## LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA

## ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

## LEGISLATIVE BILL 316

Introduced by Murante, 49.

Read first time January 12, 2017

## Committee:

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Election Act; to amend sections 32-118, 2 32-204, 32-221, 32-223, 32-230, 32-231, 32-232, 32-236, 32-301, 3 32-320, 32-328, 32-608, 32-805, 32-806, 32-807, 32-810, 32-814, 4 32-815, 32-816, 32-821, 32-901, 32-903, 32-910, 32-914, 32-916, 32-1001, 32-1010, 32-1012, 32-1013, 32-1032, 32-1041, 32-1521, 5 6 32-1522, and 84-510, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and 7 sections 45-621 and 49-14,140, Revised Statutes Cumulative 8 Supplement, 2016; to redefine signature; to change the name and purpose of the Election Administration Fund; to prohibit use of and 9 eliminate references to electronic voting systems; to authorize use 10 of electronic poll books, ballot-on-demand technology, and precinct-11 12 based optical scanners; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the 13 original sections.
- 14 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

- 1 Section 1. Section 32-118, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 32-118 Signature shall mean the name of a person written with his or
- 4 her own hand or the mark of a person unable to write his or her name if
- 5 the person's name is written by some other person and the mark is made
- 6 near the name by the person unable to write his or her name. The name and
- 7 mark may be written in ink or affixed electronically.
- 8 Sec. 2. Section 32-204, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 9 amended to read:
- 10 32-204 The Election <u>Technology</u> Administration Fund is hereby
- 11 created. The fund shall consist of federal funds, state funds, gifts, and
- 12 grants appropriated for the administration of elections. The primary
- 13 purpose of the fund is to ensure the longevity of the state's election
- 14 <u>technology</u>. The Secretary of State shall make periodic requests for
- 15 appropriations for the fund in order to ensure the ability to purchase
- 16 <u>new technology on a statewide basis as necessary.</u> The Secretary of State
- 17 shall use the fund for voting systems, provisional voting, computerized
- 18 statewide voter registration lists, voter registration, training or
- 19 informational materials related to elections, and any other costs related
- 20 to elections. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be
- 21 invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital
- 22 Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.
- 23 Sec. 3. Section 32-221, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 24 amended to read:
- 25 32-221 (1) The election commissioner shall appoint precinct and
- 26 district inspectors, judges of election, and clerks of election to assist
- 27 the election commissioner in conducting elections on election day. In
- 28 counties with a population of less than four hundred thousand inhabitants
- 29 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, judges and
- 30 clerks of election and inspectors shall be appointed at least thirty days
- 31 prior to the statewide primary election, shall hold office for terms of

- two years or until their successors are appointed and qualified for the
  next statewide primary election, and shall serve at all elections in the
  county during their terms of office. In counties with a population of
  four hundred thousand or more inhabitants as determined by the most
  recent federal decennial census, judges and clerks of election shall be
  appointed at least thirty days prior to the first election for which
  appointments are necessary and shall serve for at least four elections.
- (2) Judges and clerks of election may be selected at random from a 8 9 cross section of the population of the county. All qualified citizens shall have the opportunity to be considered for service. All qualified 10 citizens shall fulfill their obligation to serve as judges or clerks of 11 election as prescribed by the election commissioner. No citizen shall be 12 13 excluded from service as a result of discrimination based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. No citizen 14 shall be excluded from service unless excused by reason of ill health or 15 other good and sufficient reason. 16
- (3) All persons appointed shall be of good repute and character, be able to read and write the English language, and except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) (5) of section 32-223, be registered voters in the county. No candidate at an election shall be appointed as a judge or clerk of election or inspector for such election other than a candidate for delegate to a county, state, or national political party convention.
- (4) If a vacancy occurs in the office of judge or clerk of election 23 24 or inspector, the election commissioner shall fill such vacancy in accordance with section 32-223. If any judge or clerk of election or 25 inspector fails to appear at the hour appointed for the opening of the 26 polls, the remaining officers shall notify the election commissioner, 27 select a registered voter to serve in place of the absent officer if so 28 directed by the election commissioner, and proceed to conduct the 29 election. If the election commissioner finds that a judge or clerk of 30 election or inspector does not possess all the qualifications prescribed 31

- 1 in this section or if any judge or clerk of election or inspector is
- 2 guilty of neglecting the duties of the office or of any official
- 3 misconduct, the election commissioner shall remove the person and fill
- 4 the vacancy.
- 5 Sec. 4. Section 32-223, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 32-223 (1) Except as otherwise provided in the Election Act, the For
- 8 each precinct except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, the
- 9 election commissioner shall appoint a precinct inspector and a receiving
- 10 board to consist of at least two judges and two clerks of election for
- 11 <u>each precinct</u>. The election commissioner may appoint district inspectors
- 12 to aid the election commissioner in the performance of his or her duties
- 13 and supervise a group of precincts on election day.
- 14 (2) In precincts in which electronic voting systems are used, the
- 15 receiving board shall have at least three members.
- 16 (2) (3) The election commissioner may allow persons serving on a
- 17 receiving board as judges and clerks of election and precinct inspectors
- 18 to serve for part of the time the polls are open and appoint other judges
- 19 and clerks of election and precinct inspectors to serve on the same
- 20 receiving board for the remainder of the time the polls are open.
- 21 (3) (4) On each receiving board at any one time, one judge and one
- 22 clerk of election shall be registered voters of the political party
- 23 casting the highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for
- 24 President of the United States in the immediately preceding general
- 25 election, and one judge and one clerk of election shall be registered
- 26 voters of the political party casting the next highest number of votes in
- 27 the county for Governor or for President of the United States in the
- 28 immediately preceding general election, except that one judge or clerk of
- 29 election may be a registered voter who is not affiliated with either of
- 30 such parties. If a third judge is appointed, such judge shall be a
- 31 registered voter of the political party casting the highest number of

