

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1065

Approved by the Governor April 19, 2018

Introduced by Murante, 49.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Election Act; to amend sections 32-101, 32-330, and 32-913, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-301 and 32-304, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017; to provide requirements for and authorize the use of electronic poll books as prescribed; to change provisions relating to digital signatures; to harmonize provisions; to provide an operative date; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 32-101, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-101 Sections 32-101 to 32-1551 and section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Election Act.

Sec. 2. Beginning July 1, 2019, the electronic poll books for a precinct shall contain the list of registered voters and the sign-in register for the precinct combined in one data base and shall include the registration information and the digital signatures for the registered voters of the precinct.

Sec. 3. Section 32-301, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is amended to read:

32-301 (1) The Secretary of State shall implement, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, maintained, and administered at the office of the Secretary of State that contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state and assigns a unique identifier to each legally registered voter in the state. The computerized list shall serve as the single system for storing and managing the official list of registered voters throughout the state and shall comprise the voter registration register. The computerized list shall be coordinated with other agency data bases within the state and shall be available for electronic access by election commissioners and county clerks. The computerized list shall serve as the official voter registration list for the conduct of all elections under the Election Act and beginning July 1, 2019, shall be the basis for electronic poll books at each precinct if applicable. The Secretary of State shall provide such support as may be required so that election commissioners and county clerks are able to electronically enter voter registration information obtained by such officials on an expedited basis at the time the information is received. The Secretary of State shall provide adequate technological security measures to prevent unauthorized access to the computerized list.

(2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide for the registration of the electors of the county. Upon receipt of a voter registration application in his or her office from an eligible elector, the election commissioner or county clerk shall enter the information from the application in the voter registration register and may create an electronic image, photograph, microphotograph, or reproduction in an electronic digital format to be used as the voter registration record. The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide a precinct list of registered voters for each precinct for the use of judges and clerks of election in their respective precincts on election day. Beginning July 1, 2019, the election commissioner or county clerk may provide an electronic poll book as described in section 2 of this act to meet the requirements for a precinct list of registered voters. An electronically prepared list of registered voters in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State shall meet the requirements for a precinct list of registered voters.

(3) The digital signatures in the possession of the Secretary of State, the election commissioner, or the county clerk shall not be public records as defined in section 84-712.01 and are not subject to disclosure under sections 84-712 to 84-712.09.

Sec. 4. Section 32-304, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, is amended to read:

32-304 (1) The Secretary of State in conjunction with the Department of Motor Vehicles shall, ~~on or before September 1, 2015, develop and implement~~ a registration application process which may be used statewide to register to vote and update voter registration records electronically using the Secretary of State's web site. An applicant who has a valid Nebraska motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card may use the application process to register to vote or to update his or her voter registration record with changes in his or her personal information or other information related to his or her eligibility to vote. For each electronic application, the Secretary of State shall obtain a copy of the electronic representation of the applicant's signature from the Department of Motor Vehicles' records of his or her motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card for purposes of voter

registration and electronic poll books.

(2) The application shall contain substantially all the information provided in section 32-312 and the following informational statements:

(a) An applicant who submits this application electronically is affirming that the information in the application is true. Any applicant who submits this application electronically knowing that any of the information in the application is false shall be guilty of a Class IV felony under section 32-1502 of the statutes of Nebraska. The penalty for a Class IV felony is up to two years imprisonment and twelve months post-release supervision, a fine of up to ten thousand dollars, or both;

(b) An applicant who submits this application electronically is agreeing to the use of his or her digital signature from the Department of Motor Vehicles' records of his or her motor vehicle operator's license or state identification card for purposes of voter registration;

(c) To vote at the polling place on election day, the completed application must be submitted on or before the third Friday before the election; and

(d) The election commissioner or county clerk will, upon receipt of the application for registration, send an acknowledgment of registration to the applicant indicating whether the application is proper or not.

Sec. 5. Section 32-330, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-330 (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of section 32-301, the The voter registration register shall be a public record. Any person may examine the register at the office of the election commissioner or county clerk, but no person other than the election commissioner, county clerk, or law enforcement shall be allowed to make copies of the register. Copies of the register shall only be used for list maintenance as provided in section 32-329 or law enforcement purposes. The electronic records of the original voter registrations created pursuant to section 32-301 may constitute the voter registration register. The election commissioner or county clerk shall withhold information in the register designated as confidential under section 32-331. No portion of the register made available to the public and no list distributed pursuant to this section shall include the digital signature of any voter.

(2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall make available for purchase a list of registered voters that contains the information required under section 32-312 and, if requested, a list that only contains registered voters who have voted in an election held more than thirty days prior to the request for the list. The election commissioner or county clerk shall establish the price of the lists at a rate that fairly covers the actual production cost of the lists, not to exceed three cents per name. Lists shall be used solely for purposes related to elections, political activities, voter registration, law enforcement, or jury selection. Lists shall not be used for commercial purposes.

(3) Any person who acquires a list of registered voters under subsection (2) of this section shall take and subscribe to an oath in substantially the following form:

I hereby swear that I will use the list of registered voters of County, Nebraska, only for the purposes prescribed in section 32-330 and for no other purpose and that I will not permit the use or copying of such list for unauthorized purposes.

I hereby declare under the penalty of election falsification that the statements above are true to the best of my knowledge.

The penalty for election falsification is a Class IV felony.

(Signature of person acquiring list)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of 20.. .

(Name of officer)

(Official title of officer)

(4) The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide, upon request and free of charge, a complete and current listing of all registered voters and their addresses to the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska. Such list shall be provided no later than December 31 of each even-numbered year.

(5) The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide, upon request and free of charge, a complete and current listing of all registered voters and their addresses to the state party headquarters of each political party and to the county chairperson of each political party. Such list shall be provided no later than thirty-five days prior to the statewide primary and statewide general elections.

Sec. 6. Section 32-913, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-913 (1) The clerks of election shall have a list of registered voters of the precinct and a sign-in register at the polling place on election day. The list of registered voters shall be used for guidance on election day and may be in the form of a computerized, typed, or handwritten list or precinct registration cards. Registered voters of the precinct shall place and record their signature in the sign-in register before receiving any ballot. The list of registered voters and the sign-in register may be combined into one document at the discretion of the election commissioner or county clerk including, beginning July 1, 2019, by the use of an electronic poll book. If a combined document is used, a clerk of election may list the names of the registered voters in a separate book in the order in which they voted.

(2) Within twenty-four hours after the polls close in the precinct, the

precinct inspector or one of the judges of election shall deliver the precinct list of registered voters and the precinct sign-in register to the election commissioner or county clerk. The election commissioner or county clerk shall file and preserve the list and register. No member of a receiving board who has custody or charge of the precinct list of registered voters and the precinct sign-in register shall permit the list or register to leave his or her possession from the time of receipt until he or she delivers them to another member of the receiving board or to the precinct inspector or judge of election for delivery to the election commissioner or county clerk.

Sec. 7. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2019.

Sec. 8. Original sections 32-101, 32-330, and 32-913, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 32-301 and 32-304, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2017, are repealed.