

SB48 ENGROSSED



1 SB48
2 3YPQVVV-2
3 By Senators Singleton, Coleman, Coleman-Madison, Stewart
4 RFD: State Governmental Affairs
5 First Read: 04-Feb-25



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

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

"§17-3-2

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



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29 that county.

30 (2) The registrars shall:

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

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

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

39 d. Demonstrate intermediate level experience and
40 proficiency in data processing and use of computer programs
41 used in the current day-to-day workplace, including, but not
42 limited to, web-based operating systems;

43 e. Demonstrate the ability to download and upload
44 reports and files and conduct spreadsheet manipulation; and

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

47 (3) The Secretary of State shall prescribe guidelines
48 to assist the state board of appointment in determining the
49 qualifications of registrars. The registrars shall not hold an
50 elective office during their term. One of the members shall be
51 designated by the state board of appointment as chair of the
52 board of registrars for each county.

53 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a),
54 the Legislature may provide by local law for the appointment
55 of additional members to the board of registrars for a county
56 that has two courthouses.



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57 (c) ~~The provisions of this~~ This section shall not apply
58 in any county having a population of not less than 600,000
59 inhabitants according to the 1970 or any succeeding federal
60 decennial census, and any currently effective local law or
61 general law of local application providing for the appointment
62 of any member of the board of registrars in the county shall
63 remain in full force and effect and shall not be repealed by
64 operation of this chapter."

65 "§17-3-5

66 (a) Each registrar shall receive a salary in the amount
67 of ~~eighty dollars (\$80)~~ one hundred fifteen dollars (\$115) per
68 day for each day's attendance upon business of the board, to
69 be paid by the state and disbursed to the county commissions
70 and disbursed by the county commissions to each registrar on
71 order of a quorum of the board of registrars of the county.
72 The state Comptroller shall issue to each county commission on
73 a monthly basis an amount sufficient to fund these payments
74 plus the employer share of the Social Security or Federal
75 Insurance Corporation Act tax. The county commission will
76 provide to the state Comptroller an invoice itemized to
77 reflect payments made. If a legal holiday falls on a day the
78 board is to be in session, and the courthouse of the county is
79 closed for the holiday, the board of registrars shall be
80 compensated for the holiday. Each registrar shall receive a
81 mileage allowance equal to the amount allowed state employees
82 or employees of the county, whichever is greater, for official
83 travel in the course of attending the business of the board,
84 including attending continuing education programs. Travel and



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85 other expenses shall be paid by the county commissions to the
86 boards of registrars and the state shall reimburse the county
87 commissions based on a written request submitted by the county
88 commissions to the ~~state~~ Comptroller.

89 (b) The provisions of this section regarding travel
90 mileage shall not apply in any county having a population of
91 600,000 or more inhabitants according to the ~~1970 or any~~
92 ~~succeeding~~ most current federal decennial census, and any
93 currently effective local law or general law of local
94 application regarding travel mileage for registrars in the
95 county shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be
96 repealed by operation of this chapter.

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

100 (d) Members of the boards of registrars of this state
101 shall be treated as equals with ~~other~~ state and county
102 employees in regard to Social Security protection and
103 benefits.

104 (e) All payments by a county to any member of a county
105 board of registrars, ~~(except for mileage or reimbursement for~~
106 ~~expenses,)~~ shall be treated for Social Security purposes
107 equally with payments by that county to ~~other~~ county employees
108 of the county.

109 (f) The state office for Social Security and the state
110 Comptroller and each county commission ~~are directed to~~ shall
111 take all necessary action to ~~insure~~ ensure that members of the
112 boards of registrars of this state are treated as ~~other~~ state



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113 and county employees in regard to Social Security protection
114 and benefits as provided in Chapter 28 of Title 36, including,
115 if necessary, amending the federal-state agreement referred to
116 in Chapter 28 of Title 36, to implement the intent of the
117 Legislature as expressed herein.

118 (g) No county commission may reduce the current county
119 supplement upon the effect of this section by implementation
120 of Act 94-693.

