

Elections

H.B. 74

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Hall and Lightbody

Effective date: April 9, 2025

Prefilled elections forms

- Prohibits a person from preprinting or filling out any portion of a voter registration form or an application for absent voter's ballots on behalf of an applicant.
- Makes exceptions for applicants who require assistance by reason of blindness, disability, or illiteracy.
- Allows election officials to continue preprinting names and addresses on absentee ballot applications.
- Allows a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's relative to complete a form on the voter's behalf, as permitted under prior law.

Voter registration through BMV

- Requires all voter registrations and updates completed at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) as part of a customer's transaction to be sent electronically to the Secretary of State within 24 hours, with no paper form required and no form sent to a board of elections.
- Clarifies that when a customer submits a notice of change of address to the BMV, the BMV must offer the applicant the opportunity to submit a change of address for voter registration purposes electronically in conjunction with the BMV transaction.
- Requires BMV deputy registrars to continue to send any paper voter registration forms that are returned to a deputy registrar to the local board of elections within five days.

Statewide election petitions

- Requires the Attorney General to certify the title of any statewide initiative or referendum petition, in addition to its summary, as a fair and truthful statement of the proposal before the petitioners may begin collecting signatures.
- Applies certain requirements related to paid petition circulators to the circulators of a political party formation petition.

Audits of election results

- Requires the boards of elections to conduct post-election audits after every election, instead of only general elections and primary elections held in even-numbered years.

Approval of voting systems

- Renames the Board of Voting Machine Examiners as the Board of Voting Systems Examiners.
- Adds a cybersecurity expert appointed by the Secretary of State as a nonvoting member of the Board.
- Requires the Board to examine, test, and approve voter registration systems and ballots on demand voting systems, and requires the Secretary to certify those systems, in the same manner as the Board and the Secretary do for voting equipment.
- Requires the Secretary to adopt standards for the security and integrity of voter registration systems and ballots on demand voting systems.
- Requires those systems to meet any standards adopted by the federal Election Assistance Commission to be certified.
- Prohibits the Secretary or a board of elections from acquiring a voter registration system or a ballots on demand voting system that has not been certified under the act.
- Allows a board of elections that was using a system before the act took effect to continue using that system until the county acquires a new system.

Cybersecurity and Fraud Advisory Board

- Creates the temporary Cybersecurity and Fraud Advisory Board, which must make recommendations regarding cybersecurity and fraud prevention in the information technology (IT) systems and shared services used across state agencies.

H.B. 1 – Special Session

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Seitz

Effective date: September 1, 2024

- Prohibits a foreign national from knowingly making, or promising to make, a campaign contribution or expenditure or a disbursement for the direct cost of producing or airing an electioneering communication, except for an independent expenditure regarding a local ballot issue.
- Prohibits individuals and certain entities from knowingly soliciting or accepting a contribution or expenditure from a foreign national and from making a contribution or expenditure using funds the person knows were received from a foreign national for political purposes.
- Prohibits any person from knowingly aiding or facilitating a violation described above.
- Prohibits a lawful permanent U.S. resident, also known as a green card holder, from making contributions or expenditures regarding ballot issues or candidates.
- Provides criminal and financial penalties for violations of the act.

- Gives the Attorney General exclusive authority to investigate and prosecute violations of the act.

H.B. 2 – Special Session

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Dobos

Effective date: September 1, 2024

- Delays the deadline, from August 7 to September 1, for a major political party to certify its presidential and vice-presidential candidates to the Secretary of State for the 2024 general election.
- Allows a party to make that certification for the 2024 election in writing by any reasonably reliable method that, under the circumstances, will provide for the Secretary to receive it by the deadline, including hand delivery, U.S. mail, commercial carrier, facsimile, or email.