SENATE FILE NO. SF0054

Election Code-revisions.

Sponsored by: Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 ACT relating to elections; providing definitions; 2 clarifying and amending campaign reporting requirements; amending term limit provisions to comply with decisions of 3 the Wyoming supreme court; conforming language to prior 4 5 statutory changes; limiting distribution of the election 6 code; requiring oaths as specified; amending notice of 7 appointment provisions; amending time limits applicable to the acceptance of nominations; amending time limits for the 8 delivery of absentee ballots; amending absentee ballot 9 10 formatting; altering obligations to initial ballots; acknowledging a canvassing board's ability to validate 11 noninitialed ballots; amending provisions related to write-12 in candidates; making grammatical changes; specifying the 13 official who prints names on ballots; and providing for an 14 15 effective date.

2 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming

3

4 **Section 1.** W.S. 22-1-102(a) by creating a new

5 paragraph (xlvii), 22-2-109(a) and (b), 22-2-113(c),

6 22-2-120, 22-3-103(c), 22-5-103(a)(i), 22-5-214, 22-8-111,

7 22-9-107, 22-9-111(b)(intro), (i) and (ii), 22-9-121(c)(i)

8 and (ii), 22-14-103, 22-16-106(b), 22-16-122(g), 22-23-302,

9 22-23-303, 22-23-307(b), 22-24-107(b), 22-24-201(a)(ii) and

10 (iii), 22-25-102(g), 22-25-105(a), 22-25-106(a)(i) through

11 (iv), (b)(intro), (i), (ii), (iv), (c) through (e),

12 (f) (intro) and (g), 22-25-107(a) (vi), 22-25-108(a) and (b),

 $13 \quad 22-26-112(a)(x)$ and 22-29-501(d) and (e) are amended to

14 read:

15

16 **22-1-102. Definitions.**

17

18 (a) The definitions contained in this chapter apply

19 to words and phrases used in this Election Code and govern

20 the construction of those words and phrases unless they are

21 specifically modified by the context in which they appear.

2

22 As used in this Election Code:

23

1 (xlvii) "Unsuccessful candidate" means a person
2 whose name was printed on the ballot and who received one
3 (1) or more votes in the primary election.

4

5 22-2-109. County clerk to publish proclamation.

6

(a) Between one hundred one (101) and ninety-one (91) 7 8 days before each primary election the county clerk in each 9 county shall publish at least once in a newspaper of 10 general circulation in the county and post in the county 11 clerk's office and at the place where each municipality 12 within the county regularly holds its council meetings a 13 proclamation setting forth the date of the election, the offices to be filled at the election including the terms of 14 15 the offices, the number of persons required by law to fill 16 the offices, the filing deadline for the offices and the 17 requirements for filing statements of campaign receipts 18 contributions and expenditures. The proclamation shall also 19 include the aforementioned information regarding offices to 20 be filled at the general election and any other pertinent 21 primary election information. In addition, the description 22 of any ballot proposition submitted to the voters of the

1 state, a political subdivision thereof, county or other

2 district shall be included.

3

4 (b) Between forty-five (45) and thirty-five (35) days before each general election the county clerk in each 5 county shall publish at least once in a newspaper of 6 general circulation in the county and post in the county 7 8 clerk's office and at the place where each municipality 9 within the county regularly holds its council meetings a 10 proclamation setting forth the date of the election, the 11 offices to be filled at the election including the terms of 12 the offices, the number of persons required by law to fill 13 the offices, the requirements for filing statements of campaign receipts contributions and expenditures, and any 14 15 other pertinent general election information. In addition, 16 the legislative description of each proposed constitutional amendment, or other ballot proposition submitted to the 17 voters of the state, a political subdivision thereof, 18 19 county or other district shall be included.

20

21 **22-2-113.** Availability and form of registry lists;

4

22 use of copies; election record; purging.

