

HOUSE BILL NO. 927

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections

on March 1, 2022)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Delegate Robinson)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-101 and 24.2-667.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; voting systems; reporting absentee results by precinct.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 24.2-101 and 24.2-667.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-101. Definitions.

As used in this title, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Ballot scanner machine" means the electronic counting machine in which a voter inserts a marked ballot to be scanned and the results tabulated.

"Candidate" means a person who seeks or campaigns for an office of the Commonwealth or one of its governmental units in a general, primary, or special election and who is qualified to have his name placed on the ballot for the office. "Candidate" shall include a person who seeks the nomination of a political party or who, by reason of receiving the nomination of a political party for election to an office, is referred to as its nominee. For the purposes of Chapters 8 (§ 24.2-800 et seq.), 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.), and 9.5 (§ 24.2-955 et seq.), "candidate" shall include any write-in candidate. However, no write-in candidate who has received less than 15 percent of the votes cast for the office shall be eligible to initiate an election contest pursuant to Article 2 (§ 24.2-803 et seq.) of Chapter 8. For the purposes of Chapters 9.3 (§ 24.2-945 et seq.) and 9.5 (§ 24.2-955 et seq.), "candidate" shall include any person who raises or spends funds in order to seek or campaign for an office of the Commonwealth, excluding federal offices, or one of its governmental units in a party nomination process or general, primary, or special election; and such person shall be considered a candidate until a final report is filed pursuant to Article 3 (§ 24.2-947 et seq.) of Chapter 9.3.

27 "Central absentee voter precinct" means a precinct established pursuant to § 24.2-712 for the
28 processing of absentee ballots for the county or city or any combination of precincts within the county or
29 city.

30 "Constitutional office" or "constitutional officer" means a county or city office or officer referred
31 to in Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution of Virginia: clerk of the circuit court, attorney for the
32 Commonwealth, sheriff, commissioner of the revenue, and treasurer.

33 "Department of Elections" or "Department" means the state agency headed by the Commissioner
34 of Elections.

35 "Direct recording electronic machine" or "DRE" means the electronic voting machine on which a
36 voter touches areas of a computer screen, or uses other control features, to mark a ballot and his vote is
37 recorded electronically.

38 "Election" means a general, primary, or special election.

39 "Election district" means the territory designated by proper authority or by law which is
40 represented by an official elected by the people, including the Commonwealth, a congressional district, a
41 General Assembly district, or a district for the election of an official of a county, city, town, or other
42 governmental unit.

43 "Electoral board" or "local electoral board" means a board appointed pursuant to § 24.2-106 to
44 administer elections for a county or city. The electoral board of the county in which a town or the greater
45 part of a town is located shall administer the town's elections.

46 "Entrance of polling place" or "entrance to polling place" means an opening in the wall used for
47 ingress to a structure.

48 "General election" means an election held in the Commonwealth on the Tuesday after the first
49 Monday in November or on the first Tuesday in May for the purpose of filling offices regularly scheduled
50 by law to be filled at those times.

51 "General registrar" means the person appointed by the electoral board of a county or city pursuant
52 to § 24.2-110 to be responsible for all aspects of voter registration, in addition to other duties prescribed

53 by this title. When performing duties related to the administration of elections, the general registrar is
54 acting in his capacity as the director of elections for the locality in which he serves.

55 "Machine-readable ballot" means a tangible ballot that is marked by a voter or by a system or
56 device operated by a voter, is available for verification by the voter at the time the ballot is cast, and is
57 then fed into and scanned by a separate counting machine capable of reading ballots and tabulating results.

58 "Officer of election" means a person appointed by an electoral board pursuant to § 24.2-115 to
59 serve at a polling place for any election.

60 "Paper ballot" means a tangible ballot that is marked by a voter and then manually counted.

61 "Party" or "political party" means an organization of citizens of the Commonwealth which, at
62 either of the two preceding statewide general elections, received at least 10 percent of the total vote cast
63 for any statewide office filled in that election. The organization shall have a state central committee and
64 an office of elected state chairman which have been continually in existence for the six months preceding
65 the filing of a nominee for any office.

66 "Person with a disability" means a person with a disability as defined by the Virginians with
67 Disabilities Act (§ 51.5-1 et seq.).