- 1 votes in the county for Governor or for President of the United States in
- 2 the immediately preceding general election. All precinct and district
- 3 inspectors shall be divided between all political parties as nearly as
- 4 practicable in proportion to the number of votes cast in such county at
- 5 the immediately preceding general election for Governor or for President
- 6 of the United States by the parties, respectively.
- 7 (4) (5) The election commissioner may appoint a person who is at
- 8 least sixteen years old but is not eligible to register to vote as a
- 9 clerk of election. Such clerk of election shall meet the requirements of
- 10 subsection (3) of section 32-221, except that such clerk shall not be
- 11 required to be a registered voter. No more than one clerk of election
- 12 appointed under this subsection shall serve at any precinct. A clerk of
- 13 election appointed under this subsection shall be considered a registered
- 14 voter who is not affiliated with a political party for purposes of this
- 15 section.
- Sec. 5. Section 32-230, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 17 amended to read:
- 18 32-230 (1) As provided in subsection (4) (5) of this section, the
- 19 precinct committeeman and committeewoman of each political party shall
- 20 appoint a receiving board consisting of three judges of election and two
- 21 clerks of election—except as provided in subsection (3) of this section.
- 22 The chairperson of the county central committee of each political party
- 23 shall send the names of the appointments to the county clerk no later
- 24 than February 1 prior to the primary election.
- 25 (2) If no names are submitted by the chairperson, the county clerk
- 26 shall appoint judges or clerks of election from the appropriate political
- 27 party. Judges and clerks of election may be selected at random from a
- 28 cross section of the population of the county. All qualified citizens
- 29 shall have the opportunity to be considered for service. All qualified
- 30 citizens shall fulfill their obligation to serve as judges or clerks of
- 31 election as prescribed by the county clerk. No citizen shall be excluded

- 1 from service as a result of discrimination based upon race, color,
- 2 religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. No citizen shall be
- 3 excluded from service unless excused by reason of ill health or other
- 4 good and sufficient reason.
- 5 (3) In precincts in which electronic voting systems are used, the
- 6 receiving board shall have at least three members.
- 7 (3) (4) The county clerk may allow persons serving on a receiving
- 8 board to serve for part of the time the polls are open and appoint other
- 9 persons to serve on the same receiving board for the remainder of the
- 10 time the polls are open.
- 11 (4) (5) In each precinct at any one time, one judge and one clerk of
- 12 election shall be appointed from the political party casting the highest
- 13 number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of the United
- 14 States in the immediately preceding general election, one judge and one
- 15 clerk shall be appointed from the political party casting the next
- 16 highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of
- 17 the United States in the immediately preceding general election, and one
- 18 judge shall be appointed from the political party casting the third
- 19 highest number of votes in the county for Governor or for President of
- 20 the United States in the immediately preceding general election. If the
- 21 political party casting the third highest number of votes cast less than
- 22 ten percent of the total vote cast in the county at the immediately
- 23 preceding general election, the political party casting the highest
- 24 number of votes at the immediately preceding general election shall be
- 25 entitled to two judges and one clerk.
- 26 (5) (6) The county clerk may appoint registered voters to serve in
- 27 case of a vacancy among any of the judges or clerks of election or in
- 28 addition to the judges and clerks in any precinct when necessary to meet
- 29 any situation that requires additional judges and clerks. Such appointees
- 30 may include registered voters unaffiliated with any political party. Such
- 31 appointees shall serve at subsequent or special elections as determined

- 1 by the county clerk.
- 2 (6) (7) The county clerk may appoint a person who is at least
- 3 sixteen years old but is not eligible to register to vote as a clerk of
- 4 election. Such clerk of election shall meet the requirements of
- 5 subsection (1) of section 32-231, except that such clerk shall not be
- 6 required to be a registered voter. No more than one clerk of election
- 7 appointed under this subsection shall serve at any precinct. A clerk of
- 8 election appointed under this subsection shall be considered a registered
- 9 voter who is not affiliated with a political party for purposes of this
- 10 section.
- 11 Sec. 6. Section 32-231, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 12 amended to read:
- 13 32-231 (1) Each judge and clerk of election appointed pursuant to
- 14 section 32-230 shall (a) be of good repute and character and able to read
- and write the English language, (b) reside in the precinct in which he or
- 16 she is to serve unless necessity demands that personnel be appointed from
- 17 another precinct, (c) be a registered voter except as otherwise provided
- in subsection (6) (7) of section 32-230, and (d) serve for a term of two
- 19 years or until judges and clerks of election are appointed for the next
- 20 primary election. No candidate at an election shall be eligible to serve
- 21 as a judge or clerk of election at the same election other than a
- 22 candidate for a delegate to a county, state, or national political party
- 23 convention.
- 24 (2) The county clerk may appoint district inspectors to aid the
- 25 county clerk in the performance of his or her duties and supervise a
- 26 group of precincts on election day. A district inspector shall meet the
- 27 requirements for judges and clerks of election as provided in subsection
- 28 (1) of this section, shall oversee the procedures of a group of polling
- 29 places, and shall act as the personal agent and deputy of the county
- 30 clerk. The district inspector shall ensure that the Election Act is
- 31 uniformly enforced at the polling places assigned to him or her and

LB316 2017

- 1 perform tasks assigned by the county clerk. The district inspector may
- 2 perform all of the duties required of a judge or clerk of election.
- 3 Sec. 7. Section 32-232, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-232 (1) Any clerk of election may perform the duties of a judge
- 6 of election, and any judge of election may perform the duties of a clerk
- 7 of election. The county clerk may excuse two clerks of election from
- 8 serving at any election, and the judges of election shall perform such
- 9 duties without additional compensation.
- 10 (2) The county clerk shall designate one of the members of the
- 11 receiving board as a messenger. The messenger shall receive from the
- 12 county clerk the ballots <u>or ballot printing materials</u> and other equipment
- 13 necessary for holding the election in the precinct for which he or she is
- 14 a judge or clerk and shall deliver them to the polling place in his or
- 15 her precinct at least one hour before the time provided by section 32-908
- 16 for opening the polls. The messenger shall return the ballots, unused
- 17 <u>ballot printing materials if any,</u> and other equipment to the county clerk
- 18 as soon as possible after the votes are counted.
- 19 Sec. 8. Section 32-236, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 20 amended to read:
- 21 32-236 Each judge and clerk of election appointed pursuant to
- 22 subsection (4) (5) of section 32-230 and each district inspector
- 23 appointed pursuant to subsection (2) of section 32-231 shall serve at all
- 24 elections, except city and village elections, held in the county or
- 25 precinct during his or her two-year term unless excused. A violation of
- 26 this section by an appointee is a Class V misdemeanor. The county clerk
- 27 shall submit the names of appointees violating this section to the local
- 28 law enforcement agency for citation pursuant to sections 32-1549 and
- 29 32-1550.
- 30 Sec. 9. Section 32-301, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 31 amended to read:

