Session of 2022

SENATE BILL No. 351

Proposed Amendments to Senate Bill 351 Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

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AN ACT concerning elections; relating to defining and using electronic poll books; approval of electronic poll books by the secretary of state; granting the secretary of state authority to adopt rules and regulations governing their use; prohibiting election systems from having the capability of being connected to the internet or other computer or communications networks; requiring election—judges to ensure such systems are not so connected; providing that post-election equipment testing must occur within five days of the county vote canvass and that notice of such testing be provided on county websites; expanding the crime of electronic or electromechanical voting system fraud to include fraudulent use of or unauthorized possession of electronic poll books; amending K.S.A. 25-4401, 25-4402, 25-4403, 25-4404, 25-4405, 25-4406, 25-4407, 25-4408, 25-4409, 25-4411, 25-4415, 25-4610 and 25-4613 and repealing the existing sections.

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that candidates be allowed to review such systems

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

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Section 1. K.S.A. 25-4401 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4401. As used in this act unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Ballot" may include an electronic display or printed document containing the offices and questions on which voters in a specified voting area are eligible to vote.

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- (b) "Counting location" means the location in the county selected by the county election officer for the counting of ballots.
- (c) "Electronic or electromechanical voting system" means a system of casting votes and tabulating ballots employing automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment including a direct recording electronic system.

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(d) "Direct recording electronic system" means a system that records votes by means of a ballot display provided with mechanical or electro-optical components that can be activated by the voter, that processes data by means of a computer program, that records voting data and ballot images in memory components, that produces a tabulation of the voting data stored in a removable memory component and as printed copy, and that may also provide a means for transmitting individual ballots or vote totals to a central location for consolidating and reporting results from precincts at the central location.

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The county election officer shall be in complete charge of the *voting* systems and electronic poll books, their safekeeping when not in use and keeping them in repair and working order and shall see that they are delivered to the voting places in time for all arrangements to be made and for the voting systems and electronic poll books to be ready for use at the hour of opening the polls. After the election the county election officer shall see that the voting systems and electronic poll books are returned to the place of storage, or are secured for on-site storage.

Sec. 9. K.S.A. 25-4409 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4409. (a) The ballot information, shall, as far as practicable, be in the order of arrangement provided for paper ballots except that such information may be in vertical or horizontal rows, or in a number of separate pages. Voting squares or ovals may be before or after the names of candidates and statements of questions, and shall be of such size as is compatible with the type of system used. Ballot information shall be displayed in as plain clear type and size as the ballot spaces will reasonably permit. Where candidate rotation is used, the voting equipment shall be capable of meeting the requirements otherwise provided in law.

(b) Before the opening of the polls the election judges shall compare the ballots with the sample ballots furnished, and see that the ballot information thereon agrees and shall certify thereto on forms provided for this purpose. The certification shall be filed with the election returns.

 (c) Before, during and after the operation of the polling place, the election judges shall ensure that no component of the electronic or electromechanical voting system is connected to the internet or to any other communications or computer network, including, but not limited to, a local area network, wireless network, cellular network or satellite network, or using bluetooth or any other wireless communications technology.

Sec. 10. K.S.A. 25-4411 is hereby amended to read as follows: 25-4411. (a) The vote tabulation equipment may be located at any place within the county approved by the county election officer.

(b) Within five days prior to the date of the election, the county election officer shall have the automatic tabulating equipment tested to ascertain that the equipment will correctly count the votes cast for all offices and on all questions submitted. Public notice of the time and place of the test shall be given at least 48 hours prior thereto by publication once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or city where such equipment is to be used and on the county website, if the county has a website. The test shall be open to representatives of the political parties, candidates, the press and the public. The test shall be conducted by processing a preaudited group of ballots marked to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each measure, and shall

make all poll books,

systems and vote tabulating equipment available to any candidate or any authorized poll agent for review to ensure there is no connectivity