

HB82 INTRODUCED



1 HB82
2 7M1A2V2-1
3 By Representatives Wood (D), Shirey, Butler, Gidley,
4 Holk-Jones, Hulsey, Moore (P), Kirkland, Lomax, Brown, Oliver,
5 Shedd
6 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
7 First Read: 04-Feb-25
8 PFD: 06-Jan-25



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the Governor, Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries appoint members of boards of registrars. These registrars must meet certain qualifications.

This bill would further provide for the qualifications of members of the boards of registrars and establish hours of operation.

Existing law provides that registrars are paid \$80 per day.

This bill would increase the salary of registrars to \$150 per day.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to boards of registrars; to amend Sections 17-3-2, 17-3-5, and 17-3-8, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the membership of the boards of registrars; to further provide for the qualifications of registrars and



HB82 INTRODUCED

29 establish hours of operation; to increase the salary of each
30 registrar; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to
31 update the existing code language to current
32 style.

33 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

34 Section 1. Sections 17-3-2, 17-3-5, and 17-3-8, Code of
35 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

36 "§17-3-2

37 (a) (1) Registration shall be conducted in each county
38 by a board of three reputable and suitable ~~persons~~ individuals
39 to be appointed, unless otherwise provided by law, by the
40 Governor, Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and
41 Industries, or by a majority of them acting as a state board
42 of appointment. In making appointments on or after October 1,
43 2025, the state board of appointment shall consider the
44 racial, gender, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the
45 that county.

46 (2) The registrars shall:

47 a. ~~be~~ Be qualified electors, and be residents of the
48 county; ~~shall have~~

49 b. Have a high school diploma or equivalent; ~~and~~
50 ~~possess the minimum computer and map reading skills necessary~~
51 ~~to function in the office~~

52 c. Possess excellent communication skills evident by
53 reportable experience in areas such as electronic mail, online
54 communications, and use of multi-line telephones;

55 d. Demonstrate intermediate level experience and
56 proficiency in data processing and use of computer programs



HB82 INTRODUCED

57 used in the current day-to-day workplace, including, but not
58 limited to, web-based operating systems;

59 e. Demonstrate the ability to download and upload
60 reports and files and conduct spreadsheet manipulation; and

61 f. Demonstrate the ability to operate office equipment,
62 including printers, copiers, scanners, and cameras.

63 (3) The Secretary of State shall prescribe guidelines
64 to assist the state board of appointment in determining the
65 qualifications of registrars. The registrars shall not hold an
66 elective office during their term. One of the members shall be
67 designated by the state board of appointment as chair of the
68 board of registrars for each county.

69 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a),
70 the Legislature may provide by local law for the appointment
71 of additional members to the board of registrars for a county
72 that has two courthouses.

73 (c) ~~The provisions of this~~ This section shall not apply
74 in any county having a population of not less than 600,000
75 inhabitants according to the 1970 or any succeeding federal
76 decennial census, and any currently effective local law or
77 general law of local application providing for the appointment
78 of any member of the board of registrars in the county shall
79 remain in full force and effect and shall not be repealed by
80 operation of this chapter."

81 "§17-3-5

82 (a) Each registrar shall receive a salary in the amount
83 of ~~eighty dollars (\$80)~~ one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per
84 day for each day's attendance upon business of the board, to



HB82 INTRODUCED

85 be paid by the state and disbursed to the county commissions
86 and disbursed by the county commissions to each registrar on
87 order of a quorum of the board of registrars of the county.
88 The state Comptroller shall issue to each county commission on
89 a monthly basis an amount sufficient to fund these payments
90 plus the employer share of the Social Security or Federal
91 Insurance Corporation Act tax. The county commission will
92 provide to the state Comptroller an invoice itemized to
93 reflect payments made. If a legal holiday falls on a day the
94 board is to be in session, and the courthouse of the county is
95 closed for the holiday, the board of registrars shall be
96 compensated for the holiday. Each registrar shall receive a
97 mileage allowance equal to the amount allowed state employees
98 or employees of the county, whichever is greater, for official
99 travel in the course of attending the business of the board,
100 including attending continuing education programs. Travel and
101 other expenses shall be paid by the county commissions to the
102 boards of registrars and the state shall reimburse the county
103 commissions based on a written request submitted by the county
104 commissions to the ~~state~~ Comptroller.

105 (b) The provisions of this section regarding travel
106 mileage shall not apply in any county having a population of
107 600,000 or more inhabitants according to the ~~1970 or any~~
108 ~~succeeding~~ most current federal decennial census, and any
109 currently effective local law or general law of local
110 application regarding travel mileage for registrars in the
111 county shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be
112 repealed by operation of this chapter.



HB82 INTRODUCED

113 (c) Members of the boards of registrars of this state
114 are ~~hereby~~ declared to be state employees for the purposes of
115 Chapter 28 of Title 36.

116 (d) Members of the boards of registrars of this state
117 shall be treated as equals with other state and county
118 employees in regard to Social Security protection and
119 benefits.

120 (e) All payments by a county to any member of a county
121 board of registrars, ~~except~~ for mileage or reimbursement for
122 expenses, ~~+~~ shall be treated for Social Security purposes
123 equally with payments by that county to ~~other~~ county employees
124 of the county.