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1 32-301 (1) The Secretary of State shall implement, in a uniform and 2 nondiscriminatory manner, a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive computerized statewide voter registration list defined, 3 4 maintained, and administered at the office of the Secretary of State that 5 contains the name and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state and assigns a unique identifier to each 6 legally registered voter in the state. The computerized list shall serve 7 as the single system for storing and managing the official list of 8 9 registered voters throughout the state and shall comprise the voter registration register. The computerized list shall be coordinated with 10 other agency data bases within the state and shall be available for 11 electronic access by election commissioners and county clerks. 12 computerized list shall serve as the official voter registration list for 13 the conduct of all elections under the Election Act. The Secretary of 14 State shall provide such support as may be required so that election 15 16 commissioners and county clerks are able to electronically enter voter registration information obtained by such officials on an expedited basis 17 at the time the information is received. The Secretary of State shall 18 provide adequate technological security measures to prevent unauthorized 19 access to the computerized list. No General Funds shall be appropriated 20 for purposes of this list, and funds available in the Election <u>Technology</u> 21 Administration Fund may be used for such purposes. 22

(2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide for the registration of the electors of the county. Upon receipt of a voter registration application in his or her office from an eligible elector, the election commissioner or county clerk shall enter the information from the application in the voter registration register and may create an electronic image, photograph, microphotograph, or reproduction in an electronic digital format to be used as the voter registration record. The election commissioner or county clerk shall provide a precinct list of registered voters for each precinct for the use of judges and clerks

- 1 of election in their respective precincts on election day. An
- 2 electronically prepared list of registered voters in a form prescribed by
- 3 the Secretary of State shall meet the requirements for a precinct list of
- 4 registered voters.
- 5 Sec. 10. Section 32-320, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 32-320 The only mail-in forms which may be used to register to vote
- 8 shall be the official registration application prescribed by the
- 9 Secretary of State or the national mail voter registration application
- 10 prescribed by the federal Election Assistance Commission. The Secretary
- 11 of State shall provide such official registration applications to all
- 12 recruitment offices of the United States Armed Forces in the State of
- 13 Nebraska. The counties and state agencies listed in section 32-310 shall
- 14 purchase such official registration applications from the Secretary of
- 15 State. The Secretary of State shall remit proceeds from the sale of such
- 16 applications to the State Treasurer for credit to the Election <u>Technology</u>
- 17 Administration Fund.
- 18 Sec. 11. Section 32-328, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 19 amended to read:
- 20 32-328 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall, upon the
- 21 personal application of any registered voter or whenever informed of any
- 22 error and after due investigation, correct any error in the voter
- 23 registration register. For such purpose, the election commissioner or
- 24 county clerk may summon witnesses and compel their attendance to appear
- 25 at the office of the election commissioner or county clerk to give
- 26 testimony pertaining to residence, qualifications, or any other facts
- 27 required to be entered in the voter registration register. Such testimony
- 28 shall be transcribed and become a part of his or her records.
- 29 (2) If the name of any registered voter of any precinct does not
- 30 appear on the precinct list of registered voters through an error and the
- 31 election commissioner or county clerk informs the precinct inspector or

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judge of election that credible evidence exists that substantiates that 1 2 an error has been made, the precinct inspector or judge of election shall enter the correction in the precinct list of registered voters, initial 3 4 the correction or otherwise appropriately denote his or her identity based on the medium of the list, and authorize the receiving board to 5 issue the proper ballots to the voter as directed by the election 6 commissioner or county clerk and receive his or her vote. The election 7 commissioner or county clerk shall designate whether the voter is 8 9 entitled to a regular ballot or a provisional ballot as provided in section 32-915. The election commissioner or county clerk shall implement 10 the policy regarding designation of ballots uniformly throughout the 11

Sec. 12. Section 32-608, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

register as soon as possible after the election.

county. All corrections shall be entered on the voter registration

16 32-608 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) or (5) of this section, a filing fee shall be paid by or on behalf of each candidate 17 prior to filing for office. For candidates who file in the office of the 18 Secretary of State as provided in subdivision (1) of section 32-607, the 19 filing fee shall be paid to the Secretary of State who shall remit the 20 fee to the State Treasurer for credit to the Election Technology 21 Administration Fund. For candidates for any city or village office, the 22 filing fee shall be paid to the city or village treasurer of the city or 23 24 village in which the candidate resides. For candidates who file in the 25 office of the election commissioner or county clerk, the filing fee shall be paid to the election commissioner or county clerk in the county in 26 which the office is sought. The election commissioner or county clerk 27 28 shall remit the fee to the county treasurer. The fee shall be placed in the general fund of the county, city, or village. No candidate filing 29 forms shall be filed until the proper payment or the proper receipt 30 showing the payment of such filing fee is presented to the filing 31

- 1 officer. On the day of the filing deadline, the city or village
- 2 treasurer's office shall remain open to receive filing fees until the
- 3 hour of the filing deadline.
- 4 (2) Except as provided in subsection (4) or (5) of this section, the
- 5 filing fees shall be as follows:
- 6 (a) For the office of United States Senator, state officers,
- 7 including members of the Legislature, Representatives in Congress, county
- 8 officers, and city or village officers, except the mayor or council
- 9 members of cities having a home rule charter, a sum equal to one percent
- 10 of the annual salary as of November 30 of the year preceding the election
- 11 for the office for which he or she files as a candidate;
- 12 (b) For directors of public power and irrigation districts in
- 13 districts receiving annual gross revenue of forty million dollars or
- 14 more, twenty-five dollars, and in districts receiving annual gross
- 15 revenue of less than forty million dollars, ten dollars;
- (c) For directors of reclamation districts, ten dollars; and
- 17 (d) For Regents of the University of Nebraska, members of the State
- 18 Board of Education, and directors of metropolitan utilities districts,
- 19 twenty-five dollars.
- 20 (3) All declared write-in candidates shall pay the filing fees that
- 21 are required for the office at the time that they present the write-in
- 22 affidavit to the filing officer. Any undeclared write-in candidate who is
- 23 nominated or elected by write-in votes shall pay the filing fee required
- 24 for the office within ten days after the canvass of votes by the county
- 25 canvassing board and shall file the receipt with the person issuing the
- 26 certificate of nomination or the certificate of election prior to the
- 27 certificate being issued.
- 28 (4) No filing fee shall be required for any candidate filing for an
- 29 office in which a per diem is paid rather than a salary or for which
- 30 there is a salary of less than five hundred dollars per year. No filing
- 31 fee shall be required for any candidate for membership on a school board,

