

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

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Chairman of Committee

February 10, 2016  
Date

Committee on State, Veterans, & Military Affairs.

After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:

HB16-1070 be amended as follows, and as so amended, be referred to the Committee on Appropriations with favorable recommendation:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2, after line 16 insert:

2 "(2) (a) THE ELECTION JUDGES MUST COMPARE THE SIGNATURE ON  
3 THE SELF-AFFIRMATION ON EACH RETURN ENVELOPE WITH THE SIGNATURE  
4 PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO SECTION 1-2-301,  
5 C.R.S. THE ELECTION JUDGES MUST RESEARCH THE SIGNATURE FURTHER  
6 IF THERE IS:

7 (I) AN OBVIOUS CHANGE IN THE SIGNATURE'S SLANT;

8 (II) A PRINTED SIGNATURE ON ONE DOCUMENT AND A CURSIVE  
9 SIGNATURE ON THE OTHER DOCUMENT;

10 (III) A DIFFERENCE IN THE SIGNATURE'S SIZE OR SCALE;

11 (IV) A DIFFERENCE IN THE SIGNATURE'S INDIVIDUAL  
12 CHARACTERISTICS, SUCH AS HOW THE "T'S" ARE CROSSED, "I'S" ARE  
13 DOTTED, OR LOOPS ARE MADE ON "Y'S" OR "J'S";

14 (V) A DIFFERENCE IN THE ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE STYLE, SUCH AS  
15 HOW THE LETTERS ARE CONNECTED AT THE TOP AND BOTTOM;

16 (VI) EVIDENCE THAT BALLOTS OR ENVELOPES FROM THE SAME  
17 HOUSEHOLD HAVE BEEN SWITCHED; OR

18 (VII) ANY OTHER NOTICEABLE DISCREPANCY SUCH AS MISSPELLED  
19 NAMES.

20 (b) (I) IF AN ELECTION JUDGE MUST CONDUCT FURTHER RESEARCH  
21 ON AN ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE, HE OR SHE MUST CHECK THE ADDITIONAL  
22 SIGNATURES PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE PURSUANT TO

1 SECTION 1-2-301, C.R.S., IF AVAILABLE.

2 (II) AN ELECTION JUDGE MAY COMPARE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
3 WRITTEN BY THE ELECTOR ON THE RETURN ENVELOPE, SUCH AS THE  
4 ELECTOR'S ADDRESS AND DATE OF SIGNING. ANY SIMILARITIES NOTED  
5 WHEN COMPARING OTHER INFORMATION MAY BE USED AS PART OF THE  
6 SIGNATURE VERIFICATION DECISION PROCESS.

7 (III) IF AN ELECTION JUDGE DETERMINES THAT AN ELECTOR  
8 INADVERTENTLY RETURNED HIS OR HER BALLOT IN ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD  
9 MEMBER'S BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE, THE ELECTION JUDGE MUST  
10 PROCESS AND PREPARE THE BALLOT OF THE ELECTOR WHO SIGNED THE  
11 SELF-AFFIRMATION FOR COUNTING IF IT IS OTHERWISE VALID. THE  
12 ELECTION JUDGE NEED NOT SEND A SIGNATURE VERIFICATION  
13 DISCREPANCY LETTER TO THE ELECTOR.

14 (c) IF THE ELECTION JUDGES DISPUTE THE SIGNATURE, THEY MUST  
15 DOCUMENT THE DISCREPANCY AND THE RESEARCH STEPS TAKEN IN A LOG  
16 THAT IDENTIFIES THE ELECTOR ONLY BY NAME AND ELECTOR  
17 IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, DOES NOT CONTAIN THE ELECTOR'S SIGNATURE,  
18 NOTES THE FINAL RESOLUTION AND BALLOT DISPOSITION, AND IDENTIFIES  
19 THE ELECTION JUDGES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FINAL RESOLUTION AND  
20 BALLOT DISPOSITION."

21 Renumber succeeding subsections accordingly.

22 Page 3, line 19, strike "(4)" and substitute "(5)".

23 Page 3, line 21, strike "(3)" and substitute "(4)".

24 Page 4, line 5, strike "(3)" and substitute "(4)".

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