

Ohio Association of Election Officials

Legislative Committee Meeting

January 15, 2014

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at 1:00 PM in the Fairfield Room at the Hyatt at the convention center in Columbus, Ohio. Tim Ward and Ken Terry presided. Aaron Ockerman, executive director of the Ohio Association of Election Officials was present and led portions of the meet.

Peggy Byers called the roll. Present were: Adam Booth, Curt Braden, Penny Brooks, Peggy Byers, Kathi Creed, Tom Gerrity, Steve Harrington, Steve Harsman, Karla Herron, Kathy Jones, Jan Kelley, Sarah Kneuss, Faith Lyon, Llyn McCoy, Kathy Meyer, Chuck Miller, Jeanette Mullane, Carla Patton, Deborah Reiter, Brian Sleeth, Justin Smith, Shantiel Soeder, Ken Terry, Tim Ward, and Lisa Welsh.

Kathleen Clyde represents House District 75 in the Ohio House. Representative Clyde was to do a presentation on her Address Confidentiality legislation at today's meet, but plans changed and the House was going to be in session. Representative Clyde hopes to be available for our next legislative meeting.

House Bill 323 advocating a public website that would include many pieces of information held by Boards of Election has been introduced. Mention was made at this meeting and it is known this legislation could affect us. At this time, it was felt there just was not enough information for the association to make any decisions this day.

Ken Terry prepared these reviews of pending legislation:

SB 205 Review

- Changes term "Armed Service" to Uniformed Service or Overseas (Line 186)
- SOS may mail absentee ballot apps only for General Elections and only if General Assembly has appropriated funds to do so (Line 222)
- Other public offices/employees are prohibited from mailing unsolicited applications (Line 225)
- Clarifies that any elector who needs assistance can have someone help them on election day or during absentee voting (Line 230)
- Prohibits BOE's from prepaying return postage on absentee ballots (Line 297 & 370 & 638 & 686)
- Election Officials may not fill out any portion of absentee application, except SOS or BOE may preprint name and address only on applications (Line 300 & 373 & 642 & 783 & 817)
- Requires ID envelopes to include name, address, DOB, ID and Signature to be counted. (Line 419)

SB 216 Review

- In multi-precinct polling locations the BOE may by vote of at least 3

members; Designate a single presiding judge & combine poll books for that location. (Line 56)

-Removes requirement to write down the last 4 digits of DL# when address doesn't match. (Line 140 & 359)

-Name change with proof such as marriage license or court order with old and new names (and without moving) can cast regular ballot (Line 158)

-Specifies that the written affirmation on the provisional envelope serves as change of name/address notification. (Line 188 & 248 & 293 & 947)

-Reduces time to provide ID after voting provisional to 7 days after election (Line 370 & 636 & 650 & 1036)

-Consolidates reasons for voting provisionally from 13 to 7 (Line 370 through 547)

-Provisional voter required to complete affirmation that voter is resident of precinct and eligible to vote in election (Line 554)

-Voter required to provide ID on affirmation (Line 601)

-Codifies form used by poll worker when provisional voter votes at correct poll but wrong precinct (Line 704)

-Provisional Ballot Affirmation includes; Name, DOB, Address, Check box to be checked if voter has moved, former address, ID & Signature (Line 771)

-Required info to count provisional; printed name, signature, DOB, current address & signed statement(s) (Line 984)

-Electors DOB must match SWVRDB to count (Line 1025 & 1086)

-Address must match SWVRDB to count unless box that voter has moved is checked (Line 1028 & 1089)

-Codifies right church wrong pew case (Line 1115)

-Line 1178 appears to give voter until 10th day to provide missing info in conflict with other sections

-Absentee ID envelopes required to have the following info to count; name, address, DOB, ID and signature. (Line 1222)

-Codifies notifying absentee voters of insufficiencies with ID envelope. (Line 1237)

-Only allows 7 days to correct absentee ID envelope errors (Line 1249)

SB 238 Review

-For non-UOCAVA voters Absentee voting starts the day after the close of registration (Line 34)

These bills are with the House Policy Oversight Committee. Aaron mentioned that these bills will be on hold until early February.

Split Shift for Poll Workers - Representative Landis has been working on the split shift bill. This legislation would allow more than one poll worker to work the 14-hour Election Day shift. Our association has more questions for Representative Landis at this point. It was pointed out that this legislation would exclude the Voting Location Manager or Presiding Judge position.

Steve Harsman made a presentation based on emails that have been sent to large counties in Ohio from Sandy McNair, Board Member with the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections. With all the emphasis on uniformity in the State of Ohio, Mr. McNair wanted to point out that he believes the large counties have unique problems. An example is that a small county with 20,000 total voters gets one early voting site. Cuyahoga with it half million early voters also gets one early voting site. Mr. McNair did not feel the recommendations of the Absentee Voting Task Force served the large counties well. Steve indicated he interpreted the emails to say there may be a move for Cuyahoga County to leave our association. The meeting was going to be held in the Champaign Room at 6 PM on Thursday, January 16, 2014. As a show of solidarity, the legislative committee members were urged to attend.

Aaron introduced Craig Forbes to the group. Mr. Forbes is a liaison with the Secretary of State's office.

Penny Brooks moved a motion the meeting be adjourned. Carla Patton made the second. The motion was accepted.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Byers

Peggy Byers