GENERAL ASSEMBLY
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

2016 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 169

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

The following bill was reported to the House from the Senate and ordered to be printed.

RECEIVED AND FILED
DATE April 8, 2016
2:37pm - Filed without Governor's signature
ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BY K. Adler

AN ACT relating to elections.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 121.180 is amended to read as follows:

(1) (a) Any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee shall be exempt from filing any preelection finance reports required by subsection (3) of this section if the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman files a form prescribed and furnished by the registry stating that contributions will not be accepted or expended in excess of three thousand dollars ($3,000) in any one (1) election to further the candidacy or to support or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which will appear on the ballot. For a candidate for judicial office who desires to be exempt from filing preelection campaign finance reports as provided in this paragraph, the request for exemption shall be filed by the campaign treasurer of the candidate's campaign committee, but the candidate shall be personally liable for any violation if the campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the limit and shall be subject to the same penalties as a candidate as provided in paragraph (l)1. or 2. of this subsection. A separate form shall be required for each primary, regular, or special election in which the candidate or slate of candidates participates or in which the public question appears on the ballot, unless the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman indicates on a request for exemption that the request will be applicable to more than one (1) election. The form shall be filed with the same office with which a candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers or, in the case of a political issues committee, with the registry.

(b) Any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee shall be exempt from filing any campaign finance reports required by subsections (3)

and (4) of this section if the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman files a form prescribed and furnished by the registry stating that currently no contributions have been received and that contributions will not be accepted or expended in excess of one thousand dollars ($1,000) in any one (1) election. For a candidate for judicial office who desires to be exempt from filing any campaign finance reports as provided in this paragraph, the request for exemption shall be filed by the campaign treasurer of the candidate's campaign committee, but the candidate shall be personally liable for any violation if the campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the limit and shall be subject to the same penalties as a candidate as provided in subparagraph (l)1. or 2. of this subsection. A separate form shall be required for each primary, regular, or special election in which the candidate or slate of candidates participates or in which the public question appears on the ballot, unless the candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee chairman indicates on a request for exemption that the request will be applicable to more than one (1) election. The form shall be filed with the same office with which a candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers or, in the case of a political issues committee, with the registry.

(c) For a primary election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file a request for exemption not later than the deadline for filing nomination papers and, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline. For a regular election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file or rescind in writing a request for exemption not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date of the preceding primary election, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this

subsection. For a special election, a candidate or slate of candidates shall file a request for exemption not later than ten (10) days after the candidate or slate of candidates is nominated for a special election and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than twenty-five (25) days after the date on which the nomination for a special election is made. A political issues committee chairman shall file a request for exemption not later than ten (10) days after the date on which the committee registers with the registry and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the date on which the request for exemption is filed.

(d) 1. A candidate or slate of candidates that revokes a request for exemption in a timely manner may exercise the remaining option or may file all reports required of a candidate intending to raise or spend in excess of three thousand dollars ($3,000) in an election. If a candidate or slate of candidates elects to exercise a different option, the candidate or slate of candidates shall file the appropriate form with the officer who received the filing papers of the candidate or slate of candidates not later than the deadline for filing a revocation.

2. A candidate for any city or county office or for any school board office, who is exempted from some or all campaign finance reporting requirements pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection but who accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the exempted amount in an election, shall file all applicable reports required for the remainder of that election, based upon the amount of contributions or expenditures the candidate accepts or receives in that election. The filing of applicable required reports by a candidate after the exempted amount is exceeded shall serve as notice to the registry that the initial exemption has been rescinded. No further notice to the registry shall be required

and no penalty for exceeding the initial exempted amount shall be imposed against the candidate, except for failure to file applicable reports required after the exempted amount is exceeded.

