter, but the board may designate one or more sites for voters to 10 11 deposit marked ballots until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

12 E. Except as provided in subsection F of this section, a public 13 school shall provide sufficient space for use as a polling place for any city, county or state election when requested by the officer in charge of 14 15 elections.

16 F. The principal of the school may deny a request to provide space 17 for use as a polling place for any city, county or state election if, 18 within two weeks after a request has been made, the principal provides a 19 written statement indicating a reason the election cannot be held in the 20 school, including any of the following:

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1. Space is not available at the school.

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2. The safety or welfare of the children would be jeopardized.

BEGINNING IN 2026, THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION SHALL 23 G. 24 COORDINATE WITH STATE AGENCIES AND COUNTIES TO PROVIDE AVAILABLE AND APPROPRIATE STATE-OWNED FACILITIES FOR USE AS A VOTING LOCATION FOR ANY 25 26 CITY, COUNTY OR STATE ELECTION WHEN REQUESTED BY THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF 27 ELECTIONS.

The board shall make available to the public as a public 28 G. Н. 29 record a list of the polling places for all precincts in which the 30 election is to be held.

31 H. I. Except in the case of an emergency, any facility that is used as a polling place on election day or that is used as an early voting 32 site during the period of early voting shall allow persons to electioneer 33 and engage in other political activity outside of the seventy-five foot 34 35 limit prescribed by section 16-515 in public areas and parking lots used 36 by voters. This subsection does not allow the temporary or permanent 37 construction of structures in public areas and parking lots or the blocking or other impairment of access to parking spaces for voters. 38 The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall post on its 39 40 website at least two weeks before election day a list of those polling 41 places in which emergency conditions prevent electioneering and shall 42 specify the reason the emergency designation was granted and the number of 43 attempts that were made to find a polling place before granting an emergency designation. If the polling place is not on the website list of 44 polling places with emergency designations, electioneering and other 45

1 political activity shall be allowed outside of the seventy-five foot limit. If an emergency arises after the county recorder or other officer 2 3 in charge of elections' initial website posting, the county recorder or 4 other officer in charge of elections shall update the website as soon as 5 is practicable to include any new polling places, shall highlight the 6 polling place location on the website and shall specify the reason the 7 emergency designation was granted and the number of attempts that were 8 made to find a polling place before granting an emergency designation.

9 I. J. For the purposes of this section, a county recorder or other 10 officer in charge of elections shall designate a polling place as an 11 emergency polling place and thus prohibit persons from electioneering and 12 engaging in other political activity outside of the seventy-five foot 13 limit prescribed by section 16-515 but inside the property of the facility 14 that is hosting the polling place if any of the following occurs:

15 1. An act of God renders a previously set polling place as 16 unusable.

17 2. A county recorder or other officer in charge of elections has 18 exhausted all options and there are no suitable facilities in a precinct 19 that are willing to be a polling place unless a facility can be given an 20 emergency designation.

21 J. K. The secretary of state shall provide through the 22 instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452 the 23 maximum allowable wait time for any election that is subject to section 24 16-204 and provide for a method to reduce voter wait time at the polls in 25 the primary and general elections. The method shall consider at least all 26 of the following for primary and general elections in each precinct:

27 1. The number of ballots voted in the prior primary and general28 elections.

29 2. The number of registered voters who voted early in the prior 30 primary and general elections.

31 3. The number of registered voters and the number of registered 32 voters who cast an early ballot for the current primary or general 33 election.

34 4. The number of registered voters whose early ballots were
 35 tabulated on-site as prescribed in section 16-579.02 in the prior primary
 36 and general elections.

5. The number of election board members and clerks and the number of rosters that will reduce voter wait time at the polls.

39 Sec. 2. Section 16-461, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 40 read:

41 16-461. <u>Sample primary election ballots: submission to party</u>
 42 <u>chairmen for examination; preparation, printing and</u>
 43 <u>distribution of ballot</u>

44 A. At least forty-five days before a primary election, the officer 45 in charge of that election shall: 1

1. Prepare a proof of a sample ballot.

2 2. Submit the sample ballot proof of each party to the county 3 chairman or in city or town primaries to the city or town chairman.

3. Mail a sample ballot proof to each candidate for whom a nomination paper and petitions have been filed.

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6 B. Within five TWO CALENDAR days after receipt of the sample 7 ballot, the county chairman of each political party AND ANY CANDIDATE IN 8 THAT ELECTION WHO HAS SUBMITTED AND CONFIRMED AN EMAIL ADDRESS shall 9 suggest to the election officer any change the chairman OR CANDIDATE considers should be made in the chairman's OR CANDIDATE'S party ballot, 10 11 and if on examination the election officer finds an error or omission $rac{\mathrm{i}\pi}{\mathrm{i}\pi}$ 12 ON the ballot, the officer shall correct it. The election officer shall 13 cause PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE the sample ballots to be printed and 14 distributed as required by law, shall maintain a copy of each sample ballot and shall post a notice indicating that sample ballots are 15 16 available on request. The official sample ballot shall be printed on 17 colored paper or white paper with a different colored stripe for each 18 party that is represented on that ballot. For voters who are not 19 registered with a party that is entitled to continued representation on 20 the ballot pursuant to section 16-804, the election officer may print and 21 distribute the required sample ballots in an alternative format, including 22 a reduced size format.

C. Not later than forty days before a primary election, the county
 chairman of a political party may request one sample primary election
 ballot of the chairman's party for each election precinct.

26 D. The board of supervisors shall have printed mailer-type sample 27 ballots for a primary election and shall mail at least eleven days before the election one sample ballot of a political party to each household 28 29 containing a registered voter of that political party unless that 30 registered voter is on the active early voting list established pursuant 31 section 16-544. Each sample ballot shall contain the following to "This is a sample ballot and cannot be used as an official 32 statement: ballot under any circumstances". A certified claim shall be presented to 33 the secretary of state by the board of supervisors for the actual cost of 34 printing, labeling and postage of each sample ballot actually mailed, and 35 36 the secretary of state shall direct payment of the authenticated claim 37 from funds of the secretary of state's office.

E. For city and town elections, the governing body of a city or town may have printed mailer-type sample ballots for a primary election. If the city or town has printed such sample ballots, the city or town shall provide for the distribution of such ballots and shall bear the expense of printing and distributing of such sample ballots. F. The return address on the mailer-type sample ballots shall not contain the name of an appointed or elected public officer nor may the name of an appointed or elected public officer be used to indicate who produced the sample ballot.

G. The great seal of the state of Arizona shall be imprinted along with the words "official voting materials" on the mailing face of each sample ballot. In county, city or town elections the seal of such jurisdiction shall be substituted for the state seal.

9 Sec. 3. Section 16-510, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 10 read:

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16-510. <u>Sample ballots; preparation and distribution</u>

12 Before printing the sample ballots for the general election the Α. 13 board of supervisors shall send to each candidate whose name did not appear on the preceding primary election ballot AND TO THE COUNTY 14 CHAIRPERSON OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY a ballot proof of the sample ballot 15 16 for the candidate's AND CHAIRPERSON'S review. WITHIN TWO CALENDAR DAYS 17 AFTER RECEIPT OF THE SAMPLE BALLOT, THOSE CANDIDATES AND THE COUNTY 18 CHAIRPERSON OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY SHALL SUGGEST TO THE ELECTION OFFICER 19 ANY CHANGE THE CANDIDATE OR CHAIRPERSON CONSIDERS SHOULD BE MADE TO THE 20 BALLOT, AND IF ON EXAMINATION THE ELECTION OFFICER FINDS AN ERROR OR 21 OMISSION ON THE BALLOT, THE OFFICER SHALL CORRECT THE ERROR OR OMISSION.

22 B. The board of supervisors shall print and distribute, for the 23 information of voters at each polling place, a number of sample ballots as 24 it deems necessary.

