

HB521 INTRODUCED



1 HB521
2 11D8X33-1
3 By Representatives Holk-Jones, Reynolds, Brinyark, Colvin,
4 Moore (P), Myrex, Bracy, Lamb, Shirey, Robbins, Brown, Hulsey,
5 Lands
6 RFD: Ways and Means General Fund
7 First Read: 26-Feb-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, the boards of registrars are charged with overseeing the registration of voters in the counties of Alabama and are subject to certain qualifications.

This bill would require candidates for appointment to a board of registrars to submit to a criminal background check and report the findings to the board that appoints registrars.

Under existing law, each board is allocated a certain number of days that it may meet.

This bill would require that the state pay registrars when a scheduled working day is affected by a declared county, state, or federal emergency or similar order.

Under existing law, a member of a board of registrars is considered an employee for purposes of Social Security.

This bill would require that registrars be considered state employees for purposes of receiving natural disaster, pandemic, or other emergency relief funding.

Under existing law, certain public officials are entitled to omit all required information except their name from the generally available voter registration



HB521 INTRODUCED

29 list.

30 This bill would allow registrars to omit all
31 information about themselves except their name from the
32 generally available voter registration list.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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40 Relating to boards of registrars; to amend Sections
41 17-3-2, 17-3-5, and 17-3-8 as last amended by Act 2025-22 of
42 the 2025 Regular Session, and Section 17-4-33, Code of Alabama
43 1975; to require candidates for a board of registrars to
44 submit to a criminal background check; to require that the
45 state pays the salaries of the boards of registrars when the
46 boards' working days are affected by county, state, or
47 national emergencies; to require registrars to be considered
48 as employees for purposes of receiving natural disaster,
49 pandemic relief, or other emergency funds; and to permit
50 members of the board of registrars to omit certain information
51 about themselves from the voter registration list.

52 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

53 Section 1. Sections 17-3-2, 17-3-5, and 17-3-8 as last
54 amended by Act 2025-22 of the 2025 Regular Session, and
55 Section 17-4-33, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as
56 follows:



HB521 INTRODUCED

57 "§17-3-2

58 (a) (1) Registration shall be conducted in each county

59 by a board of three reputable and suitable individuals to be

60 appointed, ~~unless otherwise provided by law~~, by the Governor,

61 Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, or by

62 a majority of them acting as a state board of appointment,

63 unless otherwise provided by law. Candidates for appointment

64 to the board of registrars shall submit to a criminal history

65 background check of state and federal records through the

66 Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency no more than 60 days

67 prior to the consideration of his or her appointment and shall

68 make the findings available to the state board of appointment.

69 A candidate for appointment shall be responsible for the cost

70 of the criminal history background check. In making

71 appointments on or after October 1, 2025, the state board of

72 appointment shall consider the racial, gender, urban, rural,

73 and economic diversity of the ~~that~~ county where the registrar

74 will be appointed.

75 (2) The registrars shall:

76 a. Be qualified electors and be residents of the

77 county;

78 b. Have a high school diploma or equivalent;

79 c. Possess excellent communication skills evident by

80 reportable experience in areas such as electronic mail, online

81 communications, and use of multi-line telephones;

82 d. Demonstrate intermediate level experience and

83 proficiency in data processing and use of computer programs

84 used in the current day-to-day workplace, including, but not



HB521 INTRODUCED

85 limited to, web-based operating systems;

86 e. Demonstrate the ability to download and upload
87 reports and files and conduct spreadsheet manipulation; and

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

90 (3) The Secretary of State shall prescribe guidelines
91 to assist the state board of appointment in determining the
92 qualifications of registrars. The registrars shall not hold an
93 elective office during their term. One of the members shall be
94 designated by the state board of appointment as chair of the
95 board of registrars for each county.

96 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Legislature may
97 provide by local law for the appointment of additional members
98 to the board of registrars for a county that has two
99 courthouses.

100 (c) This section shall not apply in any county having a
101 population of ~~not less than~~ 600,000 or more inhabitants
102 according to the ~~1970 or any succeeding~~ most current federal
103 decennial census, ~~and any.~~ Any currently effective local law
104 or general law of local application providing for the
105 appointment of any member of the board of registrars in the
106 county shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be
107 repealed by operation of this chapter."

108 "§17-3-5

109 (a) (1) Each registrar shall receive a salary in the
110 amount of one hundred fifteen dollars (\$115) per day for each
111 day's attendance upon business of the board, to be paid by the
112 state and disbursed to the county commissions and disbursed by



HB521 INTRODUCED

113 the county commissions to each registrar on order of a quorum
114 of the board of registrars of the county. The ~~state~~
115 Comptroller shall issue to each county commission on a monthly
116 basis an amount sufficient to fund these payments plus the
117 employer share of the Social Security or Federal Insurance
118 Corporation Act tax. The county commission shall provide to
119 the Comptroller an invoice itemized to reflect payments made.

120 (2) If a legal holiday falls on a day the board is to
121 be in session and the courthouse of the county is closed for
122 the holiday, the board of registrars shall be compensated for
123 the holiday.