(e) Any candidate or slate of candidates that is subject to an August filing deadline and that intends to execute a request for exemption shall file the appropriate request for exemption not later than the filing deadline and, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline. A candidate or slate of candidates that is covered by this paragraph shall have the same reversion rights as those provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

(f) Any candidate or slate of candidates that will appear on the ballot in a regular election that has signed either request for exemption for that election may exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection if a candidate or slate of candidates that is subject to an August filing deadline subsequently files in opposition to the candidate or slate of candidates. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a candidate or slate of candidates covered by this paragraph shall comply with the deadline for rescission provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

(g) Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption for a regular election that later is opposed by a person who has filed a declaration of intent to receive write-in votes may rescind the request for exemption and exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

(h) Any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption

may petition the registry to determine whether another person is campaigning as a write-in candidate prior to having filed a declaration of intent to receive write-in votes, and, if the registry determines upon a preponderance of the evidence that a person who may later be a write-in candidate is conducting a campaign, the candidate or slate of candidates, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, may petition the registry to permit the candidate or slate of candidates to exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection.

(i) If the opponent of a candidate or slate of candidates is replaced due to his withdrawal because of death, disability, or disqualification, the candidate or slate of candidates, except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, may exercise the reversion rights provided in subparagraph 1. of paragraph (d) of this subsection not later than fifteen (15) days after the party executive committee nominates a replacement for the withdrawn candidate or slate of candidates.

(j) A person intending to be a write-in candidate for any office in a regular or special election may execute a request for exemption under paragraph (a) or (b) of this subsection and shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in writing not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing deadline for the regular or special election. A person intending to be a write-in candidate who revokes a request for exemption in a timely manner may exercise the remaining exemption option or may file all reports required of a candidate intending to raise or spend in excess of three thousand dollars ($3,000) in an election. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a person intending to be a write-in candidate who elects to exercise a different exemption option shall file the appropriate form with the officer who received the initial request for exemption not later than fifteen (15) days after the filing

deadline for the regular or special election.

(k) Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, the campaign committee of any candidate or slate of candidates that has filed a request for exemption or a political issues committee whose chairman has filed a request for exemption shall be bound by its terms unless it is rescinded in a timely manner and no new request for exemption has been executed.

(l) 1. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, any candidate, slate of candidates, or political issues committee that is exempt from filing campaign finance reports pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (e), or (j) of this subsection that accepts contributions or makes expenditures, or whose campaign treasurer accepts contributions or makes expenditures, in excess of the applicable limit in any one (1) election without rescinding the request for exemption in a timely manner shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements and, in lieu of other penalties prescribed by law, pay a fine of not more than five hundred dollars ($500) plus the amount by which the spending limit was exceeded.

2. Except as provided in subparagraph 2. of paragraph (d) of this subsection, a candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or political issues committee that is exempt from filing campaign finance reports pursuant to paragraph (a), (b), (e), or (j) of this subsection that knowingly accepts contributions or makes expenditures in excess of the applicable spending limit in any one (1) election without rescinding the request for exemption in a timely manner shall comply with all applicable reporting requirements and shall be guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) (a) State and county executive committees, and caucus campaign committees

shall make a full report, upon a prescribed form, to the registry, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received from any source, and expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, since the date of the last report, including:

1. For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;
2. For other contributions in excess of one hundred dollars ($100), the full name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;
3. The total amount of cash contributions received during the reporting period; and
4. A complete statement of expenditures authorized, incurred, or made. The complete statement of expenditures shall include the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure is made in excess of twenty-five dollars ($25), and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.

(b) This report shall be in the hands of the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after the thirtieth day following the primary and regular elections. If an individual gives a reportable contribution to a caucus campaign committee or to a state or county executive committee with the intention that the contribution or a portion of the contribution go to a candidate or slate of candidates, the name of the contributor and the sum shall be indicated on the committee report. The receipts and expenditures of funds remitted to each

political party under KRS 141.071 to 141.073 shall be separately accounted for and reported to the registry in the manner required by KRS 121.230. The separate report may be made a separate section within the report required, by this subsection, to be in the hands of the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after the thirtieth day following each regular election.

