As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2025

HOUSE BILL No. 2018

By Committee on Elections

Requested by Representative Waggoner

1-16

AN ACT concerning elections; relating to the qualifications of poll workers; **requiring poll workers be citizens of the United States and live within the state of Kansas;** prohibiting the disqualification of active military members, spouses or other dependents as poll workers on the basis of residency or registered voter status**; amending K.S.A. 25-2804 and repealing the existing section**.

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

New Section 1. (a) ~~Neither the secretary of state nor any~~ **No** county election officer shall disqualify an individual from serving as a poll worker at any election on the basis of residency or registered voter status if such individual is a citizen of the United States and an active military member or the spouse or other dependent of an active military member.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or otherwise restrict any poll worker qualifications based on the age of the individual, except as provided in K.S.A. 25-2804, and amendments thereto.

(c) "Active military member" means any person with full-time duty status in the armed forces of the United States, including members of the national guard and reserve.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 25-2804 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-2804. (a) Each person recommended as provided in K.S.A. 25-2803(a), and amendments thereto, shall be a ~~resident of the area served by the voting place in which such person is to be a judge or clerk~~ *citizen of the United States and live within the state of Kansas***.**

(b) ~~Except as otherwise provided by this subsection,~~ **All judges and clerks shall** ~~have the qualifications of an elector in the election at which they serve, and~~ *be a citizen of the United States and live within the state of Kansas.* **No judge or clerk shall be a candidate for any office, other than the office of precinct committeeman or precinct committeewoman, to be elected at such election. The county election officer may appoint persons who are at least 16 years of age to serve as election judges or clerks if such persons meet all other requirements** ~~for qualification of an elector~~ **and have a letter of recommendation from a school teacher, counselor or administrator. No more than $^1/_3$ of the persons appointed to each election board may be under the age of 18.**

(c) The county election officer may establish a pool of trained judges and clerks who shall be recommended by the county chairpersons specified in K.S.A. 25-2803(a), and amendments thereto. Judges and clerks in such pool may serve at voting places other than their own if:

(1) The chairpersons specified in K.S.A. 25-2803(a), and amendments thereto, or either of them, have failed to make appropriate recommendations;

(2) it is impossible to obtain judges and clerks for a voting place in any other way; or

(3) voting machines are used, in which case the third judge, who shall be trained in the use of voting machines, need not necessarily live in the area of the voting place.

(d) Any judge or clerk serving in a voting place not located in the area in which such judge or clerk resides or serving on a special election board established under K.S.A. 25-1133(c), and amendments thereto, shall be allowed to vote an advance voting ballot in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 25-1119, and amendments thereto, or shall be excused from duties as such judge or clerk to vote at the voting place in the area where such judge or clerk resides.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 25-2804 is hereby repealed.

Sec. ~~2.~~ **4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.