



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 11/29/2016

Bill Number

Senate Bill 16-142

Sponsors

Senator Scott
Representative Ryden

Short Title

**Miscellaneous Updates To
Elections Laws**

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor and became effective on May 18, 2016.

Summary

This bill makes various changes and updates to election statutes. Among its many provisions, this bill:

- replaces references to the registration book with the statewide voter registration system (SCORE);
- allows county clerks to destroy paper voter registration records once they have been recorded in SCORE;
- requires county clerks, rather than the Secretary of State (SOS), to generate a list of electors who submitted more than one ballot;
- requires voter registration agencies to transmit completed voter registrations daily within 22 days of an election;
- requires notices for primary elections to include a notice to advise eligible electors who are not affiliated with a political party that they may declare an affiliation and vote in a primary election;
- allows designated election officials to post the list of eligible write-in candidates on their website;
- makes it a class 6 felony for any person to knowingly access SCORE without

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authorization;

- allows the SOS to create rules requiring that certain duties of election judges may only be performed by election judges about whom the county clerk has requested a background check; and
- changes the deadline for which a write-in candidate affidavit should be received and the period when a municipal election may be cancelled from 20 to 64 days.

Background

Election processes and procedures are shaped by many factors, including technological advances, court decisions, and changing federal law. This bill updates election processes and procedures. Many of the election law changes in this bill reflect current practice.

Senate Action

Senate State Affairs Committee (March 16, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the SOS, the Colorado Municipal League, the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association, the Colorado County Clerks Association, the League of Women Voters, the Colorado Press Association, and America Votes testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Appropriations Committee (April 1, 2016). The committee adopted amendment J.001 and referred the bill to the Senate Committee of the Whole. The amendment added an appropriations clause to the bill.

Senate second reading (April 12, 2016). The Senate adopted the Senate Appropriations committee report and amendment L.009, which makes a technical numbering correction. The Senate laid the bill over.

Senate second reading (April 13, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

Senate third reading (April 14, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House State Affairs Committee (April 20, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the SOS, the Colorado County Clerks Association, Colorado Common Cause, and the League of Women Voters testified in support of the bill. The committee referred the bill to the House Appropriations Committee.

House Appropriations Committee (April 26, 2016). The committee referred the bill to the House Committee of the Whole.

House second reading (April 28, 2016). The House passed the bill on second reading with no amendments.

House third reading (April 29, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.