(3) (a) Except for candidates or slates of candidates, campaign committees, or political issues committees exempted from reporting requirements pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, each campaign treasurer of a candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, or political issues committee who accepts contributions or expends, expects to accept contributions or expend, or contracts to expend more than three thousand dollars ($3,000) in any one (1) election, and each fundraiser who secures contributions in excess of three thousand dollars ($3,000) in any one (1) election, shall make a full report to the registry, on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received from any source, and expenditures authorized, incurred, and made, since the date of the last report, including:

1. For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;

2. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars ($100) made to a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, or to a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office, the date, name, address, occupation, and employer of each contributor and the spouse of the contributor or, if the

contributor or spouse of the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount contributed by each contributor; and

3. For each contribution in excess of one hundred dollars ($100) made to any candidate or campaign committee other than those specified in subparagraph 2. of this paragraph or a political issues committee, the full name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each other contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;

4. The total amount of cash contributions received during the reporting period; and

5. A complete statement of all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made. The complete statement of expenditures shall include the name, address, and occupation of each person to whom an expenditure is made in excess of twenty-five dollars ($25), and the amount, date, and purpose of each expenditure.

(b) Reports of all candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall be made as follows:

1. Candidates as defined in KRS 121.015(8), slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and fundraisers which register in the year before the year an election in which the candidate, a slate of candidates, or public question shall appear on the ballot, shall file financial reports with the registry at the end of the first calendar quarter after persons become candidates or slates of candidates, or following registration of the committee or fundraiser, and each calendar quarter thereafter, ending with the last calendar quarter of that

year. Candidates, slates of candidates, committees, and registered fundraisers shall make all reports required by this section during the year in which the election takes place;

2. All candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make reports on the thirty-second day preceding an election, including all previous contributions and expenditures;

3. All candidates, slates of candidates, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make reports on the fifteenth day preceding the date of the election; and

4. All reports to the registry shall be received by the registry or postmarked within five (5) days after each filing deadline.

(4) Except for candidates, slates of candidates, and political issues committees, exempted pursuant to subsection (1)(b) of this section, all candidates, regardless of funds received or expended, campaign committees, political issues committees, and registered fundraisers shall make post-election reports within thirty (30) days after the election.

(5) In making the preceding reports, the total gross receipts from each of the following categories shall be listed: proceeds from the sale of tickets for events such as testimonial affairs, dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar fundraising events, mass collections made at the events, and sales of items such as campaign pins, buttons, hats, ties, literature, and similar materials. When any individual purchase or the aggregate purchases of any item enumerated above from a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or a campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office exceeds one hundred dollars ($100), the purchaser shall be identified by name, address, age, if less than the legal voting age, occupation, and employer and the employer of the

spouse of the purchaser or, if the purchaser or the spouse of the purchaser is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount of the purchase. When any individual purchase or the aggregate purchases of any item enumerated above from any candidate or campaign committee other than a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office or campaign committee for a candidate or slate of candidates for a statewide-elected state office exceeds one hundred dollars ($100), the purchaser shall be identified by name, address, age if less than the legal voting age, occupation, and employer, or if the purchaser is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business, and the amount of the purchase. The lists shall be maintained by the campaign treasurer, political issues committee treasurer, registered fundraiser, or other sponsor for inspection by the registry for six (6) years following the date of the election.

