

SENATE BILL No. 34

By Committee on Judiciary

1-15

1 AN ACT concerning elections; relating to voting; penalties for voting
2 crimes; prosecution of election crimes; amending K.S.A. 25-2409, 25-
3 2416, 25-2423 and 25-2431 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 25-1128 and 25-
4 2507 and repealing the existing sections.
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 New Section 1. (a) Voting more than once is intentionally:

8 (1) Voting or attempting to vote more than once in the same
9 jurisdiction in an election held on a particular date;

10 (2) voting or attempting to vote in more than one jurisdiction in the
11 United States in an election held on a particular date;

12 (3) inducing or aiding any person to vote more than once in the same
13 jurisdiction in an election held on a particular date; or

14 (4) inducing or aiding any person to vote in more than one
15 jurisdiction in the United States in an election held on a particular date.

16 (b) Voting more than once or attempting to commit the crime of
17 voting more than once is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

18 (c) The provisions of K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 21-5301(c), and
19 amendments thereto, shall not apply to a violation of attempting to commit
20 the crime of voting more than once pursuant to this section.

21 (d) This section shall be part of and supplemental to article 24 of
22 chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto.

23 New Sec. 2. (a) Independent authority to prosecute any person who
24 has committed or attempted to commit any act that constitutes a Kansas
25 elections crime defined in K.S.A. 25-1128, and amendments thereto or
26 article 24 of chapter 25 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments
27 thereto, shall be vested in:

28 (1) The district attorney or county attorney of the county where such
29 act occurred;

30 (2) the Kansas attorney general; or

31 (3) the Kansas secretary of state.

32 (b) If one of the officers listed in subsection (a) has commenced the
33 prosecution of a person who has committed or attempted to commit any
34 act that constitutes a Kansas election crime, the other officers listed in
35 subsection (a) may provide assistance to the prosecuting officer but shall
36 not commence a separate prosecution.

1 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 25-1128 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows: 25-1128. (a) No voter shall knowingly mark or transmit to the
3 county election officer more than one advance voting ballot, or set of one
4 of each kind of ballot, if the voter is entitled to vote more than one such
5 ballot at a particular election.

6 (b) Except as provided in K.S.A. 25-1124, and amendments thereto,
7 no person shall knowingly interfere with or delay the transmission of any
8 advance voting ballot application from a voter to the county election
9 officer, nor shall any person mail, fax or otherwise cause the application to
10 be sent to a place other than the county election office. Any person or
11 group engaged in the distribution of advance voting ballot applications
12 shall mail, fax or otherwise deliver any application signed by a voter to the
13 county election office within two days after such application is signed by
14 the applicant.

15 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person other than the
16 voter, shall knowingly mark, sign or transmit to the county election officer
17 any advance voting ballot or advance voting ballot envelope.

18 (d) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall knowingly
19 sign an application for an advance voting ballot for another person. This
20 provision shall not apply if a voter has a disability preventing the voter
21 from signing an application or if an immediate family member signs an
22 application on behalf of another immediate family member with proper
23 authorization being given.

24 (e) No person, unless authorized by K.S.A. 25-1122 or K.S.A. 25-
25 1124, and amendments thereto, shall knowingly intercept, interfere with,
26 or delay the transmission of advance voting ballots from the county
27 election officer to the voter.

28 (f) No person shall knowingly and falsely affirm, declare or subscribe
29 to any material fact in an affirmation form for an advance voting ballot or
30 set of advance voting ballots.

31 (g) A voter may return such voter's advance voting ballot to the
32 county election officer by personal delivery or by mail. Upon written
33 designation by the voter, a person other than the voter may return the
34 advance voting ballot by personal delivery or mail. Any such person
35 designated by the voter shall sign a statement that such person has not
36 exercised undue influence on the voting decisions of the voter and agrees
37 to deliver the ballot as directed by the voter.