23

1	(c) Information copied from campaign receipts
2	<pre>contribution and expenditure reports filed by state and</pre>
3	local candidates may be used for political purposes but
4	shall not be used for commercial purposes.
5	
6	22-2-120. Distribution of copies of Election Code.
7	
8	The secretary of state, not later than the first of July in
9	general election years, shall distribute copies of the
10	Election Code to county and municipal clerks. The county
11	clerk shall furnish copies of the Election Code to
12	municipal clerks and election officials.
13	
14	22-3-103. Furnishing of oath forms; contents thereof.
15	
16	(c) Persons in the uniformed services and overseas
17	citizens, as specified in W.S. 22-3-117, may shall swear or
18	affirm to the oath under the penalty of perjury. The oath
19	does not require the signature of an oath-taking officer.
20	
21	22-5-103. Limits on ballot access; state offices.
22	

Notwithstanding any other provision of Wyoming 1 (a) 2 law, the secretary of state or other authorized official 3 shall not certify the name of any person as the nominee or 4 candidate for the office sought, nor shall that person be 5 elected nor serve in that office if the following will occur: 6 7 8 (i) The person, by the end of the current term of office will have served, or but for resignation, would 9 10 have served eight (8) or more years in any sixteen (16) 11 year period in the office for which the candidate is 12 seeking nomination or election, except, that any time 13 served in that particular office prior to January 1, 1993, 14 shall not be counted for purposes of this term limit. This provision shall apply to the office of governor. 15 16 secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, 17 state superintendent of public instruction. 18 19 22-5-214. Change in party affiliation. 20 21 An elector may change his party affiliation by completing an application signed before a notarial officer or election 22 23 official, and filing it with the county clerk not later

less than fourteen (14) days before the primary election or 1 2 at the polls on the day of the primary or general election, 3 or when requesting an absentee ballot. 4 22-8-111. Acceptance of appointment. 5 6 With each notice of appointment mailed delivered by the 7 8 county clerk there shall be a form for acceptance of the 9 appointment. Each appointee shall file his acceptance with 10 the county clerk within twelve (12) days after the 11 acceptance form is mailed by the county clerk. or notice 12 that each appointee shall be required to notify the county 13 clerk of acceptance. The county clerk shall state the date by which the appointee shall be required to notify the 14 clerk of acceptance. Failure of an appointee to file an 15 notify the county clerk of acceptance within twelve (12) 16 days the time allotted by the county clerk results in a 17 18 vacancy. 19 20 22-9-107. Delivering ballots to qualified applicants. 21 22 If the clerk determines that the applicant is entitled to

vote, he shall mark the application "Accepted" and shall,

not less than forty (40) days nor not more than forty-five 1 2 (45) days prior to the election, distribute to the 3 applicant, or the individual designated by the applicant, 4 the absentee ballot or ballots requested, instructions for 5 marking the ballot and the required envelopes for use in 6 returning the ballot. 7 22-9-111. Affidavit to be printed on inner envelope; 8 9 attestation. 10 11 (b) For all voters, as specified in W.S. 22-9-105, an 12 oath containing the following information and meeting the 13 following requirements shall be printed on the reverse side of the inner ballot envelope: 14 15 16 (i) The elector shall print his elector's full 17 name; 18 19 (ii) The elector shall provide his elector's 20 current residence address or if living temporarily in 21 another state or nation, his last residence address in Wyoming; 22

8

23

1 22-9-121. Examination of absentee ballot affidavit; 2 rejection; voting ballots. 3 4 (c) If it is sufficient: 5 In a paper ballot precinct, the name of the 6 (i) absent elector shall be entered in the pollbook, the inner 7 8 ballot envelope shall be opened by a judge of election and 9 the ballots therein shall be removed. and initialed by a 10 judge of election. The ballot shall then be placed in the regular ballot box by a judge of election; 11 12 13 (ii) In a voting machine precinct, the inner 14 ballot envelope shall be opened after the judges are sworn in and as activity permits, the ballots therein removed, 15 16 initialed by a judge of election, and each ballot deposited in its proper box. After the absentee ballots have been so 17 18 deposited, they shall be mixed within the box, removed from 19 the box and once the polls open and as activity permits, 20 voted on a voting machine in the following manner: A judge 21 of election shall read the vote for each candidate and 22 ballot proposition. A judge of a different political party 23 affiliation shall record the vote as read on the machine. A

1 third judge shall observe this procedure to see that the

2 vote is correctly cast.