25 C. The board of supervisors shall have printed mailer-type sample 26 ballots for a general election and shall mail at least eleven days before the election one such sample ballot to each household in the county 27 containing a registered voter unless that registered voter is on the 28 29 active early voting list established pursuant to section 16-544. Each sample ballot shall contain the following statement: 30 "This is a sample 31 ballot and cannot be used as an official ballot under any circumstances". A certified claim shall be presented to the secretary of 32 state by the board of supervisors for the actual cost of printing, 33 labeling and postage of each sample ballot actually mailed, and the 34 secretary of state shall direct payment of the authenticated claim from 35 36 funds of the secretary of state's office.

D. For city and town elections, the governing body of a city or town may have printed mailer-type sample ballots for a general election. If the city or town has printed such sample ballots, the city or town shall provide for the distribution of such ballots and shall bear the expense of printing and distributing such sample ballots.

42 E. For special district elections, the governing body of a special 43 district may have printed mailer-type sample ballots. If the special 44 district has printed such sample ballots, the special district shall provide for the distribution of such ballots and shall bear the expense of
 printing and distributing such sample ballots.
 Sec. 4. Section 16-542, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
 read:

5 6 16-542. <u>Request for ballot; civil penalties; violation;</u> <u>classification</u>

7 A. Within ninety-three days before any election called pursuant to 8 the laws of this state, an elector may make a verbal or signed request to 9 the county recorder, or other officer in charge of elections for the applicable political subdivision of this state in whose jurisdiction the 10 11 elector is registered to vote, for an official early ballot. In addition 12 to name and address, the requesting elector shall provide the date of 13 birth and state or country of birth or other information that if compared to the voter registration information on file would confirm the identity 14 of the elector. If the request indicates that the elector needs a primary 15 election ballot and a general election ballot, the county recorder or 16 17 other officer in charge of elections shall honor the request. For any 18 partisan primary election, if the elector is not registered as a member of 19 a political party that is entitled to continued representation on the 20 ballot pursuant to section 16-804, the elector shall designate the ballot 21 of only one of the political parties that is entitled to continued 22 representation on the ballot and the elector may receive and vote the ballot of only that one political party, which also shall include any 23 24 nonpartisan offices and ballot questions, or the elector shall designate 25 the ballot for nonpartisan offices and ballot questions only and the 26 elector may receive and vote the ballot that contains only nonpartisan 27 offices and ballot questions. The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall process any request for an early ballot for a 28 29 municipal election pursuant to this subsection. The county recorder may establish on-site early voting locations at the recorder's office, which 30 31 shall be open and available for use beginning the same day that a county begins to send out the early ballots. The county recorder may also 32 33 establish any other early voting locations in the county the recorder deems necessary. Any on-site early voting location or other early voting 34 35 location shall require each elector to present identification as 36 prescribed in section 16-579 before receiving a ballot. Notwithstanding section 16-579, subsection A, paragraph 2, at any on-site early voting 37 location or other early voting location the county recorder or other 38 officer in charge of elections may provide for a qualified elector to 39 40 update the elector's voter registration information as provided for in the 41 secretary of state's instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452. 42

1 Β. Notwithstanding subsection A of this section, a request for an 2 official early ballot from an absent uniformed services voter or overseas 3 voter as defined in the uniformed and overseas citizens absentee voting 4 act of 1986 (P.L. 99-410; 52 United States Code section 20310) or a voter 5 whose information is protected pursuant to section 16-153 that is received 6 by the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections more than 7 ninety-three days before the election is valid. If requested by the 8 absent uniformed services or overseas voter, or a voter whose information 9 is protected pursuant to section 16-153, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall provide to the requesting voter early 10 11 ballot materials through the next regularly scheduled general election for 12 federal office immediately following receipt of the request unless a 13 different period of time, which does not exceed the next two regularly 14 scheduled general elections for federal office, is designated by the 15 voter.

16 С. The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections 17 shall mail the early ballot and the envelope for its return postage 18 prepaid to the address provided by the requesting elector within five days 19 after receipt of the official early ballots from the officer charged by 20 law with the duty of preparing ballots pursuant to section 16-545, except 21 that early ballot distribution shall not begin more than twenty-seven days 22 before the election. If an early ballot request is received on or before the thirty-first day before the election, the early ballot shall be 23 24 distributed not earlier than the twenty-seventh day before the election 25 and not later than the twenty-fourth day before the election.

26 D. Only the elector may be in possession of that elector's unvoted 27 early ballot. If a complete and correct request is made by the elector within twenty-seven days before the election, the mailing must be made 28 29 within forty-eight hours after receipt of the request. Saturdays, Sundays 30 and other legal holidays are excluded from the computation of the 31 forty-eight hour FORTY-EIGHT-HOUR period prescribed by this subsection. 32 If a complete and correct request is made by an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter before the election, the regular early ballot 33 34 shall be transmitted by mail, by fax or by other electronic format approved by the secretary of state within twenty-four hours after the 35 36 early ballots are delivered pursuant to section 16-545, subsection B, 37 excluding Sundays.

E. In order to be complete and correct and to receive an early 38 ballot by mail, an elector's request that an early ballot be mailed to the 39 40 elector's residence or temporary address must include all of the 41 information prescribed by subsection A of this section and must be received by the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections $\pi\sigma$ 42 43 NOT later than 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh day preceding the election. An elector who appears personally no NOT later than 5:00 7:00 p.m. on the 44 45 Friday preceding the election at an on-site early voting location that is

1 established by the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections 2 shall be given a ballot after presenting identification as prescribed in 3 section 16-579 and shall be permitted ALLOWED to vote at the on-site Notwithstanding section 16-579, subsection A, paragraph 2, at 4 location. 5 any on-site early voting location the county recorder or other officer in 6 charge of elections may provide for a qualified elector to update the 7 elector's voter registration information as provided for in the secretary 8 of state's instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 9 16-452. If an elector's request to receive an early ballot is not complete and correct but complies with all other requirements of this 10 11 section, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall 12 attempt to notify the elector of the deficiency of the request.

F. Unless an elector specifies that the address to which an early ballot is to be sent is a temporary address, the recorder may use the information from an early ballot request form to update voter registration records.

17 G. The county recorder or other officer in charge of early 18 balloting shall provide an alphabetized list of all voters in the precinct 19 who have requested and have been sent an early ballot to the election 20 board of the precinct in which the voter is registered not later than the 21 day before the election.

22 H. As a result of experiencing an emergency between 5:00 7:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the election and 5:00 p.m. on the Monday preceding 23 24 the election, qualified electors may request to vote in the manner prescribed by the board of supervisors of their respective county. Before 25 26 voting pursuant to this subsection, an elector who experiences an emergency shall provide identification as prescribed in section 16-579 and 27 shall sign a statement under penalty of perjury that states that the 28 29 person is experiencing or experienced an emergency after 5:00 7:00 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election and before 5:00 p.m. on the 30 31 Monday immediately preceding the election that would prevent the person from voting at the polls. Signed statements received pursuant to this 32 subsection are not subject to inspection pursuant to title 39, chapter 1, 33 For the purposes of this subsection, "emergency" means any 34 article 2. unforeseen circumstances that would prevent the elector from voting at the 35 36 polls.

I. Notwithstanding section 16-579, subsection A, paragraph 2, for any voting pursuant to subsection H of this section, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections may allow a qualified elector to update the elector's voter registration information as provided for in the secretary of state's instructions and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452.

43 J. A candidate, political committee or other organization may 44 distribute early ballot request forms to voters. If the early ballot 45 request forms include a printed address for return, the addressee shall be the political subdivision that will conduct the election. Failure to use the political subdivision as the return addressee is punishable by a civil penalty of up to three times the cost of the production and distribution of the request.