(6) Each permanent committee, except a federally registered out-of-state permanent committee, inaugural committee, or contributing organization shall make a full report to the registry, on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry, of all money, loans, or other things of value, received by it from any source, and all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, since the date of the last report, including:

(a) For each contribution of any amount made by a permanent committee, the name and business address of the permanent committee, the date of the contribution, the amount contributed, and a description of the major business, social, or political interest represented by the permanent committee;

(b) For other contributions in excess of one hundred dollars ($100), the full name, address, age if under the legal voting age, the date of the contribution, the amount of the contribution, and the employer and occupation of each contributor. If the contributor is self-employed, the name under which he is doing business shall be listed;

(c) An aggregate amount of cash contributions, the amount contributed by each contributor, and the date of each contribution; and

(d) A complete statement of all expenditures authorized, incurred, or made, including independent expenditures. This report shall be made by a permanent committee, inaugural committee, or contributing organization to the registry on the last day of the first calendar quarter following the registration of the committee with the registry and on the last day of each succeeding calendar quarter until such time as the committee terminates. A contributing organization shall file a report of contributions received and expenditures on a form provided or using a format approved by the registry not later than the last day of each calendar quarter in which contributions are received or expenditures are made. All reports to the registry shall be postmarked or received not later than five (5) days after each filing deadline.

(7) If the final statement of a candidate, campaign committee, or political issues committee shows an unexpended balance of contributions, continuing debts and obligations, or an expenditure deficit, the campaign treasurer shall file with the registry a supplemental statement of contributions and expenditures not more than thirty (30) days after the deadline for filing the final statement. Subsequent supplemental statements shall be filed annually, to be received by the registry or postmarked not later than ten (10) days after November 1 of each year, until the account shows no unexpended balance, continuing debts and obligations, expenditures, or deficit, or until the year before the candidate or a slate of candidates seeks to appear on the ballot for the same office for which the funds in the campaign account were originally contributed, in which case the candidate or a slate of candidates shall file the supplemental annual report not later than ten (10) days after November 1 of that year or at the end of the first calendar quarter of that year after the candidate or slate of candidates files nomination papers for the next

year's primary or regular election. All contributions shall be subject to KRS 121.150.

(8) All reports filed under the provisions of this chapter shall be a matter of public record open to inspection by any member of the public immediately upon receipt of the report by the registry.~~[A duplicate paper copy of each report filed either on paper or electronically with the registry shall be filed by the candidate, slate of candidates, or committee with the county clerk in the county in which the candidate or persons running as a slate of candidates reside at the same time. County clerks shall maintain these reports for public inspection for a period of one (1) year from the date the last report is required to be filed.]~~

(9) A candidate or slate of candidates is relieved of the duty personally to file reports and keep records of receipts and expenditures if the candidate or slate states in writing or on forms provided by the registry that:

(a) Within five (5) business days after personally receiving any contributions, the candidate or slate of candidates shall surrender possession of the contributions to the treasurer of their principal campaign committee without expending any of the proceeds thereof. No contributions shall be commingled with the candidate's or slated candidates' personal funds or accounts. Contributions received by check, money order, or other written instrument shall be endorsed directly to the campaign committee and shall not be cashed or redeemed by the candidate;

(b) The candidate or slate of candidates shall not make any unreimbursed expenditure for the campaign, except that this paragraph does not preclude a candidate or slate from making an expenditure from personal funds to the designated principal campaign committee, which shall be reported by the committee as a contribution received; and

(c) The waiver shall continue in effect as long as the candidate or slate of

candidates complies with the conditions under which it was granted.

(10) No candidate, slate of candidates, campaign committee, political issues committee, or contributing organization shall use or permit the use of contributions or funds solicited or received for the person or in support of or opposition to a public issue which will appear on the ballot to further the candidacy of the person for a different public office, to support or oppose a different public issue, or to further the candidacy of any other person for public office; except that nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to prohibit a candidate or slate of candidates from using funds in the campaign account to purchase admission tickets for any fundraising event or testimonial affair for another candidate or slate of candidates if the amount of the purchase does not exceed one hundred dollars ($100) per event or affair. Any funds or contributions solicited or received by or on behalf of a candidate, slate of candidates, or any committee, which has been organized in whole or in part to further any candidacy for the same person or to support or oppose the same public issue, shall be deemed to have been solicited or received for the current candidacy or for the election on the public issue if the funds or contributions are solicited or received at any time prior to the regular election for which the candidate, slate of candidates, or public issue is on the ballot. Any unexpended balance of funds not otherwise obligated for the payment of expenses incurred to further a political issue or the candidacy of a person shall, in whole or in part, at the election of the candidate or committee, escheat to the State Treasury, be returned pro rata to all contributors, or, in the case of a partisan candidate, be transferred to a caucus campaign committee, or to the state or county executive committee of the political party of which the candidate is a member except that a candidate, committee, or an official may retain the funds to further the same public issue or to seek election to the same office or may donate the funds to any charitable, nonprofit, or educational institution recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue

