



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST FOR EHB 1265

Citations Affected: IC 3-5; IC 3-6; IC 3-7; IC 3-10; IC 3-11; IC 3-11.5; IC 3-13; IC 3-14; IC 9-14.

Synopsis: Various elections matters. Defines "candidate" for the purpose of provisions concerning early and late candidate vacancies. Modifies the definition of "chute". Defines "scantron" and provides that a scantron complies with certain absentee ballot endorsement requirements if it is endorsed with the initials of certain individuals. Allows a circuit court clerk, voter registration official, or county election board to make certain filings by fax or electronic mail. Extends the: (1) expiration date of a provision concerning local redistricting; and (2) deadline for a redistricting authority to take specified actions. Requires the county election board of a county that is not designated as a vote center county to establish a plan that specifies the method and timing of providing absentee reports to persons who are entitled to receive the reports. Specifies that a nondiscriminatory uniform policy concerning certain voter registration information must apply to all records maintained in the computerized list, including election administration records and absentee activity reports. Requires the NVRA official to conduct, at least once each calendar year, a review and identification of particular voter registration records. Specifies that a provision concerning the delivery, retention, confidentiality, and disposal of election materials does not prohibit county election officials from performing a duty under statutes concerning provisional voting. Exempts a political party office on a primary ballot from the ballot arrangement requirement that all candidates for the same office appear on the same page or screen. Permits certain persons credentialed by the Indiana protection and advocacy services commission to be in the polls during an election. Allows a county election board that adopted a resolution for a primary election allowing absentee voting at satellite offices to amend the resolution, by unanimous vote, to modify, for the subsequent general or municipal election, the locations and hours of the satellite offices. Requires each member of an absentee voter board to sign and print the member's name on a voter's affidavit after the voter has signed and dated the affidavit. Allows a vote center plan amendment to be filed with the election division by fax or electronic mail. Modifies provisions applicable to the notice that must be sent to a voter when a signature mismatch has occurred. Allows a voter to deliver a signature verification affidavit signed by the voter to an absentee voter board at a circuit court clerk's office or satellite location



during the period of early voting. Provides that the county election board or board of elections and registration shall not reject an absentee ballot with a missing security envelope signature in certain circumstances if the voter delivers an affidavit of unsigned ballot that is signed by the voter to an absentee voter board at a circuit court clerk's office or satellite location during the period of early voting. Specifies certain employment provisions that apply when a county election board appoints a member of an absentee voter board, absentee ballot counter team, or courier team. Specifies the deadline that applies to fill certain candidate vacancies when the vacancy is due to the successful challenge of a candidate in a judicial proceeding. Prohibits the appointment of a particular person to fill a vacancy by a political party that differs from the party with which the person affiliated when the person was defeated in a primary election or a town or state convention. Specifies the circumstances that create a late candidate vacancy. Extends certain early candidate vacancy provisions to apply to late candidate vacancies. Requires that action to fill a late candidate vacancy be taken not later than 6 a.m. on election day. Modifies a provision concerning the delivery and retention of affidavits. Permits the bureau of motor vehicles to disclose certain identifying information for voter registration and election purposes under certain laws. Prescribes the ballot language for the proposed constitutional amendment that would remove the state superintendent of public instruction from the line of succession to the governor. Makes conforming amendments. **(This conference committee report: (1) modifies the applicability of the definition of "candidate"; (2) extends the expiration date of a provision passed in SEA 135-2024 concerning local redistricting; (3) extends deadlines for a redistricting authority to take specified actions in a provision passed in SEA 135-2024; and (4) makes a technical correction.)**

Effective: Upon passage.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MADAM PRESIDENT:

Your Conference Committee appointed to confer with a like committee from the House upon Engrossed Senate Amendments to Engrossed House Bill No. 1265 respectfully reports that said two committees have conferred and agreed as follows to wit:

that the House recede from its dissent from all Senate amendments and that the House now concur in all Senate amendments to the bill and that the bill be further amended as follows:

- 1 Page 2, delete lines 3 through 10, begin a new paragraph and insert:
- 2 "**(c) As used in IC 3-13-1 and IC 3-13-2, "candidate" includes an**
- 3 **individual filling a general or municipal election ballot vacancy**
- 4 **under IC 3-13-1 or IC 3-13-2 when a county or town election**
- 5 **board, the Indiana election commission, or a court has determined**
- 6 **that the required action of:**
- 7 **(1) the individual; or**
- 8 **(2) another person under IC 3-13-1 or IC 3-13-2;**
- 9 **is void or invalid."**
- 10 Page 3, between lines 19 and 20, begin a new paragraph and insert:
- 11 "**SECTION 5. IC 3-5-10-7.1, AS ADDED BY SEA 135-2024,**
- 12 **SECTION 2, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE**
- 13 **UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 7.1. (a) A redistricting authority described in**
- 14 **section 7(a)(1) of this chapter that did not redistrict election districts or**
- 15 **did not recertify existing districts following the 2020 decennial census,**
- 16 **shall:**
- 17 **(1) after January 1, 2025, and before ~~June 30, 2025~~, November**
- 18 **1, 2025, redistrict election districts for an office that is on the**
- 19 **ballot during the 2024 general election; or**

- 1 (2) before ~~June 30, 2025~~: **November 1, 2025**:
- 2 (A) recertify existing districts under section 8 of this chapter;
- 3 or
- 4 (B) redistrict election districts for an office that is not on the
- 5 ballot during the 2024 general election.
- 6 (b) Redistricting or recertifying under this section must be based on
- 7 the 2020 decennial census.
- 8 (c) A member of a redistricting authority described in subsection (a)
- 9 that fails to:
- 10 (1) redistrict election districts; or
- 11 (2) recertify existing districts under section 8 of this chapter;
- 12 before June 30, 2025, shall not be entitled to receive payment of any
- 13 salary or fees, as fixed by law, until the redistricting authority complies
- 14 with subsection (a).
- 15 (d) This section expires July 1, ~~2025~~: **2026**".
- 16 Page 29, line 41, after "filing" insert "a".
- 17 Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.
- (Reference is to EHB 1265 as reprinted February 28, 2024.)

Conference Committee Report
on
Engrossed House Bill 1265

Signed by:

Representative Wesco
Chairperson

Senator Gaskill

Representative Pfaff

Senator Hunley

House Conferees

Senate Conferees