5 K. All original and completed early ballot request forms that are 6 received by a candidate, political committee or other organization shall 7 be submitted within six business days after receipt by a candidate, 8 political committee or other organization or eleven days before the 9 election day, whichever is earlier, to the political subdivision that will political committee 10 conduct the election. Any person, or other 11 organization that fails to submit a completed early ballot request form 12 within the prescribed time is subject to a civil penalty of up to \$25 per 13 day for each completed form withheld from submittal. Any person who 14 knowingly fails to submit a completed early ballot request form before the submission deadline for the election immediately following the completion 15 16 of the form is guilty of a class 6 felony.

17 L. Except for a voter who is on the active early voting list 18 prescribed by section 16-544, a voter who requests a onetime early ballot pursuant to THIS section 16-542 or for an election conducted pursuant to 19 20 section 16-409 or article 8.1 of this chapter, a county recorder, city or 21 town clerk or other election officer may not deliver or mail an early 22 ballot to a person who has not requested an early ballot for that election. An election officer who knowingly violates this subsection is 23 24 guilty of a class 5 felony.

25 Sec. 5. Section 16-547, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 26 read:

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16-547. Ballot affidavit; form

A. The early ballot shall be accompanied by an envelope bearing on the front the name, official title and post office address of the recorder or other officer in charge of elections and on the other side a printed affidavit in substantially the following form:

I declare the following under penalty of perjury: I am a registered voter in _____ county Arizona, I have not voted and will not vote in this election in any other county or state, I understand that knowingly voting more than once in any election is a class 5 felony and I voted the enclosed ballot and signed this affidavit personally unless noted below.

39 If the voter was assisted by another person in marking
40 the ballot, complete the following:

41 I declare the following under penalty of perjury: At 42 the registered voter's request I assisted the voter identified 43 in this affidavit with marking the voter's ballot, I marked 44 the ballot as directly instructed by the voter, I provided the 45 assistance because the voter was physically unable to mark the

1 ballot solely due to illness, injury or physical limitation 2 and I understand that there is no power of attorney for voting 3 and that the voter must be able to make the voter's selection 4 even if the voter cannot physically mark the ballot. 5 Name of voter assistant: 6 Address of voter assistant: 7 B. The face of each envelope in which a ballot is sent to a federal postcard applicant or in which a ballot is returned by the applicant to 8 the recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall be in the form 9 prescribed in accordance with the uniformed and overseas citizens absentee 10 11 voting act (P.L. 99-410; 52 United States Code section 20301). Otherwise, the envelopes shall be the same as those used to send ballots to, or 12 13 receive ballots from, other early voters. C. The officer charged by law with the duty of preparing ballots at 14 15 any election shall ensure that the early ballot is sent in an envelope that states substantially the following: 16 17 If the addressee does not reside at this address, mark 18 the unopened envelope "return to sender" and deposit it in the 19 United States mail. 20 D. The county recorder or other officer in charge of elections 21 shall supply printed instructions to early voters that direct them to sign 22 the affidavit, mark the ballot and return both in the enclosed 23 self-addressed envelope that complies with section 16-545, — AND: 24 1. THROUGH 2025, the instructions shall include the following 25 statement: 26 In order to be valid and counted, the ballot and MAIL 27 affidavit must be delivered to the office of the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections or may be 28 29 deposited at any polling place in the county not later than 7:00 p.m. on election day. The ballot will not be counted 30 31 without the voter's signature on the envelope. 32 (WARNING - It is a felony to offer or receive any compensation 33 for a ballot.) 2. BEGINNING IN 2026, THE INSTRUCTIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING 34 35 STATEMENT: 36 IN ORDER TO BE VALID AND COUNTED, THE MAIL AFFIDAVIT THAT CONTAINS THE MAIL BALLOT MUST HAVE THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE 37 ON THE ENVELOPE AND MUST BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE OF THE 38 39 COUNTY RECORDER BY ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS: (a) DELIVERING IT TO THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER 40 41 OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS NOT LATER THAN 42 7:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. 43 (b) DEPOSITING IT AT ANY POLLING PLACE IN THE COUNTY NOT LATER THAN 7:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. 44

1 (c) BRINGING THE BALLOT TO ANY POLLING PLACE IN THE 2 COUNTY NOT LATER THAN 7:00 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY AND CHOOSING 3 TO PRESENT VALID IDENTIFICATION THAT COMPLIES WITH SECTION 16-579, SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES. 4 5 (WARNING - IT IS A FELONY TO OFFER OR RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION 6 FOR A BALLOT.) 7 E. The printed instructions prescribed by subsection D of this 8 section shall also include the following information regarding section 9 16-1005, subsections H and I in substantially the following form: 10 A person may only handle or return their own ballot or 11 the ballot of family members, household members or persons for 12 whom they are a caregiver. It is unlawful under section 13 16-1005 to handle or return the ballot of any other person. Sec. 6. Section 16-550, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 14 15 read: 16 16-550. Receipt of voter's ballot; cure period; tracking 17 <u>system</u> 18 A. Except for early ballots tabulated as prescribed in section 16-579.02 OR, BEGINNING IN 2026, RECEIVED AT A VOTING LOCATION AFTER A 19 20 VOTER'S IDENTIFICATION IS CONFIRMED AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-579, 21 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 4, on receipt of the envelope containing the early 22 ballot and the MAIL ballot affidavit, the county recorder or other officer 23 in charge of elections shall compare the signatures thereon SIGNATURE ON 24 THE ENVELOPE with the signature of the elector on the elector's 25 registration record AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-550.01. If the signature 26 is inconsistent with the elector's signature on the elector's registration 27 record, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall make reasonable efforts to contact the voter, advise the voter of the 28 29 inconsistent signature and allow the voter to correct or the county to confirm the inconsistent signature. The county recorder or other officer 30 31 in charge of elections shall allow signatures to be corrected not later than the fifth business day after a primary, general or special election 32 that includes a federal office or the third business day after any other 33 election. IF THE ELECTION IS A PRIMARY, GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION THAT 34 35 INCLUDES A FEDERAL OFFICE, IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICE'S REGULAR BUSINESS 36 HOURS, THE COUNTY RECORDER'S AND CITY OR TOWN CLERKS' OFFICES SHALL BE 37 OPEN DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS TO ALLOW FOR CURING SIGNATURES DURING 38 THE FRIDAY AND WEEKEND BEFORE AND THE FRIDAY AND WEEKEND AFTER THE 39 ELECTION. If the signature is missing, the county recorder or other 40 officer in charge of elections shall make reasonable efforts to contact 41 the elector, advise the elector of the missing signature and allow the elector to add the elector's signature not later than 7:00 p.m. on 42 43 election day. If satisfied that the signatures correspond, the recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall hold the envelope containing 44 45 the early ballot and the completed MAIL affidavit unopened in accordance

1 with the rules of the secretary of state. SIGNATURES THAT CANNOT BE 2 VERIFIED PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-550.01 OR CURED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION 3 SHALL BE REJECTED. BEGINNING WITH THE FIRST MISSING OR MISMATCHED 4 SIGNATURE THAT IS IDENTIFIED AFTER THE PERIOD OF EARLY VOTING BEGINS 5 THROUGH THE MONDAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION, THE COUNTY RECORDER 6 OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL SUBMIT DAILY TO THE 7 POLITICAL PARTIES THAT ARE QUALIFIED FOR CONTINUED REPRESENTATION ON THE 8 STATE BALLOT AN UPDATED LIST OF ALL VOTERS WHOSE SIGNATURES ARE MISSING OR 9 INCONSISTENT WITH THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE ON THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION BEGINNING ON THE WEDNESDAY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ELECTION 10 RECORD. 11 THROUGH THE END OF THE SIGNATURE CURE PERIOD AFTER A PRIMARY, GENERAL OR 12 SPECIAL ELECTION THAT INCLUDES A FEDERAL OFFICE, OR THE THIRD BUSINESS DAY 13 AFTER THE ELECTION FOR ANY OTHER ELECTION, THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL SUBMIT DAILY TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES 14 THAT ARE QUALIFIED FOR CONTINUED REPRESENTATION ON THE STATE BALLOT AN 15 16 UPDATED LIST OF ALL VOTERS WHOSE SIGNATURES ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE 17 VOTER'S SIGNATURE ON THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD AND ALL VOTERS WHO 18 VOTED WITH A CONDITIONAL PROVISIONAL BALLOT. THIS LIST OF VOTERS WHOSE 19 SIGNATURES REQUIRE CURING SHALL INCLUDE FOR THOSE VOTERS ALL VOTER 20 INFORMATION THAT IS PROVIDED TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES THAT ARE QUALIFIED 21 FOR CONTINUED REPRESENTATION ON THE STATE BALLOT AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 22 16-168.

