

SENATE BILL No. 63

By Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

1-22

1 AN ACT concerning elections; relating to voting; regarding penalties for
2 voting crimes; concerning prosecution of election crimes; amending
3 K.S.A. 25-2409, 25-2416, 25-2423 and 25-2431 and K.S.A. 2012 Supp.
4 25-1128 and 25-2507 and repealing the existing sections.
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 New Section 1. (a) Voting more than once is knowingly:

8 (1) Voting or offering to vote more than once in the same jurisdiction
9 or voting in more than one jurisdiction in the United States in an election
10 held on a particular date.

11 (2) Inducing or aiding any person to vote more than once in the same
12 jurisdiction or voting in more than one jurisdiction in the United States in
13 an election held on a particular date.

14 (b) Voting more than once is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

15 New Sec. 2. (a) Independent authority to prosecute any person who
16 has violated or attempted to violate any act that constitutes a Kansas
17 elections crime defined in K.S.A. 25-2401 through 25-2433, and
18 amendments thereto, and including this act, shall be vested in:

19 (1) The district attorney or county attorney of the county where such
20 violations occurred;

21 (2) the Kansas attorney general; or

22 (3) the Kansas secretary of state.

23 (b) If one of the officers listed in section (a) has commenced the
24 prosecution of a person who has violated or attempted to violate any act
25 that constitutes a Kansas election crime, the other officers listed in section
26 (a) may provide assistance to the prosecuting officer but may not
27 commence a separate prosecution.

28 Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 25-1128 is hereby amended to read as
29 follows: 25-1128. (a) No voter shall knowingly mark or transmit to the
30 county election officer more than one advance voting ballot, or set of one
31 of each kind of ballot, if the voter is entitled to vote more than one such
32 ballot at a particular election.

33 (b) Except as provided in K.S.A. 25-1124, and amendments thereto,
34 no person shall knowingly interfere with or delay the transmission of any
35 advance voting ballot application from a voter to the county election
36 officer, nor shall any person mail, fax or otherwise cause the application to

1 be sent to a place other than the county election office. Any person or
 2 group engaged in the distribution of advance voting ballot applications
 3 shall mail, fax or otherwise deliver any application signed by a voter to the
 4 county election office within two days after such application is signed by
 5 the applicant.

6 (c) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person other than the
 7 voter, shall knowingly mark, sign or transmit to the county election officer
 8 any advance voting ballot or advance voting ballot envelope.

9 (d) Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall knowingly
 10 sign an application for an advance voting ballot for another person. This
 11 provision shall not apply if a voter has a disability preventing the voter
 12 from signing an application or if an immediate family member signs an
 13 application on behalf of another immediate family member with proper
 14 authorization being given.

15 (e) No person, unless authorized by K.S.A. 25-1122 or K.S.A. 25-
 16 1124, and amendments thereto, shall knowingly intercept, interfere with,
 17 or delay the transmission of advance voting ballots from the county
 18 election officer to the voter.

19 (f) No person shall knowingly and falsely affirm, declare or subscribe
 20 to any material fact in an affirmation form for an advance voting ballot or
 21 set of advance voting ballots.

22 (g) A voter may return such voter's advance voting ballot to the
 23 county election officer by personal delivery or by mail. Upon written
 24 designation by the voter, a person other than the voter may return the
 25 advance voting ballot by personal delivery or mail. Any such person
 26 designated by the voter shall sign a statement that such person has not
 27 exercised undue influence on the voting decisions of the voter and agrees
 28 to deliver the ballot as directed by the voter.

29 (h) Violation of any provision of this section is a ~~class C~~
 30 ~~misdemeanor~~ level 9, nonperson felony.

31 Sec. 4. K.S.A. 25-2409 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 32 2409. (a) Election bribery is conferring, offering or agreeing to confer, or
 33 soliciting, accepting or agreeing to accept any benefit as consideration to
 34 or from any person either to vote or withhold any person's vote, or to vote
 35 for or against any candidate or question submitted at any public election.

36 (b) *This section shall not apply to a business or organization that*
 37 *provides a product of a value less than \$3.00 to any person who asserts*
 38 *that such person has voted, without regard to the voter's vote for or*
 39 *against any candidate or issue.*

40 (c) Election bribery is a severity level 7, nonperson felony.

41 Sec. 5. K.S.A. 25-2416 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 42 2416. (a) Voting without being qualified is knowingly ~~and willfully~~: (a):

43 (1) Voting or attempting to vote ~~at~~ in any election district when not a

1 lawfully registered voter; *in such election district; or*

2 ~~(b)(2) Voting or offering to vote more than once at the same~~
 3 ~~election voting or attempting to vote at any election by a person who is not~~
 4 ~~a citizen of the United States or who does not otherwise meet the~~
 5 ~~qualification of an elector.~~

6 ~~(e)(b) Inducing or aiding any person to vote more than once at the~~
 7 ~~same election. Voting without being qualified is a class A misdemeanor~~
 8 ~~level 7, nonperson felony.~~

9 Sec. 6. K.S.A. 25-2423 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 10 2423. Election tampering is, while being charged with no election duty,
 11 making or changing any election record.

12 Election tampering is a severity level ~~8~~ 7, nonperson felony.

13 Sec. 7. K.S.A. 25-2431 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-
 14 2431. False impersonation of a voter is representing oneself as another
 15 ~~person whether real or fictitious and thereas thereby~~ voting or attempting
 16 to vote.

17 False impersonation of a voter is a severity level ~~9~~ 8, nonperson felony.

18 Sec. 8. K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 25-2507 is hereby amended to read as
 19 follows: 25-2507. (a) "Poll book" means a book in which each voter may
 20 sign the voter's signature and a number is assigned by one of the clerks of
 21 the election board when the voter is given a ballot or set of ballots. If the
 22 county election officer determines that voters shall sign the poll book, such
 23 book shall also contain on each page the declaration prescribed by
 24 subsection (d).

25 (b) "Registration book" means: (1) A book or list containing the
 26 names and other information relating to registered voters. Registration
 27 books shall have the names entered therein before the same or copies
 28 thereof are delivered to the supervising judges. Registration books may
 29 also contain blank lines on which each voter shall sign the voter's
 30 signature. If the county election officer determines that voters shall sign
 31 the registration book, such book shall also contain on each page the
 32 declaration prescribed by subsection (d); or

33 (2) a book meeting the requirements of K.S.A. 25-2507 (b)(1), and
 34 amendments thereto; containing blank lines on which each voter shall sign
 35 the voter's signature; containing on each page the declaration prescribed
 36 by subsection (d); and containing the numbers assigned by one of the
 37 clerks of the election board when voters are given ballots or sets of ballots.

38 (c) "Party affiliation lists" means a list containing the names of all
 39 registered voters of a county who have lawfully designated a party
 40 affiliation.

41 (d) "Declaration" means the following: "I, the undersigned, declare
 42 under penalty of perjury that I am a registered voter in the state of Kansas,
 43 county of _____, that I have not signed a name other than my own in

1 order to represent myself as any other registered voter, and that I am
2 qualified to vote and have not previously voted and will not vote again ~~at~~
3 ~~this election~~ *in the election held on this date, in this or any other*
4 *jurisdiction in the United States, for any offices or ballot issues."*

5 Sec. 9. K.S.A. 25-2409, 25-2416, 25-2423 and 25-2431 and K.S.A.
6 2012 Supp. 25-1128 and 25-2507 are hereby repealed.

7 Sec. 10. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
8 publication in the statute book.