

1 HB577
2 159667-1
3 By Representative Ford
4 RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections
5 First Read: 05-MAR-14

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a registrar may not hold
9 an elective office while serving as a registrar.

10 This bill would prohibit a registrar or
11 individual working under the direction of a
12 registrar from serving while running as a candidate
13 for an elected office.

14
15 A BILL
16 TO BE ENTITLED
17 AN ACT

18
19 Relating to boards of registrars; to amend Section
20 17-3-2, Code of Alabama 1975, to prohibit a registrar or
21 individual working under the direction of a registrar from
22 serving while running as a candidate for an elected office.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

24 Section 1. Section 17-3-2, Code of Alabama 1975, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 "§17-3-2.

1 "(a) Registration shall be conducted in each county
2 by a board of three reputable and suitable persons to be
3 appointed, unless otherwise provided by law, by the Governor,
4 Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, or by
5 a majority of them acting as a state board of appointment. The
6 registrars shall be qualified electors, residents of the
7 county, shall have a high school diploma or equivalent, and
8 possess the minimum computer and map reading skills necessary
9 to function in the office. The Secretary of State shall
10 prescribe guidelines to assist the state board of appointment
11 in determining the qualifications of registrars. The
12 registrars shall not hold an elective office during their
13 term. One of the members shall be designated by the state
14 board of appointment as chair of the board of registrars for
15 each county.

16 "(b) A registrar or an individual working under the
17 direction of a registrar may not serve in his or her position
18 in the office of the board of registrars if he or she becomes
19 a candidate for election to any office. Immediately after the
20 certificate of nomination or petition, as provided in Section
21 17-9-3 as amended by Act 2014-6, 2014 Regular Session, is
22 filed, the registrar or individual shall notify the state
23 board of appointment, relinquish all access to the records of
24 the board of registrars, including voter registration forms,
25 and either resign or take a leave of absence without pay, as
26 determined by the state board of appointment. The registrar or
27 individual may not resume his or her position in the office of

1 the board of registrars until he or she is defeated in an
2 election or completes his or her term as an elected official.
3 The state board of appointment may appoint another individual
4 to temporarily fill a position vacated pursuant to this
5 subsection.

6 "~~(b)~~ (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection
7 (a), the Legislature may provide by local law for the
8 appointment of additional members to the board of registrars
9 for a county that has two courthouses.

10 "~~(c)~~ (d) The provisions of this section shall not
11 apply in any county having a population of not less than
12 600,000 inhabitants according to the 1970 or any succeeding
13 federal decennial census, and any currently effective local
14 law or general law of local application providing for the
15 appointment of any member of the board of registrars in the
16 county shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be
17 repealed by operation of this chapter."

18 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
19 first day of the third month following its passage and
20 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.