- 1 on the board of an educational service unit, on the board of governors of
- 2 a community college area, on the board of directors of a natural
- 3 resources district, or on the board of trustees of a sanitary and
- 4 improvement district.
- 5 (5) No filing fee shall be required of any candidate completing an
- 6 affidavit requesting to file for elective office in forma pauperis. A
- 7 pauper shall mean a person whose income and other resources for
- 8 maintenance are found under assistance standards to be insufficient for
- 9 meeting the cost of his or her requirements and whose reserve of cash or
- 10 other available resources does not exceed the maximum available resources
- 11 that an eliqible individual may own. Available resources shall include
- 12 every type of property or interest in property that an individual owns
- 13 and may convert into cash except:
- 14 (a) Real property used as a home;
- 15 (b) Household goods of a moderate value used in the home; and
- 16 (c) Assets to a maximum value of three thousand dollars used by a
- 17 recipient in a planned effort directed towards self-support.
- 18 (6) If any candidate dies prior to an election, the spouse of the
- 19 candidate may file a claim for refund of the filing fee with the proper
- 20 governing body prior to the date of the election. Upon approval of the
- 21 claim by the proper governing body, the filing fee shall be refunded.
- 22 Sec. 13. Section 32-805, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 23 amended to read:
- 24 32-805 The election commissioner or county clerk shall prepare the
- 25 necessary ballots for every election in which candidates for elective
- 26 office are certified to or filed with the election commissioner or county
- 27 clerk or whenever any question is to be submitted to a vote of the
- 28 registered voters of any locality and not to the state generally. The
- 29 ballots shall be printed in English and in any other language required
- 30 pursuant to the Voting Rights Act Language Assistance Amendments of 1992.
- 31 If a question is submitted to the registered voters of any city or

- village alone, the city or village clerk shall provide the necessaryballots. Sample ballots shall be prepared for each precinct and shall be
- 3 the same as the official ballots for the precinct. The official ballot
- 4 shall be headed with the words Official Ballot, and the sample ballot
- 5 shall be headed with the words Sample Ballot. All official and sample
- 6 ballots, or electronic versions for ballot-on-demand or other technology,
- 7 shall be in the possession of the election commissioner, county clerk, or
- 8 city or village clerk at least ten days before the election and subject
- 9 to inspection by the candidates or their agents. One set of sample
- 10 ballots shall be posted in the office of the election commissioner or
- 11 county clerk not later than ten days prior to the election. Two sample
- 12 ballots shall be posted at each polling place in each precinct on the
- 13 morning of election day by the judges and clerks of election at or near
- 14 the polling place. Additional sample ballots may be printed. No person,
- 15 other than an election commissioner, county clerk, or city or village
- 16 clerk or an individual authorized by such an official, shall print or
- 17 cause to be printed or distributed any ballot marked Official Ballot.
- 18 Sec. 14. Section 32-806, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 19 amended to read:
- 20 32-806 All official ballots <u>printed</u> <del>prepared</del> pursuant to the
- 21 Election Act shall be white in color, except that the election
- 22 commissioner, county clerk, or city or village clerk may designate a
- 23 distinctive color of ballot or ink for city, village, or school elections
- 24 or, when authorized by the Secretary of State, for elections of any other
- 25 political subdivision. If a distinctive color is designated, the color of
- 26 the ballot shall not be the same as the sample ballots as provided in
- 27 section 32-804. The style and size of type on official ballots shall be
- 28 as close as possible to the style used on the ballots furnished by the
- 29 Secretary of State.
- 30 Sec. 15. Section 32-807, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 31 amended to read:

- 1 32-807 The election commissioner, county clerk, or city or village
- 2 clerk shall print and deliver to each precinct or district in the county,
- 3 city, or village an approximate number of ballots, or ballot printing
- 4 material for ballot-on-demand or other technology, based upon what would
- 5 appear sufficient at the time the ballots are to be printed. Such totals
- 6 shall take into consideration increases in registration, early voting,
- 7 annexations, changes in boundaries, spoiled ballots, and any other factor
- 8 that may influence the total number of ballots needed. Additional ballots
- 9 shall be printed or ballot printing material provided to meet any
- 10 contingency in order to provide a sufficient number of ballots for each
- 11 precinct or district in the county, city, or village.
- 12 Sec. 16. Section 32-810, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 13 amended to read:
- 14 32-810 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall place the
- 15 names of all partisan candidates certified to him or her by the Secretary
- 16 of State and of those partisan candidates filing in his or her office on
- 17 a primary election ballot headed with the political party designation.
- 18 The names of each nonpartisan candidate certified by the Secretary of
- 19 State and of each nonpartisan candidate filing in the office of the
- 20 election commissioner or county clerk shall be placed on the primary
- 21 election ballot headed by the words Nonpartisan Ticket.
- 22 (2) If any office is not subject to the upcoming election, the
- 23 office shall be omitted from the ballot and the remaining offices shall
- 24 move up so that the same relative order is preserved. The order of any
- 25 offices may be altered to allow for the best utilization of ballot space
- 26 in order to avoid printing a second ballot when one ballot would be
- 27 sufficient if an optical-scan ballot is used. All proposals on the ballot
- 28 submitted by a political subdivision shall follow all offices on the
- 29 ballot for such political subdivision.
- 30 (3) The election commissioner or county clerk shall follow the order
- 31 of precincts or wards as set out in the official abstract book on file in

his or her office in preparing the official ballots. At the primary election, on the first set of ballots for the first precinct or ward shall be the names of candidates filing by date and hour as certified by the Secretary of State and for local candidates the names of candidates shall be listed in the order of filing by date and hour with the election commissioner or county clerk. When there are more candidates than vacancies for the same office, the names of all partisan and nonpartisan candidates at a primary election shall be rotated precinct by precinct in each office division in the order in which the precincts are set out in the official abstract book. In making the changes of position, the preparer printer shall take the line of type at the head of each office division and place it at the bottom of that division, shoving up the column so that the name that was second shall be first after the change.

