FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 974

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE TRENT.

2043H.01I

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.081 and 115.085, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to election judges.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.081 and 115.085, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.081 and 115.085, to read as follows:

115.081. 1. Each election authority shall appoint election judges for each polling place
2 within its jurisdiction in accordance with the provisions of this section.

3   2. In all primary and general elections, the election authority shall appoint at least two
4 judges from each major political party to serve at each polling place. **The committee of each**
5 **major political party within the jurisdiction of an election authority is authorized to**
6 **provide the election authority with a list of election judge candidates who meet the**
7 **requirements under section 115.085. The candidates shall not be required to reside within**
8 **the jurisdiction of the election authority, as authorized in section 115.085. If a committee**
9 **of a major political party within the jurisdiction of an election authority fails to provide**
10 **the prescribed number of qualified names to fill all election judge positions before the date**
11 **established by the election authority, the election authority may select judges to fill the**
12 **positions as provided by law. If the election authority determines that a name submitted**
13 **by a committee of a major political party is not qualified to serve as an election judge, the**
14 **election authority shall allow the party to submit another name before filling the position**
15 **as provided by law.** No major political party shall have a majority of the judges at any polling
16 place. No established party shall have a greater number of judges at any polling place than any
17 major political party.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18   3. In any election that is not a primary or general election, the election authority shall
19   appoint at least one judge from each major political party to serve at each polling place. No
20   major political party shall have a majority of the judges at any polling place. No established
21   party shall have a greater number of judges at any polling place than any major political party.
22   4. The election authority shall designate two of the judges appointed for each polling
23   place, one from each major political party, as supervisory judges. Supervisory judges shall be
24   responsible for the return of election supplies from the polling place to the election authority and
25   shall have any additional duties prescribed by the election authority.
26   5. Election judges may be employed to serve for the first half or last half of any election
27   day. Such judges shall be paid one-half the regular rate of pay. If part-time judges are employed,
28   the election authority shall employ such judges and shall see that a sufficient number for each
29   period are present at all times so as to have the proper total number of judges present at each
30   polling place throughout each election day. The election authority shall require that at each
31   polling place at least one election judge from each political party serve a full day and that at all
32   times during the day there be an equal number of election judges from each political party.
33   6. An election authority may appoint additional election judges representing other
34   established political parties and additional election judges who do not claim a political affiliation.
35   Any question which requires a decision by the majority of judges shall only be made by the
36   judges from the major political parties.
        115.085. No person shall be appointed to serve as an election judge who is not a
 2   registered voter in this state**[; provided that, before any election authority may appoint judges**
 3   **who are registered voters of another election authority's jurisdiction, the election authority shall**
 4   **obtain the written consent of the election authority for the jurisdiction where the prospective**
 5   **judges are registered to vote]**. Each election judge shall be a person of good repute and character
 6   who can speak, read, and write the English language. No person shall serve as an election judge
 7   at any polling place in which his or her name or the name of a relative within the second degree,
 8   by consanguinity or affinity, appears on the ballot. However, no relative of any unopposed
 9   candidate shall be disqualified from serving as an election judge in any election jurisdiction of
10   the state. No election judge shall, during his or her term of office, hold any other elective public
11   office, other than as a member of a political party committee or township office, except any
12   person who is elected to a board or commission of a political subdivision or special district may
13   serve as an election judge except at a polling place where such political subdivision or special
14   district has an issue or candidate on the ballot. In any county having a population of less than
15   two hundred fifty thousand inhabitants, any candidate for the county committee of a political
16   party who is not a candidate for any other office and who is unopposed for election as a member
17   of the committee shall not be disqualified from serving as an election judge.

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