124 (3) A registrar shall receive payment of salary by the
125 state when his or her regularly scheduled day of work
126 coincides with closure of the office due to the existence of a
127 declared state of emergency or similar order from a county,
128 state, or federal governmental entity.

129 (4) Registrars may be treated the same as state
130 employees for the payment of relief funds originating from the
131 state or federal government due to a natural disaster,
132 pandemic, or other emergency.

133 (5) Each registrar shall receive a mileage allowance
134 equal to the amount allowed state employees or employees of
135 the county, whichever is greater, for official travel in the
136 course of attending the business of the board, including
137 attending continuing education programs. Travel and other
138 expenses shall be paid by the county commissions to the boards
139 of registrars, and the state shall reimburse the county
140 commissions based on a written request submitted by the county



HB521 INTRODUCED

141 commissions to the Comptroller.

142 (b) ~~The provisions of this section regarding travel~~
143 ~~mileage~~Subdivision (a) (5) shall not apply in any county having
144 a population of 600,000 or more inhabitants according to the
145 most current federal decennial census, and any currently
146 effective local law or general law of local application
147 regarding travel mileage for registrars in the county shall
148 remain in full force and effect and shall not be repealed by
149 operation of this chapter.

150 (c) Members of the boards of registrars ~~of this state~~
151 are declared to be state employees for the purposes of Chapter
152 28 of Title 36.

153 (d) Members of the boards of registrars of this state
154 shall be treated as equals with state and county employees in
155 regard to Social Security protection and benefits.

156 (e) All payments by a county to any member of a county
157 board of registrars, except for mileage or reimbursement for
158 expenses, shall be treated for Social Security purposes
159 equally with payments by that county to county employees of
160 the county.

161 (f) The state office for Social Security and the state
162 Comptroller and each county commission shall take all
163 necessary action to ensure that members of the boards of
164 registrars of this state are treated as state and county
165 employees in regard to Social Security protection and benefits
166 as provided in Chapter 28 of Title 36, including, if
167 necessary, amending the federal-state agreement referred to in
168 Chapter 28 of Title 36, to implement the intent of the



HB521 INTRODUCED

169 Legislature as expressed herein.

170 (g) No county commission may reduce the current county
171 supplement upon the effect of this section by implementation
172 of Act 94-693.

173 (h) (1) A county commission may allow the chair or any
174 member of the county board of registrars who has served at
175 least 16 years in that position to participate in any health
176 insurance program provided by the county upon the same terms,
177 conditions, and employee contributions as required for county
178 employees.

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

182 "§17-3-8

183 (a) (1) Each member of the board of registrars in the
184 Counties of Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, Dallas, Escambia, Geneva,
185 Lowndes, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox may meet a maximum of 120
186 working days each fiscal year~~†~~.

187 (2) ~~each~~Each member of the board of registrars in the
188 Counties of Barbour, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Marengo,
189 Pickens, Pike, Randolph, and Winston may meet a maximum of 168
190 working days each fiscal year, except in Pike County each
191 board of registrars may meet up to an additional 30 session
192 days each fiscal year, at the discretion of the chair of the
193 county commission, and such days shall be paid from the
194 respective county funds~~†~~.

195 (3) ~~each~~Each member of the board of registrars in the
196 Counties of Coffee, Shelby, Talladega, and Tallapoosa may meet



HB521 INTRODUCED

197 a maximum of 220 working days each fiscal year, except that in
198 Talladega County the board of registrars may meet up to an
199 additional 30 session days each fiscal year, at the discretion
200 of the chair of the county commission~~+~~.

201 ~~(4) each~~Each member of the board of registrars in the
202 Counties of Dale, Franklin, Houston, Marion, Marshall,
203 Bullock, Macon, and Tuscaloosa may meet a maximum of 216
204 working days each fiscal year~~;~~and.

205 ~~(5) each~~Each member of the board of registrars in
206 Russell County may meet a maximum of 177 working days each
207 fiscal year.

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

211 (c) (1) Each member of the Board of Registrars of
212 Autauga, Elmore, and Bibb Counties may meet a maximum of 187
213 working days each fiscal year. Each member of the Board of
214 Registrars of Walker County may meet a maximum of 200 days
215 each fiscal year, and each member of the Board of Registrars
216 of Lamar, Cherokee, Clarke, Conecuh, Crenshaw, Hale, and
217 Washington Counties may meet a maximum of 140 days each fiscal
218 year. Each member of the board of registrars in the following
219 counties may meet the following maximum number of working days
220 each fiscal year: Henry - 140 working days; Covington - 188
221 working days; DeKalb, Jackson, and Blount - 207 working days;
222 Chambers - 180 working days; and Lawrence - 200 working days.

223 (2) Notwithstanding Section 17-3-5, the 60 additional
224 working days for registrars in Lawrence County added by Act



HB521 INTRODUCED

225 2023-456 shall be paid by the county commission and shall not
226 be reimbursed by the state.