Sec. 17. Section 32-814, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

32-814 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall place the names of all nonpartisan candidates upon the same official general election ballot as the partisan candidates. The names placed on the official and sample general election ballots shall be the names of candidates nominated in the primary election, the names of petition candidates if any, the names of automatically nominated candidates as provided in section 32-811, and the names of candidates filing as provided in subsection (2) of section 32-606. The names of the candidates shall be placed under the proper titles.

(2) The election commissioner or county clerk shall place on the official general election ballot in each office division no more than twice as many names as there are places to be filled at the general election unless more than one candidate has successfully petitioned on the ballot to fill a vacancy after the primary election. The names of the nonpartisan candidates who received the highest number of votes for the office for which they were candidates in the primary election shall be

- 1 placed on the official ballot. If more than one person was a candidate
- 2 for the same position in the primary election, the election commissioner
- 3 or county clerk shall place on the official ballot the names of the two
- 4 persons who received the highest number of votes in the primary election
- 5 for the position for which they were candidates.
- 6 (3) When the name of a person is written in and voted for as a
- 7 candidate for an office for which he or she did not file in the primary
- 8 election, such person shall not be entitled to a certificate of
- 9 nomination at the primary election and shall not have his or her name
- 10 placed on the general election ballot unless he or she (a) receives at
- 11 least five percent of the total vote cast for Governor or for President
- of the United States at the immediately preceding general election in the
- 13 political subdivision from which nominees for such position are to be
- 14 chosen, (b) is one of the candidates receiving the number of votes
- 15 qualifying him or her for nomination, and (c) meets the requirements for
- 16 the office.
- 17 (4) If there are more candidates than vacancies for the same office,
- 18 the election commissioner or county clerk shall rotate the names of the
- 19 nonpartisan candidates on the official general election ballot. The
- 20 election commissioner or county clerk shall follow the order of precincts
- 21 or wards as set out in the official abstract book on file in his or her
- 22 office in preparing the official ballots. The first set of ballots for
- 23 the first precinct or ward shall be the names of candidates filing by
- 24 date and hour or of those candidates filing petitions, and for local
- 25 candidates the names of candidates shall be listed in the order of filing
- 26 by date and hour with the election commissioner or county clerk or of
- 27 those candidates filing petitions. Thereafter the names shall be rotated
- 28 precinct by precinct in each office division in the order in which the
- 29 precincts are set out in the official abstract book. In making the change
- 30 of position, the <u>preparer</u> <del>printer</del> shall take the line of type at the head
- 31 of each division and place it at the bottom of that division, shoving up

1 the column so that the name that was second shall be first after the

- 2 change.
- 3 Sec. 18. Section 32-815, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 4 amended to read:
- 5 32-815 (1) The names of candidates for each partisan elective office shall be arranged on the ballot of the general election so that the 6 7 political party polling the highest number of votes at the last general election for Governor will have the name of its nominee immediately 8 9 beneath the name of the office for which the candidate was nominated, the political party polling the second highest number of votes will have the 10 second place, the political party having the third highest number of 11 votes will have the third place, and continuing with the political 12 13 parties in descending order of number of votes, leaving those candidates whose names appear upon the ballot by petition to appear beneath all 14 other candidates placed there by nomination. For each office for which 15 there are more candidates than vacancies and there are two or more 16 17 nominees of the same political party, the election commissioner or county clerk shall rotate the names of such candidates on the official ballot. 18 19 In preparing printing the ballots for the various election districts, the positions of the names shall be changed in each office division for each 20 election district. In making the change of position, the preparer printer 21 22 shall take the line of type at the head of each division and place it at the bottom of that division, shoving up the column so that the name that 23 24 was second shall be first after the change.
- 25 (2) The name of the person receiving the highest number of votes at
  26 a primary election as the candidate of a political party for an office
  27 shall be placed on the official ballot except as otherwise provided in
  28 the Election Act. Except as provided in section 32-811 for automatically
  29 nominated candidates, no person shall be certified as a candidate of any
  30 political party for such office by the Secretary of State, election
  31 commissioner, or county clerk unless the person receives a number of

- 1 votes at least equal to five percent of the total ballots cast at the
- 2 primary election by registered voters affiliated with that political
- 3 party in the district which the office serves and meets the requirements
- 4 for the office.
- 5 Sec. 19. Section 32-816, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 32-816 (1) A blank space shall be provided at the end of each office
- 8 division on the ballot for registered voters to fill in the name of any
- 9 person for whom they wish to vote and whose name is not printed upon the
- 10 ballot, except that at the primary election there shall be no write-in
- 11 space for delegates to the county political party convention or delegates
- 12 to the national political party convention. A square or oval shall be
- 13 printed opposite each write-in space similar to the square or oval placed
- 14 opposite other candidates and issues on the ballot. The square or oval
- shall be marked to vote for a write-in candidate whose name appears in
- 16 the write-in space provided.
- 17 (2) The Secretary of State shall approve write-in space for optical-
- 18 scan ballots and any other voting system authorized for use under the
- 19 <u>Election Act</u> electronic voting systems. Adequate provision shall be made
- 20 for write-in votes sufficient to allow one write-in space for each office
- 21 to be elected at any election except offices for which write-in votes are
- 22 specifically prohibited. The write-in ballot shall clearly identify the
- 23 office for which such write-in vote is cast. The write-in space shall be
- 24 a part of the official ballot, may be on the envelope or a separate piece
- 25 of paper from the printed portion of the ballot, and shall allow the
- 26 voter adequate space to fill in the name of the candidate for whom he or
- 27 she desires to cast his or her ballot.
- 28 Sec. 20. Section 32-821, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 29 amended to read:
- 30 32-821 Before the opening of the polls the election commissioner,
- 31 county clerk, or city or village clerk shall cause to be delivered to the

