

## Elections

### Sub. H.B. 18

**Reps.** Pelanda and Retherford, Wiggam, Keller, Blessing, Koehler, Becker, Hambley, McColley, Goodman, Huffman, Dean, Scherer, Dever, Faber, Riedel, Green, Young, Gavarone, Kick, Rezabek, Ginter, Greenspan, Anielski, Arndt, Ashford, Conditt, Duffey, Hughes, Ingram, Lipps, Manning, O'Brien, Patmon, Patton, Perales, Reineke, Roegner, Rogers, Romanchuk, Ryan, Schaffer, Seitz, Sheehy, Slaby, R. Smith, Sprague, Stein, Sweeney, Thompson, West

**Sens.** Coley, LaRose, Beagle, Eklund, Hackett, Hoagland, Huffman, Kunze, Obhof, O'Brien, Oelslager, Peterson, Sykes, Terhar, Wilson, Yuko

**Effective date:** October 29, 2018

#### Special primary elections

- Eliminates the requirement that the state hold a special primary election to replace a party's candidate for Congress if the special primary is uncontested.

#### Convention and visitors' bureaus

- Authorizes an elected official of a county, township, or municipal corporation that has levied a hotel lodging excise tax, or the official's designee, also to serve on the board of trustees of a convention and visitors' bureau.
- Declares that, notwithstanding Ohio common law or any contrary statutory law, the simultaneous holding of those positions does not constitute the holding of incompatible offices or employment.
- Specifies that the act does not prevent a municipal corporation or chartered county from adopting a more restrictive policy regarding the simultaneous holding of those positions.
- Requires county auditors, municipal fiscal officers, and their employees, upon request, to share lodging tax return information with the convention and visitors' bureaus operating in their counties.

### Sub. H.B. 41

**Reps.** Pelanda, Becker, Hambley, Seitz, Sprague, Blessing, Brenner, Green, Kick, Landis, LaTourette, Perales, Retherford, Rezabek, Riedel, Ryan, Scherer, Stein

**Sens.** Coley, Uecker, Bacon, Eklund, Hoagland, Huffman, Obhof, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar, Wilson

**Effective date:** March 20, 2019

## Challenges to voter registrations

- Requires an elector to file an application to correct a precinct registration list or to challenge an elector's right to vote with the board of elections not later than the 30th day before Election Day.
- Eliminates the procedure to postpone a hearing on such an application or challenge until after the election if the challenge is filed after the 30th day before the election.

## Absent voting

- Requires boards of elections to have uniformed services and overseas absent voter's ballots printed and ready for mailing on the 46th day, instead of the 45th day, before Election Day.
- Creates a new procedure for casting absent voter's ballots in person that is similar to the procedure for Election Day voting.
- Allows an in-person absent voter to provide either (1) the same identification (ID) as on Election Day or (2) the voter's driver's license or state ID card number or the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number.
- Permits a board of elections to process absent voter's ballots before the polls close on Election Day, provided it does not tabulate or count the votes on those ballots before that time, and allows observers to be present for that processing.

## Voting machine reimbursements

- Allows a county that acquired or leased voting or tabulation equipment between January 1, 2014, and July 30, 2018, to use the General Revenue Fund money allocated to the county under S.B. 135 of the 132nd General Assembly to acquire additional equipment using the money.

## Am. Sub. S.B. 135

*(For details of the act's fiscal provisions, see the [LSC Fiscal Note and Local Impact Statement](#))*

- Sens.** LaRose, Eklund, Uecker, Brown, Skindell, Beagle, Gardner, Hackett, Hottinger, Kunze, Lehner, Manning, Oelslager, Peterson, Schiavoni, Sykes, Tavares, Terhar, Thomas, Wilson, Yuko
- Reps.** Cera, Antonio, Kelly, Ramos, Rogers, Anielski, Arndt, Ashford, Barnes, Blessing, Boggs, Brenner, Brown, Carfagna, Clyde, Craig, Dean, Dever, Duffey, Fedor, Gavarone, Ginter, Green, Greenspan, Hambley, Hill, Holmes, Howse, Ingram, Landis, Lang, LaTourette, Lepore-Hagan, Lipps, Manning, McClain, Miller, O'Brien, Patterson, Pelanda, Reineke, Rezabek, Riedel, Ryan, Scherer, Schuring, Seitz, K. Smith, Stein, Strahorn, West, Wiggam, Young, R. Smith

**Effective date:** July 30, 2018; Section 4 effective October 29, 2018

- Requires the Secretary of State to implement a program to facilitate acquisition and funding of new voting systems for counties, with assistance from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).
- Requires the Office of Budget and Management, at the Secretary's request, to arrange for the issuance of obligations not exceeding \$104.5 million to ensure timely payment of the program's costs.
- Allows the Secretary to enter into lease purchase agreements, supplemental leases, subleases, and other agreements necessary for the issuance of those obligations.
- Requires the Secretary to give a base allocation to each county based on population, plus an additional allocation based on the actual number of registered voters in the county as of July 1, 2017.
- Specifies that each participating board of elections must select voting machines and related services from the list of vendors and voting machines certified by the Board of Voting Machine Examiners.
- Requires the Secretary and the board of county commissioners to enter into an agreement concerning the acquisition of the voting system.
- Provides that the Secretary owns the voting system while the obligations are outstanding and that the board of county commissioners owns the system thereafter.
- Requires the board of county commissioners to pay any amount that exceeds the county's allocated funds.
- Creates the Voting Machine Acquisition Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary and DAS in the acquisition and funding of new voting systems.
- Appropriates \$10 million from the General Revenue Fund to reimburse counties for voting system acquisitions or lease expenditures made between January 1, 2014, and July 30, 2018, provided the reimbursement does not exceed the county's allocation as determined under the act.