

**SB48 INTRODUCED**



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



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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



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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



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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



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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.



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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,



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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.



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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.





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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.