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

C. PROCESSING AND TABULATION of INDIVIDUAL ballots may begin
 immediately after the envelope and completed MAIL BALLOT affidavit are
 processed pursuant to this section and delivered to the early election
 board AND SHALL CONTINUE WITHOUT DELAY UNTIL COMPLETED. UNTIL ELECTION
 DAY, THE EARLY ELECTION BOARD AND THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN
 CHARGE OF ELECTIONS SHALL:

NOT ACCESS AN AGGREGATED COMPLETE RESULTS FILE OF EARLY VOTING
 AND VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS THAT WERE PROCESSED AND TABULATED BY THE END OF
 THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD.

36 2. NOT PRODUCE FOR INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL USE AN AGGREGATED RESULTS
 37 REPORT OR ASSOCIATED FILES OF COMPLETE RESULTS.

38 3. ONLY PRODUCE A PARTIAL RESULTS REPORT OR ASSOCIATED FILES IF IT
39 IS PART OF THE INTERNAL PREPARATION FOR THE HAND COUNT PURSUANT TO SECTION
40 16-602 OR FOR THE LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION
41 16-449.

42 4. NOT PUBLICLY RELEASE COMPLETE OR PARTIAL RESULTS, WHETHER FOR
43 INTERNAL OR EXTERNAL USE, UNTIL ALL PRECINCTS HAVE REPORTED OR ONE HOUR
44 AFTER THE CLOSING OF THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.

1 D. THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS 2 SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE WITHIN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS AFTER ALL BALLOT 3 TABULATION IS COMPLETE ALL SYSTEM LOG FILES AND OTHER SIMILAR FILES FROM 4 THE ELECTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM THAT VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION C OF 5 THIS SECTION. 6 c. E. The county recorder shall send a list of all voters who were 7 issued early ballots to the election board of the precinct in which the 8 voter is registered. 9 D. F. For a county that uses early ballots, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall provide an early ballot 10 11 tracking system that indicates whether the voter's early ballot has been 12 received and whether the early ballot has been verified and sent to be 13 tabulated or rejected. The county recorder or other officer in charge of 14 elections shall provide voters with access to the early ballot tracking system on the county's website. 15 16 E. G. This section does not apply to: 17 1. A special taxing district that is authorized pursuant to section 18 16-191 to conduct its own elections. 19 2. A special district mail ballot election that is conducted 20 pursuant to article 8.1 of this chapter. 21 Sec. 7. Title 16, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona Revised Statutes, 22 is amended by adding section 16-550.01, to read: 23 16-550.01. <u>Signature verification: procedures: exemption:</u> 24 intent; definitions EXCEPT FOR EARLY BALLOTS TABULATED AS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 25 Α. 26 16-579.02, ON RECEIPT OF THE ENVELOPE CONTAINING THE EARLY BALLOT AND THE 27 BALLOT AFFIDAVIT, THE COUNTY RECORDER OR OTHER OFFICER IN CHARGE OF 28 ELECTIONS SHALL CONDUCT SIGNATURE VERIFICATION AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS 29 SECTION. 30 B. THE EVALUATOR SHALL EXAMINE ALL THE BROAD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 31 SIGNATURE. IF THE BROAD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIGNATURE ON THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT ARE CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH THE BROAD CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 32 33 VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE EVALUATOR MAY 34 ACCEPT THE SIGNATURE AS VALID. 35 C. IF THE EVALUATOR FINDS DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN THE SIGNATURE ON 36 THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT AND THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE EVALUATOR SHALL EXAMINE THE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 37 IF THE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIGNATURE ON THE BALLOT 38 SIGNATURE.

39 AFFIDAVIT ARE CLEARLY CONSISTENT WITH THE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE 40 VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE EVALUATOR MAY 41 ACCEPT THE SIGNATURE AS VALID.

42 D. IF THE EVALUATOR FINDS A COMBINATION OF BROAD AND LOCAL
43 CHARACTERISTIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SIGNATURE ON THE BALLOT AFFIDAVIT
44 AND THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD, THE
45 EVALUATOR SHALL DENOTE THE SIGNATURE FOR A SECOND REVIEW THAT SHALL BE

1 CONDUCTED BY AN EVALUATOR USING THE SAME STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY THIS 2 SECTION. 3 E. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES SHALL BE EVALUATED AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS 4 SECTION, EXCEPT THAT ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES THAT USE A TYPED FONT SHALL BE 5 REJECTED. 6 F. THE LEGISLATURE INTENDS THAT THE ILLUSTRATIONS OF BROAD AND 7 CHARACTERISTICS IN THE 2020 SECRETARY OF STATE'S SIGNATURE LOCAL 8 VERIFICATION GUIDE BE USED AS REFERENCE. 9 G. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION: 10 1. "BROAD CHARACTERISTICS" MEANS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: 11 (a) THE TYPE OF WRITING. 12 (b) THE SPEED OF WRITING. 13 (c) OVERALL SPACING. 14 (d) OVERALL SIZE AND PROPORTIONS. 15 (e) POSITION OF THE SIGNATURE. 16 (f) SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION. 17 2. "EVALUATOR" MEANS THE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY 18 RECORDER OR OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ELECTIONS AND WHO CONDUCTS SIGNATURE 19 VERIFICATION. 20 3. "LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS" MEANS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING: 21 (a) INTERNAL SPACING. 22 (b) THE SIZE OR PROPORTIONS OF A LETTER OR LETTER COMBINATION. 23 (c) CURVES, LOOPS AND CROSS POINTS. 24 (d) THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF PEN LIFTS. 25 (e) BEGINNING AND ENDING STROKES. 4. "SIGNATURE VERIFICATION" MEANS THE PROCESS OF MANUALLY COMPARING 26 27 THE SIGNATURE ON A VOTER'S AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE OR BALLOT AFFIDAVIT WITH THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD. 28 29 H. THE LEGISLATURE INTENDS BY THIS SECTION TO CODIFY PROCEDURES 30 BASED ON THE 2020 SECRETARY OF STATE SIGNATURE VERIFICATION GUIDE, 31 PROVIDED THAT IN THE EVENT OF ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN THE GUIDE AND THIS SECTION, THIS SECTION CONTROLS. THIS SECTION IS NOT INTENDED TO MODIFY 32 THE GROUNDS ON WHICH A PARTY-APPOINTED CHALLENGER MAY CHALLENGE AN EARLY 33 34 BALLOT. THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE SIGNATURE EVALUATORS TO EXAMINE BROAD OR LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS ONE AT A TIME. THIS SECTION IS NOT 35 INTENDED TO REQUIRE AN EXACT MATCH. 36 37 Sec. 8. Section 16-551, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 38 read: 39 16-551. Early election board; violation; classification 40 A. The board of supervisors or the governing body of the political 41 subdivision shall appoint one or more early election boards to serve at places to be designated by the board of supervisors or the governing body 42 43 to canvass and tally early election ballots. Members of early election boards shall be selected in accordance with the provisions for selecting 44 45 members of regular election boards as provided in section 16-531.

B. If an electronic voting system is in use for early voting, the early election board shall consist of at least one inspector and two judges who shall perform the processing requirements in accordance with the rules issued by the secretary of state. The inspector and judges shall be appointed in the same manner by party as provided in section 16-531.