Code of 1986, as amended, and any successor thereto.

(11) (a) For the purposes of this subsection, "election cycle," as applied to contributions, expenditures, or loans to support or oppose a candidate for a particular office, means the period of time beginning January 1 following a regular election for the office and ending December 31 following the next regular election for that office.

(b) For the purpose of this subsection, "election cycle," as applied to contributions, expenditures, or loans to support or oppose a constitutional amendment or public question which appears on the ballot, means the period of time beginning January 1 following a regular election for any state legislative office and ending December 31 following the next regular election for any state legislative office.

(c) If adequate and appropriate agency funds are available to implement this subsection, the option of electronic reporting shall be made available by the registry to all candidates, committees, registered fundraisers, and persons making independent expenditures, in addition to those candidates, slates of candidates, and campaign committees that are required to electronically report under KRS 121.120(6)(h).

(12) Filers specified in subsection (11) of this section shall also continue to file required campaign finance reports in paper format until the registry deems it is no longer necessary. The paper copy shall continue to be the official version for audit and other legal purposes.

(13) Filers not required to file reports electronically, as set forth in this section, are strongly encouraged to do so voluntarily.

(14) The date that an electronic or on-line report shall be deemed to have been filed with the registry shall be the date on which it is received by the registry.

(15) All electronic or online filers shall affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the report

filed with the registry is complete and accurate.

(16) Filers who submit computer disks which are not readable, cannot be copied, or are not accompanied by any requisite paper copy shall be deemed to not be in compliance with the requirements set forth in this section.

(17) No candidate is obligated to file any reports electronically, except for those candidates, slates of candidates, and campaign committees that are required to electronically report under KRS 121.120(6)(h).

(18) (a) On each paper and electronic form that it supplies for the reports required under subsections (2), (3), and (6) of this section, the registry shall include an entry reading, "No change since last report."

(b) If a person or entity that is required to report under subsection (2), (3), or (6) of this section has received no money, loans, or other things of value from any source since the date of its last report and has not authorized, incurred, or made any expenditures since that date, the person or entity may check or otherwise designate the entry that reads, "No change since last report." A person or entity designating this entry in a report shall state the balance carried forward from the last report but need not specify receipts or expenditures in further detail.

➔Section 2. KRS 116.095 is amended to read as follows:

The county clerk shall permit any citizen, at all reasonable hours, to inspect or make copies of any registration record, without any fee. He ***or she*** shall, upon request, furnish to any ***citizen***~~[person]~~ a copy of the registration records, for which he ***or she*** may charge necessary duplicating costs not to exceed fifty cents ($0.50) per page. ***If a registered voter's Social Security number is included on his or her registration information, the Social Security number shall be redacted by the county clerk before it is duplicated and furnished to the citizen requesting the copy and before it is inspected or duplicated by the citizen.***

➔Section 3. KRS 116.0452 is amended to read as follows:

(1) For the purpose of determining whether a voter registration application is received during the period in which registration books are open under KRS 116.045(2), an application shall be deemed timely received:

(a) In the case of registration with a motor vehicle driver's license application, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is accepted by the circuit clerk before the registration books are closed;

(b) In the case of registration by mail, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is legibly postmarked before the registration books are closed;

(c) In the case of registration with a voter registration agency, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is accepted at the voter registration agency before the registration books are closed; and

(d) In any other case, if the valid voter registration form of the applicant is received by the appropriate county clerk, ***no later than 4 p.m. local time,*** before the registration books are closed.