121 (h) (1) A county commission may allow the chair or any
122 member of the county board of registrars who has served at
123 least 16 years in that position to participate in any health
124 insurance program provided by the county upon the same terms,
125 conditions, and employee contributions as required for county
126 employees.

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

130 "§17-3-8

131 (a) Each member of the board of registrars in the
132 Counties of Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Dallas, Escambia, Geneva,
133 Lowndes, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox may meet a maximum of 120
134 working days each fiscal year; each member of the board of
135 registrars in the Counties of Barbour, Butler, Fayette,
136 Greene, Marengo, Pickens, Pike, Randolph, and Winston may meet
137 a maximum of 168 working days each fiscal year, except in Pike
138 County each board of registrars may meet up to an additional
139 30 session days each fiscal year, at the discretion of the
140 chair of the county commission, and such days shall be paid



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141 from the respective county funds; each member of the board of
142 registrars in the Counties of Coffee, Shelby, Talladega, and
143 Tallapoosa may meet a maximum of 220 working days each fiscal
144 year, except that in Talladega County the board of registrars
145 may meet up to an additional 30 session days each fiscal year,
146 at the discretion of the chair of the county commission; each
147 member of the board of registrars in the Counties of Dale,
148 Franklin, Houston, Marion, Marshall, Bullock, Macon, and
149 Tuscaloosa may meet a maximum of 216 working days each fiscal
150 year; and each member of the board of registrars in Russell
151 County may meet a maximum of 177 working days each fiscal
152 year.

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

156 (c) (1) Each member of the Board of Registrars of
157 Autauga, Elmore, and Bibb Counties may meet a maximum of 187
158 working days each fiscal year. Each member of the Board of
159 Registrars of Walker County may meet a maximum of 200 days
160 each fiscal year, and each member of the Board of Registrars
161 of Lamar, Cherokee, Clarke, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Hale, and
162 Washington Counties may meet a maximum of 140 days each fiscal
163 year. Each member of the board of registrars in the following
164 counties may meet the following maximum number of working days
165 each fiscal year: Henry - 140 working days; Covington - 188
166 working days; DeKalb, Jackson, and Blount - 207 working days;
167 Chambers - 180 working days; and Lawrence - 200 working days.

168 (2) Notwithstanding Section 17-3-5, the 60 additional



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169 working days for registrars in Lawrence County added by Act
170 2023-456 shall be paid by the county commission and shall not
171 be reimbursed by the state.

172 (d) Each member of the board of registrars in the
173 Counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Etowah, Limestone, Lee,
174 Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, St. Clair, and Morgan are
175 authorized to meet not more than five days each week for the
176 purpose of carrying out their official duties. Jefferson
177 County, which is now operating under the provisions of local
178 laws, shall be exempted from this section. Provided, however,
179 that where the term each year is used in the local laws the
180 term means each fiscal year.

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

184 (f) As many as 25 of the allotted working days may be
185 used for special registration sessions (i.e., those sessions
186 held away from the courthouse in the several precincts of the
187 county or sessions held on Saturday or between the hours of
188 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.). Notice of any special session
189 scheduled by the board shall be given at least 10 days prior
190 to the special session by: (1) Bills posted at three or more
191 public places in each election precinct affected, if the
192 session involves precinct visits; and (2) advertisement once a
193 week for two successive weeks in a newspaper published in the
194 county or by radio or television announcements on a local
195 station, or both by newspaper or announcement.

196 (g) ~~Notwithstanding Section 17-3-5, the 60 additional~~



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197 ~~working days for registrars in Lawrence County added by Act~~
198 ~~2023-456 shall be paid by the county commission and shall not~~
199 ~~be reimbursed by the state~~On any day designated as a working
200 day for a board of registrars, the board of registrars shall
201 do both of the following:

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

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

207 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
208 1, 2025.



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211 Senate

212 Read for the first time and referred04-Feb-25
213 to the Senate committee on State
214 Governmental Affairs
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216 Read for the second time and placed12-Feb-25
217 on the calendar:
218 2 amendments
219
220 Read for the third time and passed13-Feb-25
221 as amended
222 Yeas 29
223 Nays 0
224 Abstains 1
225
226
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Patrick Harris,
Secretary.