68 "Polling place" means the structure that contains the one place provided for each precinct at which
69 the qualified voters who are residents of the precinct may vote.

70 "Precinct" means the territory designated by the governing body of a county, city, or town to be
71 served by one polling place.

72 "Primary" or "primary election" means an election held for the purpose of selecting a candidate to
73 be the nominee of a political party for election to office.

74 "Printed ballot" means a tangible ballot that is printed on paper and includes both machine-readable
75 ballots and paper ballots.

76 "Qualified voter" means a person who is entitled to vote pursuant to the Constitution of Virginia
77 and who is (i) 18 years of age on or before the day of the election or qualified pursuant to § 24.2-403 or
78 subsection D of § 24.2-544, (ii) a resident of the Commonwealth and of the precinct in which he offers to
79 vote, and (iii) a registered voter. No person who has been convicted of a felony shall be a qualified voter

80 unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. No person
81 adjudicated incapacitated shall be a qualified voter unless his capacity has been reestablished as provided
82 by law. Whether a signature should be counted towards satisfying the signature requirement of any petition
83 shall be determined based on the signer of the petition's qualification to vote. For purposes of determining
84 if a signature on a petition shall be included in the count toward meeting the signature requirements of
85 any petition, "qualified voter" shall include only persons maintained on the Virginia voter registration
86 system (a) with active status and (b) with inactive status who are qualified to vote for the office for which
87 the petition was circulated.

88 "Qualified voter in a town" means a person who is a resident within the corporate boundaries of
89 the town in which he offers to vote, duly registered in the county of his residence, and otherwise a qualified
90 voter.

91 "Referendum" means any election held pursuant to law to submit a question to the voters for
92 approval or rejection.

93 "Registered voter" means any person who is maintained on the Virginia voter registration system.
94 All registered voters shall be maintained on the Virginia voter registration system with active status unless
95 assigned to inactive status by a general registrar in accordance with Chapter 4 (§ 24.2-400 et seq.). For
96 purposes of applying the precinct size requirements of § 24.2-307, calculating election machine
97 requirements pursuant to Article 3 (§ 24.2-625 et seq.) of Chapter 6, mailing notices of local election
98 district, precinct or polling place changes as required by subdivision 13 of § 24.2-114 and § 24.2-306, and
99 determining the number of signatures required for candidate and voter petitions, "registered voter" shall
100 include only persons maintained on the Virginia voter registration system with active status. For purposes
101 of determining if a signature on a petition shall be included in the count toward meeting the signature
102 requirements of any petition, "registered voter" shall include only persons maintained on the Virginia
103 voter registration system (i) with active status and (ii) on inactive status who are qualified to vote for the
104 office for which the petition was circulated.

105 "Registration records" means all official records concerning the registration of qualified voters and
106 shall include all records, lists, applications, and files, whether maintained in books, on cards, on automated
107 data bases, or by any other legally permitted record-keeping method.

108 "Residence" or "resident," for all purposes of qualification to register and vote, means and requires
109 both domicile and a place of abode. To establish domicile, a person must live in a particular locality with
110 the intention to remain. A place of abode is the physical place where a person dwells.

111 "Special election" means any election that is held pursuant to law to fill a vacancy in office or to
112 hold a referendum.

113 "State Board" or "Board" means the State Board of Elections.

114 "Virginia voter registration system" or "voter registration system" means the automated central
115 record-keeping system for all voters registered within the Commonwealth that is maintained as provided
116 in Article 2 (§ 24.2-404 et seq.) of Chapter 4.

117 "Voting system" means the electronic voting and counting machines used at elections. ~~This term~~
118 includes, including direct recording electronic machines (DRE) and, ballot scanner machines, and on-
119 demand ballot printing systems and ballot marking devices used to manufacture or mark ballots to be cast
120 by voters on electronic voting and counting machines.

121 **§ 24.2-667.1. Reporting of results; absentee votes.**

122 The general registrar shall report to the Department for each precinct in his locality the number
123 and results of absentee ballots cast by voters assigned to such precinct. Results from absentee voting and
124 voting at the precinct on election day shall be reported separately. The general registrar shall also report
125 to the Department of Elections the number and results of absentee ballots cast early in person pursuant to
126 § 24.2-701.1 separately from the number and results of all other absentee ballots. The Department shall
127 establish standards for ascertaining and reporting such information.

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