3

4 22-14-103. Counting in paper ballot precincts;

5 discrepancies.

6

7 Unless otherwise validated by a canvassing board pursuant

8 to W.S. 22-13-105, ballots not initialed by a judge of

9 election or county clerk shall not be counted. If the

10 number of ballots is not equal to the number of voters

11 entered in the pollbook as having voted that ballot, the

12 election judges shall attempt to determine the discrepancy.

13 If the election judges cannot determine the discrepancy,

14 the county clerk and, if necessary, the county canvassing

15 board, shall resolve the discrepancy.

16

22-16-106. Write-in candidates.

18

19 (b) The chief election officer shall notify a write-

20 in candidate who has been nominated for election within

21 forty-eight (48) hours after the canvassing board meets.

22 Notification may be made by United States postal service,

23 any generally accepted business document delivery method

1 evidenced by receipt of delivery or attempted delivery at

2 the last known address of the write-in candidate or service

3 as provided under the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure.

4 Each notification provided under this section shall inform

5 the write-in candidate that failure to timely respond will

6 result in forfeiture of nomination. Failure of the

7 successful write-in candidate to accept the nomination

8 within five (5) days after delivery, attempted delivery or

9 service under the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure, as

10 computed pursuant to W.S. 22-2-110, of proof of service or

11 attempted delivery results in the successful write-in

12 candidate not appearing on the general election ballot, but

13 does not result in a vacancy which can be filled.

14

22-16-122. Election declared null and void; special

16 election.

17

18 (g) Not more than fourteen (14) nor less than five

19 (5) days before the special election the county clerk shall

20 publish at least once in a newspaper of general circulation

21 in the county a proclamation setting forth the date of the

22 election, the offices to be filled at the election

23 including the terms of the offices, the number of persons

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required by law to fill the offices, the requirements for
1
2
    filing statements of campaign receipts contributions and
 3
    expenditures, and any other pertinent information.
 4
         22-23-302. Filing fee; application form.
 5
 6
    Not more than ninety-six (96) days and not later than
7
8
    eighty-one (81) days preceding the municipal primary
9
    election, each candidate for a municipal office shall pay a
10
    nonrefundable filing fee of twenty-five dollars ($25.00)
11
    and sign and file with the municipal clerk a petition an
12
    application in substantially the following form:
13
         State of Wyoming
14
15
                               SS
16
         County of ....
17
18
         I, ...., the undersigned, swear or affirm that I was
19
    born on ...., .... (year), and that I have been a resident
20
    of the State of Wyoming since ...., residing at ...., and
21
    that I am a registered voter of Election District No. ....,
    Precinct No. ..., in Ward No. ..., in the City of ...,
22
    and the State of Wyoming as of the closing of the municipal
23
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clerk's office on the day this petition application is 1 2 filed, do hereby petition and request that my name be 3 printed upon the Official Municipal Primary Ballot at the 4 next primary election as a candidate for the office of 5 I hereby declare that if nominated and elected I will qualify for the office. 6 Dated: 7 8(Signature of Candidate) 9 22-23-303. Certification of candidates; 10 names on 11 ballots. 12 13 Not later than sixty-eight (68) days prior to the primary 14 election, the municipal clerk shall certify to the county clerk the names of all qualified candidates for nomination 15 16 at the municipal primary election and the office they seek. and shall print the names on the primary election ballot. 17 18 The number of municipal candidates the voters are entitled to vote for at the primary election is the number of 19 20 candidates to be elected to municipal offices at the 21 general election.

22

1 22-23-307. Candidates nominated; certificate of

2 nomination.

3

4 (b) The chief election officer shall notify a writein candidate who has been nominated for election within 5 forty-eight (48) hours after the canvassing board meets. 6 Notification may be made by United States postal service, 7 8 any generally accepted business document delivery method evidenced by receipt of delivery or attempted delivery at 9 10 the last known address of the write-in candidate or service 11 as provided under the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure. 12 Failure of the successful write-in candidate to accept the 13 nomination within five (5) days after delivery, attempted 14 delivery or service under the Wyoming Rules of Civil Procedure, as computed pursuant to W.S. 22-2-110, of proof 15 16 of service or attempted delivery results in the successful 17 write-in candidate not appearing on the general election 18 ballot, and results in a vacancy which can be filled as 19 provided in W.S. 22-23-308. Each notification provided 20 under this section shall inform the write-in candidate that 21 failure to timely respond will result in forfeiture of 22 nomination.