(2) The county clerk shall send notice to each applicant of the disposition of the application.

(3) The name of a registered voter shall not be removed from the registration books except:

(a) Upon request of the voter;

(b) As provided by KRS 116.113, upon notice of death, declaration of incompetency, or conviction of a felony; or

(c) Upon failure to respond to a confirmation mailing sent pursuant to KRS 116.112(3) and failure to vote or appear to vote and, if necessary, correct the registration record of the voter's address in an election during the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the date of the second general election for Federal office that occurs after the date of the

notice.

(4) The identity of the voter registration agency or circuit clerk's office through which any particular voter is registered shall not be disclosed to the public.

➔Section 4. KRS 117.235 is amended to read as follows:

(1) No person, other than the election officers, challengers, person assisting voters in accordance with KRS 117.255(3), and a minor child in the company of a voter, shall be permitted within the voting room while the vote is being polled, except as follows:

(a) For the purpose of voting;

(b) By authority of the election officers to keep order and enforce the law;

(c) With the express approval of the county board of elections to repair or replace voting equipment that is malfunctioning and to provide additional voting equipment; or

(d) At the voter's discretion, a minor child in the company of a voter may accompany the voter into a voting booth or other private area provided for casting a vote.

(2) No officer of election shall do any electioneering on election day.

(3) ***(a)*** No person shall electioneer at the polling place on the day of any election, as established in KRS 118.025, within a distance of ***one***~~[three]~~ hundred ***(100)***~~[(300)]~~ feet of any entrance to a building in which a voting machine is located if that entrance is unlocked and is used by voters on election day~~[, unless the fiscal court or legislative body of an urban-county, charter county, or consolidated local government, on a countywide basis, specifically prohibits electioneering on the day of any election by ordinance for a distance greater than three hundred (300) feet from the polling place]~~.

(b) No person shall electioneer within the interior of a building or affix any electioneering materials to the exterior or interior of a building where the

county clerk's office is located, or any building designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections for absentee voting, during the hours absentee voting is being conducted in the building by the county clerk pursuant to KRS 117.085(1)(c).

(c) Electioneering shall include the displaying of signs, the distribution of campaign literature, cards, or handbills, the soliciting of signatures to any petition, or the solicitation of votes for or against any bona fide candidate or ballot question in a manner which expressly advocates the election or defeat of the candidate or expressly advocates the passage or defeat of the ballot question, but shall not include exit polling***, bumper stickers affixed to a person's vehicle while parked within or passing through a distance of one hundred (100) feet of any entrance to a building in which a voting machine is located, private property as provided in subsection (7) of this section,*** or other exceptions established by the State Board of Elections through the promulgation of administrative regulations.

(4) No voter shall be permitted to converse with others while in any room in which voting, including absentee voting, is conducted concerning their support or nonsupport of any candidate, party, or issue to be voted on, except as provided in KRS 117.255.

(5) Any precinct election officer, county clerk, deputy county clerk, or any law enforcement official may enforce the election laws and maintain law and order at the polls and within ***one***~~[three]~~ hundred ***(100)***~~[(300)]~~ feet of any entrance to the building in which the voting machine is located if that entrance is unlocked and is used by voters. Assistance may be requested of any law enforcement officer.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Elections may establish a program designed to instill in school children a respect for the democratic principles of voting by conducting in any county a mock election for

school children in conjunction with any primary, or regular or special election. The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations regarding the mock elections to insure that the regular voting process will not be impaired.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, nothing in this section shall prohibit the displaying of political campaign signs on private property or private establishments by a person having a leased or ownership interest in that private property or private establishment within the campaign-free zone, regardless of the distance from the polling place. In the case of a polling location being on private property that is leased or otherwise under contract for the purpose of serving as a polling location, the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall be applicable to that leased or contracted-for private property.