- 1 judges of election at each polling place the proper <u>ballot supplies</u>
- 2 number of ballots as provided for in section 32-807. If ballots are
- 3 <u>delivered</u> The ballots for each precinct, they shall be enclosed in a
- 4 sealed packet marked with the proper designation of the precinct, and at
- 5 the opening of the polls, the package of ballots shall be publicly broken
- 6 by one of the judges of election. If for any cause the official ballots
- 7 prepared by the election commissioner, county clerk, or city or village
- 8 clerk are not ready for distribution at any polling place or if the
- 9 supply of ballots or ballot printing materials is exhausted before the
- 10 polls are closed, printed, copied, or written ballots which are as nearly
- as possible in the form of official ballots may be used.
- 12 Sec. 21. Section 32-901, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 13 amended to read:
- 14 32-901 (1) To vote for a candidate or on a ballot question using a
- 15 paper ballot that is to be manually counted, the registered voter shall
- 16 make a cross or other clear, discernable mark in the square opposite the
- 17 name of every candidate, including write-in candidates, for whom he or
- 18 she desires to vote and, in the case of a ballot question, opposite the
- 19 answer he or she wishes to give. Making a cross or other clear,
- 20 discernable mark in the square constitutes a valid vote.
- 21 (2) To vote for a candidate or on a ballot question using a ballot
- 22 that is to be counted by optical scanner, the registered voter shall fill
- 23 in the oval or other space provided opposite the name of every candidate,
- 24 including write-in candidates, for whom he or she desires to vote and, in
- 25 the case of a ballot question, opposite the answer he or she wishes to
- 26 give. A mark in the oval or provided space that is discernable by the
- 27 scanner constitutes a valid vote.
- 28 (3) To vote for a candidate or on a ballot question using  $\underline{a}$  an
- 29 <u>electronic</u> voting system <u>with an electronic aspect authorized for use</u>
- 30 under the Election Act, the registered voter shall follow the
- 31 instructions for using the electronic voting system to cause a mark to be

- 1 recorded opposite the candidate or ballot question response for which the
- 2 voter wishes to vote. Causing such mark to be recorded does not
- 3 <u>constitute</u> constitutes a valid vote. A paper ballot printed to reflect
- 4 the voter's choices constitutes a valid vote.
- 5 Sec. 22. Section 32-903, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 32-903 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk shall create 7 precincts composed of compact and contiguous territory within the 8 9 boundary lines of legislative districts. The precincts shall contain not less than seventy-five nor more than one thousand seven hundred fifty 10 registered voters based on the number of voters voting at the last 11 statewide general election, except that a precinct may contain less than 12 13 seventy-five registered voters if in the judgment of the election 14 commissioner or county clerk it is necessary to avoid creating an undue hardship on the registered voters in the precinct. The election 15 16 commissioner or county clerk shall create precincts based on the number 17 of votes cast at the immediately preceding presidential election or the current list of registered voters for the precinct. The election 18 19 commissioner or county clerk shall revise and rearrange the precincts and increase or decrease them at such times as may be necessary to make the 20 precincts contain as nearly as practicable not less than seventy-five nor 21 22 more than one thousand seven hundred fifty registered voters voting at the last statewide general election. The election commissioner or county 23 clerk shall, when necessary and possible, readjust precinct boundaries to 24 coincide with the boundaries of cities, villages, and school districts 25 which are divided into districts or wards for election purposes. The 26 election commissioner or county clerk shall not make any precinct changes 27 28 in precinct boundaries or divide precincts into two or more parts between the statewide primary and general elections unless he or she has been 29 authorized to do so by the Secretary of State. If changes are authorized, 30 the election commissioner or county clerk shall notify each state and 31

- 1 local candidate affected by the change.
- 2 (2) The election commissioner or county clerk may alter and divide
- 3 the existing precincts, except that when any city of the first class by
- 4 ordinance divides any ward of such city into two or more voting districts
- 5 or polling places, the election commissioner or county clerk shall
- 6 establish precincts or polling places in conformity with such ordinance.
- 7 No such alteration or division shall take place between the statewide
- 8 primary and general elections except as provided in subsection (1) of
- 9 this section.
- 10 (3) All precincts and polling places may be consolidated for the use
- 11 of electronic voting systems into fewer and larger precincts as deemed
- 12 necessary and advisable by the election commissioner or county clerk.
- 13 Such precincts, consolidated for electronic voting systems only, may have
- 14 as many registered voters therein as deemed advisable in the interest of
- 15 economy and efficiency. At least one electronic voting device shall be
- 16 provided for every five hundred registered voters voting in the
- 17 consolidated precinct or polling place at the immediately preceding
- 18 general election.
- 19 Sec. 23. Section 32-910, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 20 amended to read:
- 21 32-910 Any judge or clerk of election, precinct or district
- 22 inspector, sheriff, or other peace officer shall clear the passageways
- 23 and prevent obstruction of the doors or entries and provide free ingress
- 24 to and egress from the polling place or building and shall arrest any
- 25 person obstructing such passageways. Other than a registered voter
- 26 engaged in receiving, preparing, or marking a ballot or depositing a
- 27 ballot in a ballot box or a precinct-based optical scanner at the polling
- 28 <u>place</u>, an election commissioner, a county clerk, a precinct inspector, a
- 29 district inspector, a judge of election, a clerk of election, or a member
- 30 of a counting board, no person shall be permitted to be within eight feet
- 31 of the ballot boxes or within eight feet of any ballots being counted by