38 (h) Violation of any provision of this section is a ~~class C~~
39 ~~misdemeanor~~ *severity level 9, nonperson felony*.

40 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-2409 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
41 2409. (a) Election bribery is conferring, offering or agreeing to confer, or
42 soliciting, accepting or agreeing to accept any benefit as consideration to
43 or from any person either to vote or withhold any person's vote, or to vote

1 for or against any candidate or question submitted at any public election.

2 (b) *This section shall not apply to a business or organization that*
 3 *provides a product of value less than \$3 to any person who asserts that*
 4 *such person has voted, without regard to such voter's vote for or against*
 5 *any candidate or issue.*

6 (c) Election bribery is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

7 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-2416 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 8 2416. (a) Voting without being qualified is knowingly ~~and willfully~~: (a)
 9 voting or attempting to vote ~~at~~ *without being qualified*:

10 (1) *In any election district when not a lawfully registered voter in*
 11 *such election district; or*

12 (2) *at any election by a person who is not a citizen of the United*
 13 *States or who does not otherwise meet the qualifications of an elector.*

14 ~~(b) Voting or offering to vote more than once at the same election.~~

15 ~~(c) Inducing or aiding any person to vote more than once at the same~~
 16 ~~election.~~

17 (b) Voting without being qualified or attempting to vote without being
 18 qualified is a ~~class A misdemeanor~~ severity level 7, nonperson felony.

19 (c) *The provisions of K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 21-5301(c), and amendments*
 20 *thereto, shall not apply to a violation of attempting to vote without being*
 21 *qualified pursuant to this section.*

22 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 25-2423 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 23 2423. (a) Election tampering is, while being charged with no election duty,
 24 making or changing any election record.

25 (b) Election tampering is a severity level-8 7, nonperson felony.

26 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-2431 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 27 2431. (a) False impersonation of a voter is representing oneself as another
 28 *person, whether real or fictitious, and thereas thereby* voting or attempting
 29 to vote.

30 (b) False impersonation of a voter is a severity level-9 8, nonperson
 31 felony.

32 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 25-2507 is hereby amended to read as
 33 follows: 25-2507. (a) "Poll book" means a book in which each voter may
 34 sign the voter's signature and a number is assigned by one of the clerks of
 35 the election board when the voter is given a ballot or set of ballots. If the
 36 county election officer determines that voters shall sign the poll book, such
 37 book shall also contain on each page the declaration prescribed by
 38 subsection (d).

39 (b) "Registration book" means: (1) A book or list containing the
 40 names and other information relating to registered voters. Registration
 41 books shall have the names entered therein before the same or copies
 42 thereof are delivered to the supervising judges. Registration books may
 43 also contain blank lines on which each voter shall sign the voter's

1 signature. If the county election officer determines that voters shall sign
2 the registration book, such book shall also contain on each page the
3 declaration prescribed by subsection (d); or

4 (2) a book meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 25-2507-(b)(1), and
5 amendments thereto; containing blank lines on which each voter shall sign
6 the voter's signature; containing on each page the declaration prescribed by
7 subsection (d); and containing the numbers assigned by one of the clerks
8 of the election board when voters are given ballots or sets of ballots.

9 (c) "Party affiliation lists" means a list containing the names of all
10 registered voters of a county who have lawfully designated a party
11 affiliation.

12 (d) "Declaration" means the following: "I, the undersigned, declare
13 under penalty of perjury that I am a registered voter in the state of Kansas,
14 county of _____, that I have not signed a name other than my own in
15 order to represent myself as any other registered voter, and that I am
16 qualified to vote and have not previously voted and will not vote again ~~at~~
17 ~~this election~~ *in the election held on this date, in this or any other*
18 *jurisdiction in the United States, for any offices or ballot issues."*

19 Sec. 9. K.S.A. 25-2409, 25-2416, 25-2423 and 25-2431 and K.S.A.
20 2014 Supp. 25-1128 and 25-2507 are hereby repealed.

21 Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
22 publication in the statute book.