➔SECTION 5. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 160 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) In a school district where the district boundary extends beyond the boundary of a single county, candidates for election to the school board shall be elected from the district at large. Nomination papers shall be filed with and certified by the clerk of the county in which the candidate resides in accordance with the provisions of KRS 118.165.

(2) (a) The clerk of the county in which a certified candidate resides shall provide the name of the certified candidate to the clerk in each county in which the school district boundary extends.

(b) The name of the certified candidate shall appear on the ballot in all counties in which the school district boundary extends.

(3) Each clerk shall certify the vote totals for every candidate receiving votes to the clerk of the other counties into which the boundary of the school district extends, and a certificate of election shall be issued in accordance with Section 6 of this Act.

➔Section 6. KRS 118.425 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The State Board of Elections shall issue certificates of election where the successful candidate was voted for by the state at large, was voted for by a district greater than one (1) county, or was a candidate for member of Congress or the General Assembly.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, not later than the second Monday after the election, the county board of elections shall issue certificates of election where the successful candidate was voted for by the electors of one (1) county, or of a district less than one (1) county, except members of Congress, members of the General Assembly, and designated officers filing with the Secretary of State. The right to contest or recount an election in accordance with KRS Chapter 120 shall not be impaired. The county board of elections of the candidate's residence shall issue certificates of election where the successful candidate was voted for by the electors of a city ***or school district*** whose boundaries extend beyond those of a single county. The board shall forward the certificate to the elected candidate. If the board finds that two (2) or more candidates have received the highest and equal number of votes for the same office, the board shall determine by lot which of the candidates is elected.

(3) In counties containing cities of the first class, not later than the thirtieth day of December after the election, the county board of elections shall issue certificates of election where the successful candidate was voted for by the electors of the county, except members of Congress, members of the General Assembly, and designated officers filing with the Secretary of State. The right to contest or recount an election in accordance with KRS Chapter 120 shall not be impaired. The county board of elections of the candidate's residence shall issue certificates of election where the successful candidate was voted for by the electors of a city whose boundaries extend beyond those of a single county. The board shall forward the certificate to

the elected candidate. If the board finds that two (2) or more candidates have received the highest and equal number of votes for the same office, the board shall determine by lot which of the candidates is elected.

(4) In the case of all offices voted for, and in the case of public questions submitted to the vote of the people of the state at large or of a district greater than one (1) county, the county board of elections shall make out duplicate certificates of the total number of votes received by each of the candidates for the office and the total number of votes for and against each of the questions on a form prescribed by the State Board of Elections through the promulgation of administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A. The certificate of the total number of votes shall be certified to the Secretary of State's Office not later than 12 p.m., prevailing time, on the Friday following the election. For special elections the certificate of the total number of votes shall be certified to the Secretary of State's Office not later than 12 p.m., prevailing time, on the day following the election. The clerk shall keep one (1) of the certificates in his or her office. He or she shall not later than three (3) days after receiving the certificate from the board, forward the other certificate by mail to the Secretary of State who shall deliver it to the State Board of Elections.

(5) The State Board of Elections shall meet, to count and tabulate the votes received by the different candidates as certified to the Secretary of State no later than the third Monday after the election. The right to contest or recount an election in accordance with KRS Chapter 120 shall not be impaired. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum and may act. The board shall make out the certificates of election in the office of the board from the returns made. The board shall make out duplicate certificates of election, in writing, over the signatures of its members. The board shall forward the original certificate, by mail, to the elected candidate. The duplicate shall be retained in the office of the board. In the case of

the election of a representative in Congress, an additional certificate shall be made and sent, by mail, to the clerk of the House of Representatives.