125 (f) The state office for Social Security and the state
126 Comptroller and each county commission ~~are directed to~~ shall
127 take all necessary action to ~~insure~~ ensure that members of the
128 boards of registrars of this state are treated as other state
129 and county employees in regard to Social Security protection
130 and benefits as provided in Chapter 28 of Title 36, including,
131 if necessary, amending the federal-state agreement referred to
132 in Chapter 28 of Title 36, to implement the intent of the
133 Legislature as expressed herein.

134 (g) No county commission may reduce the current county
135 supplement upon the effect of this section by implementation
136 of Act 94-693.

137 (h) (1) A county commission may allow the chair or any
138 member of the county board of registrars who has served at
139 least 16 years in that position to participate in any health
140 insurance program provided by the county upon the same terms,



HB82 INTRODUCED

141 conditions, and employee contributions as required for county
142 employees.

143 (2) This subsection shall not apply to any health
144 insurance plans administered by the State of Alabama as
145 described in Title 36, Chapter 29 and Title 11, Chapter 91A."

146 "§17-3-8

147 (a) Each member of the board of registrars in the
148 Counties of Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Dallas, Escambia, Geneva,
149 Lowndes, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox may meet a maximum of 120
150 working days each fiscal year; each member of the board of
151 registrars in the Counties of Barbour, Butler, Fayette,
152 Greene, Marengo, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, and Winston may meet
153 a maximum of 168 working days each fiscal year, except in Pike
154 County each board of registrars may meet up to an additional
155 30 session days each fiscal year, at the discretion of the
156 chair of the county commission, and such days shall be paid
157 from the respective county funds; each member of the board of
158 registrars in the Counties of Coffee, Shelby, Talladega, and
159 Tallapoosa may meet a maximum of 220 working days each fiscal
160 year, except that in Talladega County the board of registrars
161 may meet up to an additional 30 session days each fiscal year,
162 at the discretion of the chair of the county commission; each
163 member of the board of registrars in the Counties of Dale,
164 Franklin, Houston, Marion, Marshall, Bullock, Macon, and
165 Tuscaloosa may meet a maximum of 216 working days each fiscal
166 year; and each member of the board of registrars in Russell
167 County may meet a maximum of 177 working days each fiscal
168 year.



HB82 INTRODUCED

169 (b) In the Counties of Choctaw, Colbert, Cullman,
170 Lauderdale, and Monroe, each member of the board of registrars
171 may meet a maximum of 199 working days each fiscal year.

172 (c) (1) Each member of the Board of Registrars of
173 Autauga, Elmore, and Bibb Counties may meet a maximum of 187
174 working days each fiscal year. Each member of the Board of
175 Registrars of Walker County may meet a maximum of 200 days
176 each fiscal year, and each member of the Board of Registrars
177 of Lamar, Cherokee, Clarke, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Hale, and
178 Washington Counties may meet a maximum of 140 days each fiscal
179 year. Each member of the board of registrars in the following
180 counties may meet the following maximum number of working days
181 each fiscal year: Henry - 140 working days; Covington - 188
182 working days; DeKalb, Jackson, and Blount - 207 working days;
183 Chambers - 180 working days; and Lawrence - 200 working days.

184 (2) Notwithstanding Section 17-3-5, the 60 additional
185 working days for registrars in Lawrence County added by Act
186 2023-456 shall be paid by the county commission and shall not
187 be reimbursed by the state.

188 (d) Each member of the board of registrars in the
189 Counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Etowah, Limestone, Lee,
190 Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, St. Clair, and Morgan are
191 authorized to meet not more than five days each week for the
192 purpose of carrying out their official duties. Jefferson
193 County, which is now operating under the provisions of local
194 laws, shall be exempted from this section. Provided, however,
195 that where the term each year is used in the local laws the
196 term means each fiscal year.



HB82 INTRODUCED

197 (e) The actual number of working days to be used as
198 session days shall be determined by a quorum of the board of
199 registrars according to the needs of the county.

200 (f) As many as 25 of the allotted working days may be
201 used for special registration sessions (i.e., those sessions
202 held away from the courthouse in the several precincts of the
203 county or sessions held on Saturday or between the hours of
204 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.). Notice of any special session
205 scheduled by the board shall be given at least 10 days prior
206 to the special session by: (1) Bills posted at three or more
207 public places in each election precinct affected, if the
208 session involves precinct visits; and (2) advertisement once a
209 week for two successive weeks in a newspaper published in the
210 county or by radio or television announcements on a local
211 station, or both by newspaper or announcement.

212 (g) ~~Notwithstanding Section 17-3-5, the 60 additional~~
213 ~~working days for registrars in Lawrence County added by Act~~
214 ~~2023-456 shall be paid by the county commission and shall not~~
215 ~~be reimbursed by the state~~On any day designated as a working
216 day for a board of registrars, the board of registrars shall
217 do both of the following:

218 (1) Be open the same hours as the courthouse of the
219 county, or alternatively, establish regular hours and make
220 those hours available to the public.

221 (2) Have a registrar or staff member present during
222 those hours of operation."

223 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
224 1, 2025.