23

23

1 22-24-107. Sponsors. 2 3 (b) The committee of sponsors shall file receipt 4 contribution and expenditure reports as required by W.S. 22-25-106. 5 6 7 22-24-201. Paid advertising; penalty. 8 9 Any group of persons who are associated for the purpose of raising, collecting or spending money for paid 10 11 advertising in any communication media or for printed literature to support, oppose or otherwise influence 12 13 legislation by the legislature of the state of Wyoming, which is or was the subject of a statewide initiative or 14 referendum within the past four (4) years, shall: 15 16 17 (ii) File with the secretary of state statement of receipts contributions and expenditures 18 19 setting forth the full and complete record of receipts 20 contributions including cash, goods or services and actual 21 and promised expenditures, on a form prescribed by the

secretary of state, on the last Friday in December of each

calendar year. In addition to the annual report, while the

1 legislature is in session, there shall be filed an interim

2 monthly statement for each month or portion thereof that

3 the legislature is in session, within ten (10) days of the

4 first day of the month for the previous month;

5

6 (iii) If the total receipts contributions and

7 expenditures reported under paragraph (a)(ii) of this

8 section lists any contribution in excess of one thousand

9 dollars (\$1,000.00) from any source or sources other than

10 an individual, the report shall include a full and complete

11 disclosure of the funding source or sources of any

12 nonindividual contributor which funded the advertising.

13

14 22-25-102. Contribution of funds or election

15 assistance restricted; limitation on contributions; right

16 to communicate; civil penalty.

17

18 (g) The prohibitions in this section do not apply to

19 contributions of funds or other items of value to political

20 parties for the purpose of supporting multi-state or

21 national political party conferences or conventions. Any

22 contribution made pursuant to this subsection shall also

23 comply with all applicable federal election commission

1 regulations governing contributions to political parties.

2 Any political party which receives funds to sponsor such

3 conferences or conventions shall file an itemized statement

4 of receipts contributions and expenditures with the

5 secretary of state within ten (10) days after the

6 conference or convention.

7

8 22-25-105. Campaign reporting forms; instructions and

9 warning.

10

11 (a) The secretary of state shall prescribe the forms 12 for reporting receipts contributions and expenditures for 13 primary, general and special election campaigns, together with written instructions for completing the form and a 14 15 warning that violators are subject to criminal charges and 16 that a vacancy will exist if the forms are not completed 17 and filed pursuant to law. Until January 1, 2010, the forms along with instructions and warning shall be 18 19 distributed to the county clerk and shall be given by the 20 county clerk to each person filing an application for nomination in his office and to each political action 21 committee and candidate's campaign committee required to 22 23 file with the county clerk. Until January 1, 2010, the

county clerk shall also distribute the reporting forms to 1 2 the chairmen of the county party central committees. 3 4 22-25-106. Filing of campaign reports. 5 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (g) of 6 this section and in addition to other statements required 7 by this subsection: 8 9 10 (i) Every candidate shall file a fully itemized statement of receipts contributions at least seven (7) days 11 12 before any primary, general or special election with 13 information required by this subsection current to any day from the eighth day up to the fourteenth day before the 14 15 election; 16 (ii) Every candidate, whether successful or not, 17 shall file a fully itemized statement of receipts 18 19 contributions and expenditures within ten (10) days after 20 any general or special election; 21 22 (iii) Every candidate in any primary election 23 shall file a fully itemized statement of receipts

1 <u>contributions</u> and expenditures within ten (10) days after

2 the primary election;

3

4 (iv) Statements under this subsection shall set 5 complete record forth the full and of receipts contributions including cash, goods or services and except 6 for statements of receipts contributions required under 7 8 paragraph (i) of this subsection, of actual and promised expenditures, including all identifiable expenses as set 9 10 forth in W.S. 22-25-103. For purposes of this section, a 11 receipt contribution is reportable when it is known and in 12 the possession of, or the service has been furnished to, 13 the person or organization required to submit a statement of receipts contributions or a statement of receipts 14 15 contributions and expenditures. The date of each receipt 16 contribution of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more, any 17 expenditure or obligation, the name of the person from whom 18 received or to whom paid and the purpose of each 19 expenditure or obligation shall be listed. All receipts 20 contributions under twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be reported but need not be itemized. Should the accumulation 21 of receipts contributions from an individual exceed the 22 23 twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) threshold, all receipts

1 contributions from that individual shall be itemized.

