

HB 507 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: McGaugh

This bill allows a notice of election to be sent by email.

The bill moves the filing dates for a declaration of candidacy in certain political subdivisions and special districts back by one week, from the 17th Tuesday prior to the election until the 14th Tuesday prior to the election, to the 16th Tuesday prior to the election until the 13th Tuesday prior to the election.

Currently, covered voters eligible to register to vote may vote in certain elections by submitting a federal postcard application to apply to vote at their polling place. This bill changes this requirement from the polling place to the office of the election authority on election day.

Currently, interstate former residents and new residents may vote absentee for presidential and vice presidential electors. This bill allows them to vote for those electors at the office of the election authority on election day.

This bill provides that all lists of absentee ballot applications for people with permanent disabilities will be kept confidential and must not be posted or displayed in an area open to the general public nor shown to any unauthorized person.

This bill allows a provisional ballot to be cast in any public election.

The bill provides that votes for write-in candidates must only be counted for candidates who have filed a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate, even if no candidate has filed for that office.

This bill establishes the offense of tampering with an election official.

A person commits the offense of tampering with an election official if they, with the purpose to harass or intimidate an election official in the performance of their official duties:

- (1) Threaten to harm or cause harm to an election official or a member of their family;
- (2) Use force, threats, or deception against an election official or member of their family;

(3) Attempt to pressure an election official or member of their family to violate a provision of election law;

(4) Engage in conduct reasonably calculated to harass or alarm an election official or member of their family, including stalking; or

(5) Dox an election official or member of their family.

The offense of tampering with an election official is a class one election offense. If a violation results in death or bodily injury to an election official or a member of their family, the offense is a class B felony.