- 1 a counting board.
- 2 Sec. 24. Section 32-914, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 3 amended to read:
- 4 32-914 (1) Official ballots shall be used at all elections. No
- 5 person shall receive a ballot or be entitled to vote unless and until he
- 6 or she is registered as a voter except as provided in section 32-914.01,
- 7 32-914.02, 32-915, 32-915.01, or 32-936.
- 8 (2) Except as otherwise specifically provided, no ballot shall be
- 9 handed to any voter at any election until:
- 10 (a) He or she announces his or her name and address to the clerk of
- 11 election;
- 12 (b) The clerk has found that he or she is a registered voter at the
- 13 address as shown by the precinct list of registered voters unless
- 14 otherwise entitled to vote in the precinct under section 32-328,
- 15 32-914.01, 32-914.02, 32-915, or 32-915.01;
- 16 (c) The voter has presented a photographic identification which is
- 17 current and valid at the time of the election, or a copy of a utility
- 18 bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government
- 19 document which is current at the time of the election and which shows the
- 20 same name and residence address of the voter that is on the precinct list
- 21 of registered voters, if the voter registered by mail after January 1,
- 22 2003, and has not previously voted in an election for a federal office
- 23 within the county and a notation appears on the precinct list of
- 24 registered voters that the voter has not previously presented
- 25 identification to the election commissioner or county clerk;
- 26 (d) As instructed by the clerk of election, the registered voter has
- 27 personally <u>placed his or her signature</u> written his or her name (i) in the
- 28 precinct sign-in register on the appropriate line which follows the last
- 29 signature of any previous voter, or (ii) in the combined document
- 30 containing the precinct list of registered voters and the sign-in
- 31 register, or (iii) in an electronic poll book; and

- 1 (e) If necessary to preserve the voting order, the The clerk has
- 2 listed on the precinct list of registered voters the corresponding line
- 3 number and name of the registered voter or has listed the name of the
- 4 voter in a separate book as provided in section 32-913.
- 5 Sec. 25. Section 32-916, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 6 amended to read:
- 7 32-916 (1) Two judges of election or a precinct inspector and a
- 8 judge of election shall affix their initials to the official ballots. The
- 9 judge of election shall deliver a ballot to each registered voter after
- 10 complying with section 32-914.
- 11 (2) After voting the ballot, the registered voter shall, as directed
- 12 by the judge of election, fold his or her ballot or place the ballot in
- 13 the ballot envelope or sleeve so as to conceal the voting marks and to
- 14 expose the initials affixed on the ballot. The registered voter shall,
- 15 without delay and without exposing the voting marks upon the ballot,
- 16 deliver the ballot to the judge of election before leaving the enclosure
- in which the voting booths are placed.
- 18 (3) The judge of election shall, without exposing the voting marks
- 19 on the ballot, approve the exposed initials upon the ballot and deposit
- 20 the ballot in the ballot box or the precinct-based optical scanner in the
- 21 presence of the registered voter. No judge of election shall deposit any
- 22 ballot in a ballot box unless the ballot has been identified as having
- 23 the appropriate initials. Any ballot not properly identified shall be
- 24 rejected in the presence of the voter, the judge of election shall make a
- 25 notation on the ballot Rejected, not properly identified, and another
- 26 ballot shall be issued to the voter and the voter shall then be permitted
- 27 to cast his or her ballot. If the ballot is in order, the judge shall
- 28 deposit the ballot in the ballot box or the precinct-based optical
- 29 <u>scanner</u> in the presence of the voter and the voter shall promptly leave
- 30 the polling place. <u>If a precinct uses a precinct-based optical scanner</u>
- 31 and a ballot is identified by the scanner as containing an overvote or an

- 1 undervote, the voter shall be notified of the consequence of an overvote
- 2 and the right to vote in the case of an undervote, whichever is
- 3 <u>applicable</u>. The judges of election shall maintain the secrecy of the
- 4 rejected ballots and shall cause the rejected ballots to be made up in a
- 5 sealed packet. The judges of election shall endorse the packet with the
- 6 words Rejected Ballots and the designation of the precinct. The judges of
- 7 election shall sign the endorsement label and shall return the packet to
- 8 the election commissioner or county clerk with a statement by the judges
- 9 of election showing the number of ballots rejected.
- 10 (4) Upon receiving a provisional ballot as provided in section
- 11 32-915, the judge of election shall give the voter written information
- 12 that states that the voter may determine if his or her vote was counted
- 13 and, if not, the reason that the vote was not counted by accessing the
- 14 system created pursuant to section 32-202 and the judge of election shall
- 15 ensure that the appropriate information is on the outside of the envelope
- in which the ballot is enclosed or attached to the envelope, attach the
- 17 statement required by section 32-915 if not contained on the envelope,
- 18 and place the entire envelope into the ballot box. Upon receiving a
- 19 provisional ballot as provided in section 32-915.01, the judge of
- 20 election shall comply with the requirements for a provisional ballot
- 21 under this subsection, except that a provisional ballot cast pursuant to
- 22 section 32-915.01 shall be kept separate from the other ballots cast at
- 23 the election.
- 24 Sec. 26. Section 32-1001, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 25 amended to read:
- 26 32-1001 After the polls have closed, the precinct list of registered
- 27 voters and the precinct sign-in register shall be signed by all members
- 28 of the receiving board, the names of the registered voters shall be
- 29 counted, and the number shall be recorded where designated on the list
- 30 and the register unless technology automatically records this
- 31 <u>information</u>. If a line is missed or a name is voided, the receiving board

16 LB316 7 2017

1 shall subtract such omissions or voids from the total before recording

- 2 the total on the list and the register. The receiving board shall certify
- 3 to all matters pertaining to casting of ballots and shall turn over the
- 4 ballots, ballot boxes, list of registered voters, and sign-in register to
- 5 the election commissioner or county clerk.
- 6 Sec. 27. Section 32-1010, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 7 amended to read:
- 8 32-1010 Ballots shall be counted <del>or compiled</del> at a centralized
- 9 location or at polling places as provided in sections 32-1012 to 32-1018.
- 10 If counting takes place at a centralized location, the The receiving
- 11 board shall deliver the ballot box and other election materials to the
- 12 centralized location as directed by the election commissioner or county
- 13 clerk.
- 14 Sec. 28. Section 32-1012, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 32-1012 <u>(1)</u>In counties using <del>electronic voting systems or</del> optical
- 17 scanners to count the ballots at a centralized location, the election
- 18 commissioner or county clerk may arrange to have partial returns
- 19 delivered, properly locked or sealed, to the centralized location or
- 20 locations at any time desired after the opening of the polls if at least
- 21 twenty-five ballots have been cast since any prior delivery of ballots.
- 22 The election commissioner or county clerk shall designate the location or
- 23 locations for counting the ballots and may designate a location or
- 24 locations in any county. Upon completion of the count, the ballots shall
- 25 be conveyed under supervision of the election commissioner or county
- 26 clerk to the office of such official. If for any reason it becomes
- 27 impracticable to count all or a part of the ballots with optical
- 28 scanners, the election commissioner or county clerk may direct that the
- 29 ballots be counted manually following as closely as possible the
- 30 provisions governing the manual counting of ballots.
- 31 (2) In counties using optical scanners to count the ballots at