2 Receipts Contributions, expenditures and obligations

3 itemized in a statement filed by a political action

4 committee, a candidate's campaign committee or by a

5 political party central committee need not be itemized in a

6 candidate's statement except by total with a reference to

7 the statement;

8

9 (b) Reports of itemized statements of receipt

10 <u>contributions</u> and statements of <u>receipts</u> <u>contributions</u> and

11 expenditures, and statements of termination shall be made

12 with the appropriate filing officers specified under W.S.

13 22-25-107 and in accordance with the following:

14

15 (i) Except as otherwise provided in this

16 section, any political action committee, candidate's

17 campaign committee, or any political action committee

18 formed under federal law or the law of another state that

19 contributes to a Wyoming political action committee or to a

20 candidate's campaign committee, any organization making an

21 independent expenditure under W.S. 22-25-102(k), and any

22 other organization supporting or opposing any ballot

23 proposition which expends any funds in any primary, general

or special election shall file an itemized statement of 1 2 receipts contributions at least seven (7) days before the 3 election current to any day from the eighth day up to the 4 fourteenth day before the election and shall also file a 5 statement of receipts contributions and expenditures within ten (10) days after a primary, general or special election; 6 7 8 (ii) A committee formed after an election to 9 defray campaign expenses incurred during a previous election and any political action or candidate's campaign 10 11 committee which has previously filed a statement of 12 receipts and expenditures and has not filed a statement of 13 termination shall file an itemized statement of receipts 14 contributions and expenditures on December 31 of each odd-15 numbered year; 16 17 (iv) In addition to the reports required under paragraphs (i) through (iii) of this subsection, a 18 19 political action committee formed for the support of or 20 opposition to any initiative or referendum petition drive 21 or any organization supporting or opposing a petition drive 22 shall file an itemized statement of receipts contributions 23 and expenditures within ten (10) days after the petition is

1 submitted to the secretary of state pursuant to W.S.

2 22-24-115.

3

4 (c) All statements required by subsection (b) of this section shall be signed by both the chairman and treasurer. 5 The statements shall set forth the full and complete record 6 of receipts contributions including cash, goods or services 7 and except for statements of receipts contributions 8 required under paragraph (i) of this subsection, of actual 9 10 and promised expenditures. The date of each receipt 11 contribution of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) or more, any 12 expenditure or obligation, the name of the person from whom 13 received or to whom paid and the purpose of each expenditure or obligation shall be listed. Nothing in this 14 15 subsection shall be construed to require the disclosure of 16 the names of individuals paid to circulate an initiative or 17 referendum petition. All receipts contributions 18 twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be reported but need not 19 itemized. Should the accumulation of receipts 20 contributions from an individual exceed the twenty-five 21 dollar (\$25.00) threshold, all receipts contributions from individual shall be itemized. If 22 the receipts 23 contributions, expenditures or obligations were for more

1 than one (1) candidate, the amounts attributable to each

2 shall be itemized separately.

3

4 (d) The chairman of each political party central committee for the state or county, or an officer of the 5 party designated by him, shall file an itemized statement 6 of receipts contributions of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) 7 8 more, and any expenditures and obligations. The statement shall be filed within ten (10) days after a 9 10 general or special election. The statement shall report all 11 receipts contributions, expenditures and obligations 12 relating to campaign expenses, including normal operating 13 expenses. All receipts contributions under twenty-five 14 dollars (\$25.00) shall be reported but need not be 15 itemized. Should the accumulation of receipts contributions 16 from an individual exceed the twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) 17 threshold, all receipts contributions from that individual 18 shall be itemized. It shall attribute all campaign receipts 19 contributions, expenses and obligations to a specific 20 candidate only if the campaign receipts contributions, 21 expenses and obligations can be specifically identified to specific candidate to the exclusion of other 22 23 candidates on the ticket. A copy of the statement shall be

1 furnished to each candidate identified in the statement

2 within ten (10) days after the general or special election.

