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## SECRETARY OF STATE

### **Safe at Home fines**

- Allows courts to retain for administrative purposes up to 25% of fines collected by the court for the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the Secretary of State (SOS).
- Allows a court to assign to the prosecuting attorney as reimbursement up to 25% of fines collected by the court for the Address Confidentiality Program administered by the SOS.

### **Public inspection of ballot drop box surveillance**

- Removes the current law requirement that the video recordings of video surveillance of secure ballot drop boxes must be available for public inspection immediately upon request and instead specifies that it be made available upon request in accordance with the procedures under the Public Records Act.
- Changes the current law requirement that each day's video recordings and video surveillance of secure ballot drop boxes be made available on the internet for streaming or download to the public within 24 hours after the video ends to 72 hours.

### **Precinct election official training**

- Requires the SOS to make grants to the boards of elections to pay the cost of precinct election official training programs, instead of reimbursing counties for those costs.

### **Electronic pollbook reimbursement**

- Modifies procedures established under H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly for the SOS to reimburse the boards of elections for 85% of the cost of electronic pollbooks and ancillary equipment, up to each county's allocated share of a previously made appropriation.

### **Safe at Home fines**

(R.C. 2929.18 and 2929.28)

The bill allows a court that imposes a fine for the Address Confidentiality Program (also known as Safe at Home) to retain up to 25% of amount collected to cover administrative costs and to assign up to 25% of the amount collected to reimburse the prosecuting attorney for costs associated with prosecution of the offense. In addition to any other fine that is or may be imposed on an offender for domestic violence, menacing by stalking, rape, sexual battery, or trafficking in persons, the court under continuing law may impose a fine of between \$75 and \$500 to be transmitted to the State Treasurer to be credited to the Address Confidentiality Program Fund. The Address Confidentiality Program allows a victim of domestic violence, menacing by stalking, human trafficking, trafficking in persons, rape, or sexual battery who fears for safety as a victim to apply to the Secretary of State (SOS) for address confidentiality.

## **Public inspection of ballot drop box surveillance**

(R.C. 3509.05)

The bill removes the current law requirement that the video recordings of video surveillance of secure ballot drop boxes must be available for public inspection immediately upon request and instead specifies that it be made available upon request in accordance with the procedures under the Public Records Act. The Public Records Act requires responses to public records requests to be promptly prepared and made available for inspection to the requestor at all reasonable times during regular business hours.

The bill also changes the current law requirement that the board must make each day's video recording available to the public on the internet for streaming or download without charge 24 hours after the recording ends to 72 hours after it ends. Continuing law requires the board to make those video recordings available to the public upon request in accordance with the procedures under the Public Records Act.<sup>153</sup>

Under continuing law, the board of elections may place not more than one secure ballot drop box outside the office of the board for the purpose of receiving absent voter's ballots. The ballot drop box must be open to receive ballots only during the period beginning on the first day after the close of voter registration before the election (the first day of the absent voting period) and ending at 7:30 p.m. on the day of an election (the close of polls). The drop box must be monitored by recorded video surveillance at all times.

## **Precinct election official training**

(R.C. 3501.27)

The bill requires the SOS to make grants to the boards of elections to pay the cost of precinct election official training programs, instead of reimbursing counties for those costs. Under existing law, the SOS must reimburse counties for those costs upon receiving an itemized statement of expenses.

## **Electronic pollbook reimbursement**

(Section 610.30 (amending Section 285.12 of H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> G.A.))

The bill modifies provisions of H.B. 45 of the 134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that require the SOS to reimburse the boards of elections for 85% of the cost of purchasing electronic pollbooks and ancillary equipment, up to the county's allocated share of a \$7.5 million appropriation. Each county's allocation is determined based on its number of registered electors as of July 1, 2022.

First, the bill adds a requirement that, when required under state purchasing requirements and at the request of the SOS, DAS's Office of Procurement Services must initiate a competitive solicitation for qualified vendors of electronic pollbooks that are approved for

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<sup>153</sup> R.C. 149.43(B)(1).

use under continuing law standards. Boards of elections must choose from the vendors identified through that process.

Further, the bill allows a board of elections to be reimbursed for the cost of leasing electronic pollbooks instead of purchasing them, if the county chooses to do so. The bill also specifies that a board of elections must notify the SOS of its selected electronic pollbooks and then acquire the equipment itself, instead of notifying the Office of Procurement Services of its choice and then having the Office acquire the equipment on behalf of the board.

The bill adds a caveat to a provision of H.B. 45 requiring the SOS to reimburse a board of elections for 85% of the cost of electronic pollbooks it had already acquired on or after January 1, 2020. Under the bill, a board is eligible for that reimbursement only if it is in compliance with all applicable directives and statutes. And, the bill requires the SOS to reimburse the board of elections instead of the county's general fund.