

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1002

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 11, TITLE 34, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 34-1115, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING AND TO PROVIDE FOR VOTE CENTERS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 11, Title 34, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 34-1115, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

34-1115. ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING -- VOTE CENTERS. (1) Counties that use voting facilities with access to the Idaho statewide voter registration system or that use electronic poll books authorized under section 34-1106A, Idaho Code, and that count ballots at a central location or use a polling location-based tabulation system may elect to establish one (1) or more vote centers according to the provisions of this section.

(2) A vote center shall be equipped to issue the appropriate ballot to any elector from any precinct within the county and to record that elector as having voted.

(3) An elector who appears at a vote center to vote shall state the elector's name and address to the election official and present the elector's identification as required by sections 34-1113 and 34-1114, Idaho Code.

(4) The election official shall examine the records to ascertain whether or not the applicant is registered and lawfully entitled to vote as requested. The provisions of section 34-408A, Idaho Code, authorizing election day registration shall also apply in determining the applicant's qualifications to vote.

(5) Before receiving a ballot, each elector shall sign the elector's name in the election register and poll book provided for vote centers. The elector shall then be given the appropriate ballot.

(6) Upon receipt of the ballot, the elector shall retire to a vacant voting booth and mark the ballot according to the instructions provided.

(7) After marking the ballot, the elector shall present himself to the election official at the ballot box and state the elector's name. The elector shall then deposit the ballot in the ballot box or hand it to the election official who shall deposit the ballot. The election official shall proclaim in an audible voice that the elector has voted.

(8) Any county that plans to use one (1) or more vote centers shall:

(a) Provide at least one (1) vote center in each legislative district within the county;

(b) Provide at least one (1) vote center for every fifteen thousand (15,000) registered voters; and

(c) Provide at least one (1) vote center within twenty-five (25) miles of every registered voter who is not located within a mail ballot precinct pursuant to section 34-308, Idaho Code.

(9) Voters requiring assistance shall be provided with assistance in accordance with section 34-1108, Idaho Code.

(10) Any county that plans to use one (1) or more vote centers shall notify the secretary of state at least thirty (30) days prior to the first implementation. The use of vote centers shall be included as part of the designation of precinct polling locations under section 34-302, Idaho Code, and shall be included in the legal publications provided for in sections 34-602 and 34-1406, Idaho Code.

(11) Electioneering is prohibited at a vote center polling place pursuant to section 18-2318, Idaho Code.

SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall be null, void, and of no force and effect on and after December 31, 2020.