3

4 (e) Amendments to the statements required by this section may be filed at any time. If inaccuracies are 5 found in the statements filed or additional receipts 6 contributions or expenditures occur or become known after 7 8 the statements are filed, amendments to the original statements or additional statements shall be filed within a 9 10 reasonable time not to exceed ninety (90) days from the 11 time the inaccuracies or additional receipts contributions or expenditures became known. Any net change less than 12 13 fifty dollars (\$50.00) need not be reported.

14

15 addition to the (f) In statement of receipts 16 contributions and expenditures required by subsection (b) of this section, any political action committee formed for 17 the support of any initiative or referendum petition drive 18 19 or any organization supporting an initiative or referendum 20 petition drive shall file with the secretary of state, at 21 least thirty (30) days but no more than forty-five (45) days before the election at which the initiative or 22

1	referendum proposition will be voted on, a statement signed
2	by both the chairman and treasurer showing:
3	
4	(g) Candidates for federal office, campaign
5	committees for candidates for federal office and federal
6	political action committees shall not be required to file
7	receipt contribution and expenditure reports under this
8	section if the candidate or the committee is required to
9	comply with federal election law reporting requirements.
10	
11	22-25-107. Where statements to be filed.
12	
13	(a) All statements required under this chapter shall
14	be filed as follows:
15	
16	(vi) Precinct committeemen and precinct
17	committeewomen elected at the primary election shall not be
18	required to file a statement of <pre>receipts contributions</pre> and
19	expenditures;
20	
21	22-25-108. Failure of candidate or committee to file

22

statement.

1 (a) Candidates shall be given notice prior to an

2 election that failure to file, within the time required, a

3 full and complete itemized statement of receipts

4 <u>contributions</u> if required pursuant to W.S. 22-25-107 and a

5 statement of receipts contributions and expenditures shall

6 subject the candidate to civil penalties as provided in

7 subsection (e) of this section.

8

9 (b) A candidate who fails to file the statement of

10 receipts contributions required by the seventh day before

11 the election shall have his name printed on a list drafted

12 by the appropriate filing office specified under W.S.

13 22-25-107. The list shall immediately be posted in the

14 filing office and made available to the public.

15

16 **22-26-112.** Misdemeanor offenses generally.

17

18 (a) Unless a different penalty is specifically

19 provided in this code, the following acts, if knowingly and

20 willfully committed, are misdemeanor offenses punishable by

21 not more than six (6) months in a county jail or a fine of

22 not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), or both:

23

1 (x) Filing or signing a false statement of

2 receipts contributions and expenditures required by W.S.

3 22-25-106.

4

5 **22-29-501.** Political action committees.

committee upon formation.

6

(d) The secretary of state shall prescribe and 7 8 furnish the forms for reporting receipts contributions and 9 expenditures for special district ballot proposition 10 elections together with written instructions for completing 11 the form and a warning that violators are subject to civil 12 and criminal charges. The forms along with instructions and 13 warning shall be distributed to the county clerk and shall be given by the county clerk to each political action 14

16

15

17 (e) Every political action committee shall file a
18 fully itemized statement of receipts contributions and
19 expenditures within ten (10) days after any special
20 district ballot proposition election. The statement shall
21 set forth the full and complete record of receipts
22 contributions including cash, goods or services and of
23 actual and promised expenditures, including all

identifiable expenses as set forth in W.S. 22-25-103. The 1 date of each receipt contribution of twenty-five dollars 2 (\$25.00) or more, any expenditure or obligation, the name 3 4 of the person from whom received or to whom paid and the purpose of each expenditure or obligation shall be listed. 5 All receipts contributions under twenty-five dollars 6 (\$25.00) shall be reported but need not be itemized. Should 7 8 the accumulation of receipts contributions from an 9 individual exceed the twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) threshold, all receipts contributions from that individual 10 11 shall be itemized.

12

13 Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2015.

14

15 (END)