7 C. All early ballots received by the county recorder or other 8 officer in charge of elections before 7:00 p.m. on election day and the 9 original MAIL BALLOT affidavit of the voter shall be delivered to the early election boards for processing as provided in the rules of the 10 11 secretary of state. BEGINNING IN 2026, ALL EARLY BALLOTS THAT ARE A VOTING 12 A VOTER TO LOCATION WITHOUT PRESENTING DELIVERED ΒY 13 IDENTIFICATION THAT COMPLIES WITH SECTION 16-579, SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 14 1 MUST BE SIGNATURE VERIFIED. The office of the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall remain open until 7:00 p.m. on 15 16 election day for the purpose of receiving early ballots. Partial or 17 complete tallies of the early election board shall not be released or 18 divulged before all precincts have reported or one hour after the closing 19 of the polls on election day, whichever occurs first. Any person who 20 unlawfully releases information regarding vote tallies or who possesses a 21 tally sheet or summary without authorization from the recorder or officer 22 in charge of elections is guilty of a class 6 felony.

D. If practicable, The county recorder or other officer in charge 23 24 of elections shall count the number of early ballots that are returned at voting locations on election day and shall post on its website those 25 26 totals with the last unofficial results that are released on election night pursuant to section 16-622. Beginning with the day following the 27 election, the county recorder or other officer in charge of elections 28 29 shall enter into the county's ballot tracking system, if established, 30 early ballots that were returned at the voting location on election day.

E. The necessary printed blanks for poll lists, tally lists, lists of voters, ballots, oaths and returns, together with envelopes in which to enclose the returns, shall be furnished by the board of supervisors or the governing body of the political subdivision to the early election board for each election precinct at the expense of the county or the political subdivision.

37 Sec. 9. Section 16-552, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 38 read:

39

16-552. <u>Early ballots; processing; challenges</u>

A. In a jurisdiction that uses optical scan ballots, the officer in charge of elections may use the procedure prescribed by this section or may request approval from the secretary of state for a different method for processing early ballots. The request shall be made in writing at least ninety days before the election for which the procedure is intended to be used. After the election official has confirmed with the secretary of state that all election equipment passes the logic and accuracy test, the election official may begin to count early ballots. No early ballot results may be released except as prescribed by section 16-551.

B. The early election board shall check the voter's MAIL BALLOT affidavit on the envelope containing the early ballot. If it is found to be sufficient, the vote shall be allowed. If the MAIL BALLOT affidavit is insufficient, the vote shall not be allowed. BEGINNING IN 2026, FOR AN EARLY BALLOT THAT IS RECEIVED AND VERIFIED AS PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-579, SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 4, ADDITIONAL SIGNATURE VERIFICATION IS NOT REQUIRED.

11 C. The county chairman of each political party represented on the 12 ballot, by written appointment addressed to the early election board, may 13 designate party representatives and alternates to act as early ballot challengers for the party. No party may have more than the number of such 14 representatives or alternates that were mutually agreed on by each 15 16 political party to be present at one time. If such agreement cannot be 17 reached, the number of representatives shall be limited to one for each 18 political party.

19 D. An early ballot may be challenged on any grounds set forth in 20 section 16-591. All challenges shall be made in writing with a brief 21 statement of the grounds before the early ballot is placed in the ballot 22 box. A record of all challenges and resulting proceedings shall be kept in substantially the same manner as provided in section 16-594. If an 23 24 early ballot is challenged, it shall be set aside and retained in the 25 possession of the early election board or other officer in charge of early 26 ballot processing until a time that the early election board sets for determination of the challenge, subject to the procedure in subsection E 27 28 of this section, at which time the early election board shall hear the 29 grounds for the challenge and shall decide what disposition shall be made 30 of the early ballot by majority vote. If the early ballot is not allowed, 31 it shall be handled pursuant to subsection G of this section.

32 E. Within twenty-four hours of receipt of a challenge, the early election board or other officer in charge of early ballot processing shall 33 mail, by first class mail, a notice of the challenge including a copy of 34 35 the written challenge, and also including the time and place at which the 36 voter may appear to defend the challenge, to the voter at the mailing 37 address shown on the request for an early ballot or, if none was provided, to the mailing address shown on the registration rolls. Notice shall also 38 39 be mailed to the challenger at the address listed on the written challenge 40 and provided to the county chairman of each political party represented on 41 the ballot. The board shall meet to determine the challenge at the time 42 specified by the notice but, in any event, not earlier than ninety-six 43 hours after the notice is mailed, or forty-eight hours if the notifying party chooses to deliver the notice by overnight or hand delivery, and not 44 45 later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the election. The board

1 shall provide the voter with an informal opportunity to make, or to 2 submit, brief statements regarding the challenge. The board may decline 3 to permit comments, either in person or in writing, by anyone other than 4 the voter, the challenger and the party representatives. The burden of 5 proof is on the challenger to show why the voter should not be permitted 6 to vote. The fact that the voter fails to appear shall not be deemed to 7 be an admission of the validity of the challenge. The early election 8 board or other officer in charge of early ballot processing is not 9 required to provide the notices described in this subsection if the written challenge fails to set forth at least one of the grounds listed in 10 11 section 16-591 as a basis for the challenge. In that event, the challenge 12 will be summarily rejected at the meeting of the board. Except for 13 election contests pursuant to section 16-672, the board's decision is 14 final and may not be appealed.

F. If the vote is allowed, the board shall open the envelope containing the ballot in such a manner that the MAIL BALLOT affidavit thereon is not destroyed, take out the ballot without unfolding it or permitting it to be opened or examined and show by the records of the election that the elector has voted.

20 G. If the vote is not allowed, the MAIL BALLOT affidavit envelope 21 containing the early ballot shall not be opened and the board shall mark 22 across the face of such envelope the grounds for rejection. The MAIL 23 BALLOT affidavit envelope and its contents shall then be deposited with 24 the opened MAIL BALLOT affidavit envelopes and shall be preserved with official returns. If the voter does not enter an appearance, the board 25 26 shall send the voter a notice stating whether the early ballot was 27 disallowed and. if disallowed, providing the arounds for the determination. The notice shall be mailed by first class mail to the 28 29 voter's mailing address as shown on the registration rolls within three 30 days after the board's determination.

H. Party representatives and alternates may be appointed as provided in subsection C of this section to be present and to challenge the verification of questioned ballots pursuant to section 16-584 on any grounds permitted ALLOWED by this section. Questioned ballots that are challenged shall be presented to the early election board for decision under the provisions of this section.

37 Sec. 10. Section 16-579, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 38 read:

39

16-579. Procedure for obtaining ballot by elector

A. Every qualified elector, before receiving a ballot, shall announce the elector's name and place of residence in a clear, audible tone of voice to the election official in charge of the signature roster or present the elector's name and residence in writing. The election official in charge of the signature roster shall comply with the following and the qualified elector shall be allowed within the voting area: 1

1. The elector shall present any of the following:

2 (a) A valid form of identification that bears the photograph, name 3 and address of the elector that reasonably appear to be the same as the 4 name and address in the precinct register, including an Arizona driver 5 an Arizona nonoperating identification license, license. a tribal 6 enrollment card or other form of tribal identification or a United States 7 federal, state or local government issued identification. Identification 8 is deemed valid unless it can be determined on its face that it has 9 expired.

10 (b) Two different items that contain the name and address of the 11 elector that reasonably appear to be the same as the name and address in 12 the precinct register, including a utility bill, a bank or credit union 13 statement that is dated within ninety days of the date of the election, a valid Arizona vehicle registration, an Arizona vehicle insurance card, an 14 Indian census card, tribal enrollment card or other form of tribal 15 16 identification, a property tax statement, a recorder's certificate, a 17 voter registration card, a valid United States federal, state or local 18 government issued identification or any mailing that is labeled as 19 "official election material". Identification is deemed valid unless it 20 can be determined on its face that it has expired.