227 (d) Each member of the board of registrars in the
228 Counties of Baldwin, Calhoun, Chilton, Etowah, Limestone, Lee,
229 Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, St. Clair, and Morgan are
230 authorized to meet not more than five days each week for the
231 purpose of carrying out their official duties. Jefferson
232 County, which is now operating under the provisions of local
233 laws, shall be exempted from this section. ~~Provided, however,~~
234 ~~that where~~Where the term "each year" is used in the local
235 laws, the term means each fiscal year.

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

239 (f) (1) As many as 25 of the allotted working days may
240 be used for special registration sessions (i.e., those
241 sessions held away from the courthouse in the several
242 precincts of the county or sessions held on Saturday or
243 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.).

244 (2) Notice of any special session scheduled by the
245 board shall be given at least 10 days prior to the special
246 session by: (i) bills posted at three or more public places in
247 each election precinct affected, if the session involves
248 precinct visits; and (ii) advertisement once a week for two
249 successive weeks in a newspaper published in the county or by
250 radio or television announcements on a local station, or both
251 by newspaper or announcement.

252 (g) On any day designated as a working day for a board



HB521 INTRODUCED

253 of registrars, the board of registrars shall do both of the
254 following:

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

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

260 "§17-4-33

261 (a) The State of Alabama shall provide, through the
262 Secretary of State, a nondiscriminatory, single, uniform,
263 official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide
264 voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered
265 by the Secretary of State, with advice from the Voter
266 Registration Advisory Board and the President of the Alabama
267 Probate Judges Association, which contains the name and
268 registration information of every legally registered voter in
269 the state. The computerized list shall comply with the
270 following requirements:

271 (1) It shall serve as the single system for storing and
272 managing the official list of registered voters throughout the
273 state.

274 (2) It shall contain the name, address, and voting
275 location, as well as other information deemed necessary by the
276 Voter Registration Advisory Board or the Secretary of State,
277 of every legally registered voter in the state.

278 (3) A unique identifier shall be assigned to each
279 legally registered voter in the state.

280 (4) It shall contain the voting history of each



HB521 INTRODUCED

281 registered voter.

282 (5) It shall be coordinated with the ~~driver's~~driver
283 license database of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency
284 and the appropriate state agency to assist in the removal of
285 deceased voters.

286 (6) Any election official in the state, including any
287 local election official, may obtain immediate electronic
288 access to the information contained in the computerized list.

289 (7) All voter registration information obtained by any
290 registrar in the state shall be electronically entered into
291 the computerized list on an expedited basis at the time
292 information is provided to the registrar.

293 (8) The Secretary of State shall provide such support
294 as may be required so that registrars are able to enter voter
295 registration information.

296 (9) It shall serve as the official voter registration
297 list for the conduct of all elections.

298 (10) Following each state and county election, the
299 Secretary of State shall provide one electronic copy of the
300 computerized voter list free of charge to each political party
301 that satisfied the ballot access requirements for that
302 election. The electronic copy of the computerized voter list
303 shall be provided within 30 days of the certification of the
304 election or upon the completion of the election vote history
305 update following the election, whichever comes first. In
306 addition, upon written request from the chair of a political
307 party, the Secretary of State shall furnish up to two
308 additional electronic copies of the computerized voter file



HB521 INTRODUCED

309 during each calendar year to each political party that
310 satisfied the ballot access requirements during the last
311 statewide election held prior to that calendar year. The
312 electronic copies provided pursuant to this section shall
313 contain the full, editable data as it exists in the
314 computerized voter list maintained by the Secretary of State.

315 (11) The list shall be maintained so that it is
316 technologically secure.

317 (b) (1) The Secretary of State, or judge of probate, or
318 absentee election manager, or municipal clerk, or registrar
319 shall include the name and omit all other information of a
320 registered voter on any generally available list of registered
321 voters, except for those lists provided to federal and state
322 agencies, upon the written signed affidavit of the registered
323 voter to the board of registrars of the county in which the
324 individual is registered or intends to register, affirming one
325 of the following:

326 a. That the registered voter, or a minor who is in the
327 legal custody of the registered voter, is or has been the
328 victim of domestic violence as provided in Article 7,
329 ~~commencing with Section 13A-6-130~~, of Chapter 6 of Title 13A.

330 b. That a domestic violence order is or has been issued
331 by a judge or magistrate pursuant to the Domestic Violence
332 Protection Order Enforcement Act, to restrain access to the
333 registered voter or a minor who is in the legal custody of the
334 registered voter.

335 c. That the registered voter is a federal or state
336 prosecutor, federal, state, probate, or municipal judge,



HB521 INTRODUCED

337 member of a board of registrars, legislator, or law
338 enforcement officer as defined in Chapter 21 of Title 36 or
339 the spouse of a federal or state prosecutor, federal, state,
340 probate, or municipal judge, member of a board of registrars,
341 legislator, or law enforcement officer as defined in Chapter
342 21 of Title 36.

343 (2) The Secretary of State shall develop and provide to
344 each county the affidavit to be completed under this
345 subsection."

346 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
347 1, 2026.