(6) The certificate of election shall be issued to the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the territory from which the election is to be made. If two (2) or more persons are found to have received the highest and an equal number of votes for the same office, the election shall be determined by lot in the manner the board directs, in the presence of not less than three (3) other persons. In the case of elections for electors of President and Vice President of the United States, the board shall issue a certificate of election to each elector of the political party or organization whose candidates for President and Vice President received the highest number of votes and the determination by the board that the candidates of any political party or organization for President and Vice President have received the highest number of votes shall constitute a determination that the electors nominated by that party have been elected.

➔Section 7. KRS 117.227 is amended to read as follows:

Election officers shall confirm the identity of each voter by personal acquaintance or by a document, such as a motor vehicle operator's license, Social Security card, ***any identification card that has been issued by the county and which has been approved in writing by the State Board of Elections, any identification card with picture and signature, any United States government-issued identification card, any Kentucky state government-issued identification card with picture,*** or credit card. The election officer confirming the identity shall sign the precinct voter roster and list the method of identification.

➔Section 8. KRS 117.087 is amended to read as follows:

(1) The challenge of an absentee ballot returned by mail shall be in writing and in the hands of the county clerk before ***8***~~[10]~~ a.m. on election day.

(2) The county board of elections shall count the absentee ballots returned by mail and

the votes cast on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. The board may appoint a central ballot counting board of not less than three (3) members, who shall be qualified voters and no more than two-thirds (2/3) of whom shall be members of the same political party, to count the ballots at the direction of the county board of elections.

(3) Beginning at 8~~[10]~~ a.m. on election day, the board shall meet at the clerk's office to count the absentee ballots returned by mail and the ballots cast on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. Candidates or their representatives shall be permitted to be present. The county board of elections shall authorize representatives of the news media to observe the counting of the ballots. The board shall open the boxes containing absentee ballots returned by mail and remove the envelopes one (1) at a time. As each envelope is removed, it shall be examined to ascertain whether the outer envelope and the detachable flap are in proper order and have been signed by the voter. A person having power of attorney for the voter and who signs the detachable flap and outer envelope for the voter shall complete the voter assistance form required by KRS 117.255. The signatures of two (2) witnesses are required if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. All unsigned absentee ballots shall be rejected automatically. The chairman of the county board of elections shall compare the signatures on the outer envelope and the detachable flap with the signature of the voter that appears on the registration card. If the outer envelope and the detachable flap are found to be in order, the chairman shall read aloud the name of the voter. If the vote of the voter is not rejected on a challenge then made as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the chairman shall remove the detachable flap and place the inner envelope unopened in a ballot box which has been provided for the

purpose.

(4) When the name of a voter who cast an absentee ballot by mail is read aloud by the chairman, the vote of the voter may be challenged by any board member or by the written challenge provided in subsection (1) of this section and the challenge may be determined and the vote accepted or rejected by the board as if the voter was present and voting in person; but if the outer envelope and the detachable flap are regular, and substantially comply with the provisions of this chapter, they shall be considered as showing that the voter is prima facie entitled to vote. If the vote of a voter is rejected pursuant to the challenge, the inner envelope shall not be opened, but returned to the outer envelope upon which the chairman shall write on the envelope the word "rejected."

(5) After the challenges have been made and all the blank inner envelopes have been placed in a ballot box, the box shall be thoroughly shaken to redistribute the absentee ballots in the box. The board shall open the ballot box, remove the absentee ballots from the inner envelopes, and count the ballots.

(6) The board shall unlock any voting equipment used to cast ballots in the clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, as provided for in KRS 117.086, and a total of all ballots shall be made and recorded on the form provided by the State Board of Elections.

(7) The county board of elections, the county clerk, and all individuals permitted to be present for the counting of absentee ballots pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall not make public the absentee ballot results determined as provided in this section until after 6 p.m. prevailing time.

President of Senate

Speaker-House of Representatives

Attest: _____
Chief Clerk of Senate

Approved _____
Governor

Date _____