21 (c) A valid form of identification that bears the photograph, name 22 and address of the elector except that if the address on the identification does not reasonably appear to be the same as the address in 23 24 the precinct register or the identification is a valid United States 25 military identification card or a valid United States passport and does 26 not bear an address, the identification must be accompanied by one of the 27 items listed in subdivision (b) of this paragraph.

28 2. If the elector does not present identification that complies 29 with paragraph 1 of this subsection, the elector is only eligible to vote 30 a provisional ballot as prescribed by section 16-584 or a conditional 31 provisional ballot as provided for in the secretary of state's instruction 32 and procedures manual adopted pursuant to section 16-452.

33 3. THROUGH 2025, if the voter surrenders the early ballot to the 34 precinct inspector and the voter is not otherwise required to be issued a 35 provisional ballot, the voter shall be issued a standard ballot after 36 presenting identification pursuant to this subsection. The precinct 37 inspector shall retain the surrendered early ballot, unopened in its 38 affidavit envelope.

39 4. BEGINNING IN 2026, AT ANY VOTING LOCATION THE VOTER MAY CHOOSE
40 TO PROVIDE IDENTIFICATION WHEN PRESENTING THE VOTER'S MAILED EARLY BALLOT,
41 AND IF SO THE ELECTION OFFICIAL SHALL:

42 (a) REQUIRE THE VOTER TO PRESENT IDENTIFICATION THAT COMPLIES WITH 43 PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBSECTION. 1 (b) CONFIRM THAT THE NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE IDENTIFICATION 2 REASONABLY APPEAR TO BE THE SAME NAME AND ADDRESS SHOWN ON THE VOTER'S 3 REGISTRATION RECORD.

4 (c) STAMP THE SIGNED AFFIDAVIT WITH A STAMP THAT READS 5 "ID VERIFIED" AND PLACE THE STAMPED AFFIDAVIT THAT CONTAINS THE EARLY 6 BALLOT IN A SECURED BALLOT BOX THAT IS LABELED FOR EARLY BALLOTS. THE 7 STAMPED AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE REVIEWED AT THE VOTING 8 LOCATION, THE VOTER'S EARLY BALLOT IS DEEMED READY FOR TABULATING AND 9 ADDITIONAL SIGNATURE VERIFICATION OF THE COMPLETED AFFIDAVIT ENVELOPE AS 10 PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-550 IS NOT REQUIRED.

11 (d) MAINTAIN A TALLY OF THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS THAT HAVE BEEN 12 DEPOSITED IN THE SECURED BALLOT BOX AND SIGN AN AFFIDAVIT THAT INCLUDES 13 THE ELECTION OFFICIAL'S NAME, THE POLLING LOCATION, THE TIME AND DATE, THE 14 NUMBER OF EARLY BALLOTS DEPOSITED ACCORDING TO THE TALLY MAINTAINED BY THE 15 ELECTION OFFICIAL AND A STATEMENT SUFFICIENT TO RECORD AND MAINTAIN THE 16 CHAIN OF CUSTODY FOR THOSE BALLOTS.

B. Any qualified elector who is listed as having applied for an early ballot but who states that the elector has not voted and will not vote an early ballot for this election or surrenders the early ballot to the precinct inspector on election day shall be allowed to vote pursuant to the procedure set forth in section 16-584, except that for elections conducted using an electronic pollbook or similar system with continuous voter usage updates, the following apply:

1. If the electronic pollbook or other system indicates that the voter's early ballot has not been returned or accepted by the county recorder and the voter is not otherwise required to be issued a provisional ballot, the voter may be issued a standard ballot after presenting identification pursuant to subsection A of this section.

29 2. If the electronic pollbook or other system indicates that the 30 voter's early ballot has been received or accepted by the county recorder, 31 the voter may not be issued a standard ballot and may only be issued a 32 provisional ballot as prescribed in section 16-584.

C. Each qualified elector's name shall be numbered consecutively by the clerks and in the order of applications for ballots. The judge shall give the qualified elector only one ballot and a ballot privacy folder, and the elector's name shall be immediately checked on the precinct register. Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection, an elector shall not be required to accept or use a ballot privacy folder.

D. For precincts in which a paper signature roster is used, each qualified elector shall sign the elector's name in the signature roster before receiving a ballot, but an inspector or judge may sign the roster for an elector who is unable to sign because of physical disability, and in that event the name of the elector shall be written with red ink, and no attestation or other proof shall be necessary. The provisions of this 1 subsection relating to signing the signature roster shall D0 not apply to 2 electors casting a ballot using early voting procedures.

3 For precincts in which an electronic poll book system is used, Ε. 4 each qualified elector shall sign the elector's name as prescribed in the 5 instructions and procedures manual adopted by the secretary of state 6 pursuant to section 16-452 before receiving a ballot, but an inspector or 7 judge may sign the roster for an elector who is unable to sign because of 8 physical disability, and in that event the name of the elector shall be 9 written with the inspector's or judge's attestation on the same signature 10 line.

F. A person offering to vote at a special district election for which no special district register has been supplied shall sign an affidavit stating the person's address and that the person resides within the district boundaries or proposed district boundaries and swearing that the person is a qualified elector and has not already voted at the election being held.

17 Sec. 11. Section 16–584, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 18 read:

- 19
- 20

16-584. <u>Qualified elector not on precinct register:</u> recorder's certificate; verified ballot; procedure

A. A qualified elector whose name is not on the precinct register and who presents a certificate from the county recorder showing that the elector is entitled by law to vote in the precinct shall be entered on the signature roster on the blank following the last printed name and shall be given the next consecutive register number, and the qualified elector shall sign in the space provided.

B. A qualified elector whose name is not on the precinct register, on presentation of identification verifying the identity of the elector that includes the voter's given name and surname and the complete residence address that is verified by the election board to be in the precinct or on signing an affirmation that states that the elector is a registered voter in that jurisdiction and is eligible to vote in that jurisdiction, shall be allowed to vote a provisional ballot.

34 C. If a voter has moved to a new address within the county and has not notified the county recorder of the change of address before the date 35 36 of an election, the voter shall be permitted ALLOWED to correct the voting 37 records for purposes of voting in future elections at the appropriate polling place for the voter's new address. The voter shall be permitted 38 ALLOWED to vote a provisional ballot. The voter shall present a form of 39 40 identification that includes the voter's given name and surname and the 41 voter's complete residence address. The residence address must be within 42 the precinct in which the voter is attempting to vote, and the voter shall 43 affirm in writing that the voter is registered in that jurisdiction and is 44 eligible to vote in that jurisdiction.

1 D. On completion of the ballot, the election official shall place 2 the ballot in a provisional ballot envelope and shall deposit the envelope 3 in the ballot box. Within ten FIVE calendar days after a PRIMARY, general 4 OR SPECIAL election that includes an election for a federal office and 5 within five THREE business days after any other election or no NOT later 6 than the time at which challenged early voting ballots are resolved, the 7 signature shall be compared to the precinct signature roster of the former 8 precinct where the voter was registered. If the voter's name is not 9 signed on the roster and if there is no indication that the voter voted an early ballot, the provisional ballot envelope shall be opened and the 10 11 ballot shall be counted. If there is information showing the person did 12 vote, the provisional ballot shall remain unopened and shall not be 13 counted. When provisional ballots are confirmed for counting, the county 14 recorder shall use the information supplied on the provisional ballot envelope to correct the address record of the voter. 15

16 E. When a voter is allowed to vote a provisional ballot, the 17 elector's name shall be entered on a separate signature roster page at the roster. Voters' names 18 end the signature shall be numbered of 19 consecutively beginning with the number V-1. The elector shall sign in 20 the space provided. The ballot shall be placed in a separate envelope, 21 the outside of which shall contain the precinct name or number, a sworn or 22 attested statement of the elector that the elector resides in the precinct, is eligible to vote in the election and has not previously voted 23 24 in the election, the signature of the elector and the voter registration 25 number of the elector, if available. The ballot shall be verified for 26 proper registration of the elector by the county recorder before being counted. The verification shall be made by the county recorder within ten 27 calendar days after a general election that includes an election for a 28 29 federal office and within five business days following any other election. Verified ballots shall be counted by depositing the ballot in 30 31 the ballot box and showing on the records of the election that the elector has voted. If registration is not verified the ballot shall remain 32 unopened and shall be retained in the same manner as voted ballots. 33

34 F. For any person who votes a provisional ballot, the county 35 recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall provide for a 36 method of notifying the provisional ballot voter at no cost to the voter 37 whether the voter's ballot was verified and counted and, if not counted, the reason for not counting the ballot. The notification may be in the 38 39 form of notice by mail to the voter, establishment of a toll free 40 TOLL-FREE telephone number, internet access or other similar method to 41 allow the voter to have access to this information. The method of notification shall provide reasonable restrictions that are designed to 42 43 limit transmittal of the information only to the voter.

