

HB 2140 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: McGaugh

This bill modifies provisions related to elections.

The bill allows the officer or agency calling an election to notify the election authority responsible for conducting the election of an election via email.

The bill changes the opening date for filing a declaration of candidacy that is not specified by law or charter for an office in a political subdivision or special district from the 17th Tuesday prior to the election to the 16th Tuesday prior to the election.

It also changes the closing filing date for filing a declaration of candidacy for such offices from the 14th Tuesday prior to the election to the 13th Tuesday prior to the election. If the 13th Tuesday prior to the election is a state or federal holiday, the closing filing date shall be 5:00 p.m. on the next day that is not a state or federal holiday.

Currently, covered voters eligible to register to vote, interstate former residents, and new residents may vote by absentee ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors. This bill allows such voters to vote at the office of the election authority on election day for such electors.

The bill specifies that lists of absentee voters with permanent disabilities shall be kept confidential and shall not be posted or displayed in an area open to the public nor shown to any unauthorized person.

Currently, provisional ballots are available at elections where federal or statewide candidates or statewide ballot measures are on the ballot. This bill makes provisional ballots available at any public election.

Currently, electioneering activities are prohibited within a certain distance of a polling location on election day. This bill applies the same restrictions to locations where in-person absentee voting occurs during the absentee voting period.

This bill establishes the offense of tampering with an election official as a class one election offense. If the prohibited activity results in death or bodily injury to an election official or member of the official's family, the offense shall be a class B felony.