



**S.B. 139**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Sens. Stivers, Dann, Clancy, Goodman, Mumper

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

- Authorizes a board of elections, in conjunction with a board of education of a city, local, or exempted village school district, the governing authority of a community school, or the chief administrator of a nonpublic school, to establish a program to allow certain students to serve as election officials.
- Authorizes a board of elections to establish a program to allow certain home-instructed students to serve as election officials.
- Establishes eligibility criteria for students to participate in and serve as election officials in such a program.
- Authorizes a board of education, governing authority, or chief administrator to establish additional criteria for students to participate in and serve as election officials in such a program.

---

**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

**Existing law: appointment of precinct officers**

Existing law requires a board of elections, on or before the 15th day of September in each year, to appoint for each election precinct four competent electors, who are residents of the county in which the precinct is located, as judges of election for that precinct. Not more than one-half of the judges may be members of the same political party. The board may appoint additional election officers, if necessary to expedite voting, who also must be equally divided between the two political parties. (R.C. 3501.22(A) and 3501.27.)

If the board determines that not enough qualified electors in a precinct are available to serve as precinct officers, the board may appoint persons to serve as

precinct officers who are at least 17 years of age and are registered to vote.<sup>1</sup> No more than two precinct officers in any precinct may be under 18 years of age. (R.C. 3501.22(B).)

### **Changes made by the bill**

#### **Program to allow certain students to serve as precinct officers**

The bill generally retains the existing processes and requirements for appointing precinct officers, but provides an additional process by which certain students who are *not* registered electors also may serve as precinct officers. (R.C. 350.122 and 3501.27.) Under the bill, a board of elections may establish a program, in conjunction with any of the following, to allow certain high school students to apply and, if appointed by the board of elections, to serve as precinct officers at a primary, special, or general election (R.C. 3501.22(C)(1)(a)):

- A board of education of a city, local, or exempted village school district;
- The governing authority of a community school;
- The chief administrator of a nonpublic school.

A board of education, governing authority, or chief administrator that establishes such a program in conjunction with a board of elections may establish additional criteria that students must meet to be eligible to participate in that program (R.C. 3501.22(C)(1)(a)).

In addition to a program established in conjunction with the types of schools previously identified, a board of elections may establish a program allowing certain students who are excused from attending a school that meets the minimum standards prescribed by the State Board of Education because the students are being instructed at home to apply, and, if appointed by the board of elections, to serve as precinct officers at a primary, special, or general election (R.C. 3501.22(C)(1)(b)).

The bill does not allow any student appointed as a precinct officer through any program mentioned above to be designated as a presiding judge at a precinct (R.C. 3501.22(C)(3)).

---

<sup>1</sup> A person who will be 18 years of age at the next ensuing November election, who is a United States citizen, and who, if the person continues to reside in the precinct until the next election, will have fulfilled all of the residence requirements to qualify as an elector, is permitted to register as an elector in that precinct (R.C. 3503.07--not in the bill).

**Qualifications for participation**

A student must meet all of the following qualifications to be eligible to participate in a program authorized by the bill (R.C. 3501.22(C)(2)(a)):

- Be a United States citizen;
- Be a resident of the county;
- Be at least 17 years of age;
- Be enrolled in the senior year of high school or in the equivalent of the 12th year of a 1-12 year instructional program at the time of appointment.

In order to participate, a student must declare a political party affiliation with the board of elections when applying (R.C. 3501.22(C)(2)(b)).

---

**HISTORY**

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-03-05	p. 469

S0139-I-126.doc/jc