1	Sec. 12. Section 16–622, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
2	read:
3	16–622. <u>Official canvass; unofficial results</u>
4	A. At any time following the close of the polls, except as provided
5	in SECTION 16-550 AND section 16-551, subsection C, unofficial returns may
6	be released during the counting of the ballots by vote tabulating
7	equipment, and upon ON completion of the count the unofficial results
8	shall be open to the public. The result printed by the vote tabulating
9	equipment, to which have been added write-in and early votes, shall, when
10	certified by the board of supervisors or other officer in charge, SHALL
11	constitute the official canvass of each precinct or election district.
12	B. In any election for a federal office, a statewide office or a
13	member of the legislature or in any election for a statewide ballot
14	measure, all unofficial returns that are released during the counting of
15	the ballots and all unofficial results that are open to the public shall
16	when released to the public be transmitted by telephone, by telefacsimile
17	FAX or by other electronic means to the secretary of state.
18	Sec. 13. Section 16-642, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
19	read:
20	16-642. <u>Canvass of election; postponements</u>
21	A. The governing body holding an election shall meet and canvass
22	the election not less than six days nor more than twenty days following
23	the election AS FOLLOWS:
24	1. THE GOVERNING BOARD OF A COUNTY SHALL MEET AND CANVASS AS
25	FOLLOWS:
26	(a) FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, NOT LATER THAN THE SECOND MONDAY
27	AFTER THE ELECTION.
28	(b) FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOT LATER THAN THE THIRD THURSDAY
29	AFTER THE ELECTION.
30	2. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CANVASS AS FOLLOWS:
31	(a) FOR THE PRIMARY ELECTION, NOT LATER THAN THE THIRD THURSDAY
32	AFTER THE ELECTION.
33	(b) FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION, NOT LATER THAN THE THIRD MONDAY AFTER
34	THE ELECTION.
35	3. THE GOVERNING BODY OF A CITY, TOWN OR SPECIAL DISTRICT SHALL
36	MEET AND CANVASS THE ELECTION NOT LESS THAN SIX DAYS AND NOT MORE THAN
37	TWENTY DAYS FOLLOWING THE ELECTION.
38	B. The governing body of a special district as defined in title 48
39	shall present to the board of supervisors a certified copy of the official
40	canvass of the election at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the
41	board of supervisors. For purposes of contesting a special district
42	election as described in section 16-673, the canvass is not complete until
43	the presentation to the board of supervisors is made.
-	

1 C. If, at the time of the meeting of the governing body, the 2 returns from any polling place in the election district where the polls 3 were opened and an election held are found to be missing, the canvass 4 shall be postponed from day to day until all the returns are received or 5 until six postponements have been had. THE SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO 6 THE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' CANVASS OF THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL 7 ELECTION.

8 9

read:

- 10
- 16-645. <u>Canvass and return of precinct vote: declaring</u> <u>nominee of party: certificate of nomination;</u> write-in candidates

Sec. 14. Section 16-645, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to

11 12

13 When the board of supervisors, or the governing body of a city Α. or town, has completed its canvass of precinct returns, the person having 14 the largest number of votes, or if more than one candidate is necessary, 15 16 those candidates to the required number who have received the largest 17 number of votes for the nomination for an office in the political party of 18 which the person was set forth on the ballot as a candidate for the 19 nomination, shall be declared the nominee of the party for that office and 20 shall be given a certificate of nomination for that office by the board or 21 governing body, which shall entitle the person to have the person's name 22 placed on the official ballot at the ensuing election as the nominee of 23 the party for the office. When canvassing write-in votes the apparent 24 intent of the voter shall be taken into consideration to the extent 25 possible and the standard prescribed for federal write-in candidates in 26 section 16-543.02, subsection C applies.

27 B. The board of supervisors shall deliver the OFFICIAL canvass BY ELECTRONIC MEANS to the secretary of state within fourteen THIRTEEN 28 29 CALENDAR days after the primary election, and the secretary of state shall on or before the third Monday THURSDAY following the primary election 30 31 canvass the return and issue a letter declaring nomination as provided in this section to the nominees who filed nominating petitions and papers 32 33 with the secretary of state pursuant to section 16-311, subsection D. For any partisan primary election, the governing body or officer in charge of 34 35 elections shall prepare and transmit to the secretary of state along with 36 the official canvass the total by party of partisan ballots selected in 37 that primary election by voters who registered as no party preference, as 38 independents or as members of a political party that is not qualified for 39 representation on the ballot.

40 C. A certificate of election shall not be issued to a write-in 41 candidate for precinct committeeman or a write-in candidate for a 42 nonpartisan office unless the candidate receives a number of votes 43 equivalent to at least the same number of signatures required by section 44 16-322 for nominating petitions for the same office. D. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, a letter declaring nomination shall not be issued to a write-in candidate of a party that has not qualified for continued representation on the official ballot pursuant to section 16-804 unless the candidate receives a plurality of the votes of the party for the office for which the candidate is a candidate.

7 E. Except as provided by subsection C of this section, a letter 8 declaring nomination shall not be issued to a write-in candidate of a 9 party qualified for continued representation on the official ballot unless 10 the candidate receives a number of votes equivalent to at least the same 11 number of signatures required by section 16-322 for nominating petitions 12 for the same office.

F. A certificate of election shall not be issued to presidential electors who are pledged to a write-in candidate for president unless that candidate received the highest number of votes cast for the office of president.

17 Sec. 15. Section 16–646, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 18 read:

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16-646. <u>Statement, contents and mailing of official canvass</u>

A. When the result of the canvass is determined, a statement, known and designated as the official canvass, shall be entered on the official record of the election district that shall show:

1. The number of ballots cast in each precinct and in the county.

24 2. The number of ballots rejected in each precinct and in the 25 county.

26 3. The titles of the offices voted for and the names of the 27 persons, together with the party designation, if any, of each person voted 28 for to fill the offices.

4. The number of votes by precincts and county received by eachcandidate.

5. For each candidate race in each political subdivision prescribed by section 16-204.01, the number of ballots cast and the number of active registered voters in each political subdivision and portion of a political subdivision for which a candidate may be elected.

35 6. The numbers and a brief title of each proposed constitutional 36 amendment and each initiated or referred measure voted on.

37 7. The number of votes by precincts and county for and against such38 proposed amendment or measure.

B. The certified permanent copy of the official canvass for all offices and ballot measures, except offices and ballot measures in a city or town election and nonpartisan election returns, shall be mailed immediately to the secretary of state who shall maintain and preserve it as a permanent public record.

1 C. The board of supervisors shall FIRST MAIL WITH A POSTMARK OR 2 OTHER SIMILAR DATE AND TIME INDICATOR, THEN deliver ELECTRONICALLY a copy 3 of the official canvass for all offices and ballot measures in the primary 4 and general elections to the secretary of state in a uniform electronic 5 computer media format that shall be agreed on between the secretary of 6 state and all county election officials. The uniform format shall be 7 designed to facilitate the computer analysis of election results for 8 offices and ballot measures that are statewide or are common to more than 9 one county. THE ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE OFFICIAL CANVASS FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONDUCT AND ISSUE 10 11 THE STATEWIDE CANVASS IF THE ELECTRONIC COPY INCLUDES A SCAN OR OTHER 12 SIMILAR EVIDENCE THAT THE PAPER OFFICIAL CANVASS WAS MAILED BEFORE THE 13 ELECTRONIC VERSION WAS SENT.

D. The certified permanent copy of the official canvass for all offices and ballot measures in a city or town election shall be filed with the appropriate city or town clerk, or in a special district election with the clerk of the board of supervisors, who shall maintain and preserve it as a permanent public record.

19 Sec. 16. Section 16–648, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 20 read:

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16-648. <u>Canvass for state offices, amendments and measures</u>

A. On the fourth THIRD MONDAY following a general election, the secretary of state, in the presence of the governor and the attorney general, shall canvass all offices for which the nominees filed nominating petitions and papers with the secretary of state pursuant to section 16-311, subsection E.

B. The secretary of state, in the presence of the governor and the chief justice of the supreme court, shall canvass all proposed constitutional amendments and initiated or referred measures, as shown by the ELECTRONIC OR certified copies of THE official canvass received from the several counties, and forthwith certify the result to the governor.

32 C. If the official canvass of any county has not been received on 33 the fourth Monday following the general election, the canvass shall be 34 postponed from day to day, not to exceed thirty days from the date of the 35 election, until canvasses from all counties are received.

36 Sec. 17. Section 16-662, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 37 read:

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16-662. <u>Certification to superior court of facts requiring</u> <u>recount</u>

When the canvass shows that a recount is required, the secretary of state, WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER THE LAST COUNTY CANVASS OR THE LAST DAY FOR COUNTY CANVASSES PRESCRIBED BY SECTION 16-642, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER, shall, in the case of an office to be filled by electors of the entire state, a congressional district, a legislative district or a subdivision of the state greater than a county, initiated or referred 1 measures or proposals to amend the constitution, certify the facts 2 requiring the recount to the superior court in Maricopa county. In the 3 case of an office to be filled by the electors of a county or subdivision 4 of a county or precinct, the board of supervisors of such county or in the 5 case of an office to be filled by the electors of a city or town, the city 6 or town council of that city or town shall certify the facts requiring a 7 recount to the superior court in the county in which the canvass was 8 conducted.

9 Sec. 18. Section 16-663, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 10 read:

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16-663. Recount of votes; method

A. The superior court to which the facts requiring a recount are certified shall forthwith PROMPTLY make and enter an order requiring a recount of the votes cast for such office, measure or proposal. The recount shall be conducted in accordance with the laws pertaining to contests of elections.

17 B. When the court orders A COURT-ORDERED recount of votes which 18 THAT were cast and tabulated on electronic voting equipment, such recount shall be pursuant to section 16-664. On completion of WHILE the recount 19 20 IS BEING CONDUCTED, and for legislative, statewide and federal candidate 21 races only, the county chairmen CHAIRPERSONS of the political parties 22 entitled to continued representation on the ballot or the chairman's 23 CHAIRPERSON'S designee shall select at random without the use of a 24 computer five per cent PERCENT of the precincts for the recounted race for a hand count, and if the results of that hand count when compared to the 25 26 electronic tabulation of that same race are less than the designated margins calculated pursuant to section 16-602, the recount is complete and 27 the electronic tabulation is the official result. If the hand count 28 29 results in a difference that is equal to or greater than the designated margin for that race, the procedure PROCEDURES established in section 30 31 16-602, subsections C, D, E and F applies APPLY. THE HAND COUNT CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MAY BEGIN BEFORE THE MACHINE TABULATION OF 32 BALLOTS FOR THE COURT-ORDERED RECOUNT IS COMPLETE. 33

34 Sec. 19. Section 16–664, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to 35 read:

36

16-664. <u>Recount of votes by automatic tabulating system</u>

A. In the event of a court-ordered recount of votes that were cast 37 38 and tabulated on electronic voting equipment for a state primary, state 39 general or state special election, the secretary of state shall order the 40 ballots recounted on an automatic tabulating system to be furnished and 41 programmed under the supervision of the secretary of state. In the event of a court-ordered recount for elections other than for the office of 42 43 supervisor, the secretary of state may designate the county board of supervisors to perform the duties assigned to the secretary of state. 44

1 B. If the office of secretary of state is contested, the governor 2 shall order the ballots recounted on an automatic tabulating system to be 3 furnished and programmed under the supervision of the governor.

4 C. The programs to be used in the recount of votes pursuant to this 5 section shall differ from the programs prescribed by section 16-445 and 6 used in the initial tabulation of the votes.

7 D. THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CONDUCT LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING 8 ON THE AUTOMATED TABULATING SYSTEM TO BE USED IN THE RECOUNT OF VOTES NOT 9 MORE THAN TWO CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE COURT ORDERS A RECOUNT. EACH TEAM THAT IS CONDUCTING A LOGIC AND ACCURACY TEST SHALL BE SUPERVISED BY A 10 11 CERTIFIED ELECTION OFFICER. A PERSON IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS CONTRACT 12 STAFF FOR LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING ON THE AUTOMATED TABULATING SYSTEM TO 13 BE USED IN A RECOUNT OF VOTES IF THAT PERSON HAS BEEN AFFILIATED WITH OR 14 RECEIVED ANY INCOME IN THE PRECEDING THREE YEARS FROM A VOTING SYSTEM VENDOR FOR A VOTING SYSTEM THAT IS USED IN THAT COUNTY. 15

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Sec. 20. Primary election date 2024

17 Notwithstanding section 16-204, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended 18 by this act, and any other law, the 2024 primary election shall be held on 19 July 30, 2024.

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Sec. 21. 2024 primary election; nomination petition forms; local initiative petition forms; previous primary election date

23 A. A person who desires to become a candidate at the 2024 primary 24 election, who collects signatures on a nomination petition form before the 25 effective date of this act and who has used a petition form that includes 26 the former primary election date of August 6, 2024 may lawfully submit those signatures for the 2024 primary election to be held on July 30, 27 2024. Signatures that are collected with the August 6, 2024 primary 28 29 election date, that are submitted as prescribed in this subsection and that otherwise comply with the requirements provided by law are deemed to 30 31 be as valid as signatures collected on a nomination petition form that complies with the newly designated primary election date of July 30, 2024 32 33 and shall not be ruled invalid due solely to the changed date of the 34 primary election.

35 B. Any city, town or county initiative petition that is circulated 36 before the effective date of this act and that is on a petition form that 37 includes the former 2024 primary election date of August 6, 2024 may 38 lawfully submit those petitions and signatures for the primary election to 39 be held on July 30, 2024. Signatures that are collected with the August 40 6, 2024 primary election date, that are submitted as prescribed in this 41 subsection and that otherwise comply with the requirements provided by law are deemed to be as valid as signatures collected on an initiative 42 43 petition form that complies with the newly designated primary election date of July 30, 2024 and shall not be ruled invalid due solely to the 44 45 changed date of the primary election.

1 Sec. 22. 2024. 2025 and 2026 elections: signature cure period Notwithstanding section 16-550, subsection A, Arizona Revised 2 3 Statutes, as amended by this act, and any other law, the following apply: 4 1. For a primary, general or special election in 2024, 2025 and 5 2026 that includes a federal office, the county recorder or other officer 6 in charge of elections shall allow signatures to be corrected not later 7 than the fifth calendar day after the election. 2. For all other elections in 2024, 2025 and 2026, the county 8 9 recorder or other officer in charge of elections shall allow signatures to 10 be corrected not later than the third business day after the election. 11 Sec. 23. Emergency 12 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the 13 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by 14 law.