- 1 polling places, the election commissioner or county clerk may arrange to
- 2 <u>have partial returns delivered, properly locked, sealed, or digitally</u>
- 3 secured, to the election office at any time desired after the opening of
- 4 the polls if at least twenty-five ballots have been cast since any prior
- 5 delivery of partial returns. The election commissioner or county clerk
- 6 <u>shall designate polling places as locations for counting the ballots.</u>
- 7 Upon completion of the count, the ballots shall be conveyed under
- 8 supervision of the election commissioner or county clerk to the office of
- 9 such official. If for any reason it becomes impracticable to count all or
- 10 a part of the ballots with optical scanners, the election commissioner or
- 11 county clerk may direct that the ballots be counted manually following as
- 12 closely as possible the provisions governing the manual counting of
- 13 <u>ballots</u>.
- 14 Sec. 29. Section 32-1013, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 15 amended to read:
- 16 32-1013 (1) In each counting centralized location, watchers may be
- 17 appointed to be present and observe the counting of ballots. Each
- 18 political party shall be entitled to one watcher at each location
- 19 appointed and supplied with credentials by the county central committee
- 20 of such political party. The district court having jurisdiction over any
- 21 such county may appoint additional watchers for any location.
- 22 (2) The watchers and the members of the counting board shall take
- 23 the following oath administered by the election commissioner or county
- 24 clerk or an election official designated by the election commissioner or
- 25 county clerk: I do solemnly swear that I will not in any manner make
- 26 known to anyone other than duly authorized election officials the results
- 27 of the votes as they are being counted until the polls have officially
- 28 closed and the summary of votes cast is delivered to the election
- 29 commissioner or county clerk.
- 30 (3) Except for polling places using precinct-based optical scanners,
- 31 all All other persons shall be excluded from the place where the counting

- 1 is being conducted except for observers authorized by the election
- 2 commissioner or county clerk. No such observer shall be connected with
- 3 any candidate, political party, or measure on the ballot.
- 4 Sec. 30. Section 32-1032, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 5 amended to read:

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32-1032 Upon the completion of the canvass by the county canvassing 6 board, all books shall again be sealed, and the election commissioner or 7 county clerk shall keep all election materials, including the ballots-8 9 cast containers from each precinct, the sealed envelopes containing or electronic storage of the precinct list of registered voters, the 10 precinct sign-in register, the official summary or summaries of votes 11 cast, and the container for early voting materials, for not less than 12 twenty-two months when statewide primary, general, or special elections 13 involve federal offices, candidates, and issues and not less than fifty 14 days for local elections not held in conjunction with a statewide 15 primary, general, or special election. The election commissioner or 16 county clerk shall keep on file one copy of each ballot face used in each 17 precinct of the official partisan, nonpartisan, constitutional amendment, 18 and initiative and referendum ballots, as used for voting, and all 19 election notices used at each primary and general election for twenty-two 20 months. The precinct sign-in register, the record of early voters, and 21 the official summary of votes cast shall be subject to the inspection of 22 any person who may wish to examine the same after the primary, general, 23 24 or special election. The election commissioner or county clerk shall not 25 allow any other election materials to be inspected, including ballots and provisional ballot envelopes, except when an election is contested or the 26 materials become necessary to be used in evidence in the courts. The 27 election commissioner or county clerk shall direct the destruction of 28 such materials after such time, except that the election commissioner or 29 county clerk may retain materials for the purposes of establishing voter 30

LB316 2017

- 1 Sec. 31. Section 32-1041, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 32-1041 (1) The election commissioner or county clerk may use
- 4 optical-scan ballots or voting systems approved by the Secretary of State
- 5 to allow registered voters to cast their votes at any election. The
- 6 election commissioner or county clerk may use vote counting devices and
- 7 voting systems approved by the Secretary of State for tabulating the
- 8 votes cast at any election. Vote counting devices shall include
- 9 electronic counting devices such as optical scanners.
- 10 (2) No electronic voting system shall be used under the Election
- 11 <u>Act.</u>
- 12 (3) Any new voting or counting system shall be approved by the
- 13 Secretary of State prior to use by an election commissioner or county
- 14 clerk.
- 15 (4) The Notwithstanding any other provision of the Election Act, the
- 16 Secretary of State may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
- 17 establish different procedures and locations for voting and counting
- 18 votes pursuant to the use of any new voting or counting system. The
- 19 procedures shall be designed to preserve the safety and confidentiality
- 20 of each vote cast and the secrecy and security of the counting process,
- 21 to establish security provisions for the prevention of fraud, and to
- 22 ensure that the election is conducted in a fair manner. The procedures
- 23 may include electronic poll books, ballot-on-demand technology, and
- 24 <u>precinct-based optical scanners.</u>
- 25 Sec. 32. Section 32-1521, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 26 amended to read:
- 27 32-1521 Any person who prints or causes to be printed or distributed
- 28 any ballot marked Official Ballot, other than an election commissioner,
- 29 county clerk, or city or village clerk or an individual authorized by
- 30 <u>such an official,</u> shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.
- 31 Sec. 33. Section 32-1522, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

- 1 amended to read:
- 32-1522 (1) A judge or clerk of election, a printer, or any other 2 person entrusted with the custody or delivery of ballots, blanks, ballot 3 printing materials, list of voters book and official summary of votes 4 cast, card of instructions, or other required papers or electronically 5 stored election information who knowingly and willfully (a) unlawfully 6 opens or permits to be opened any sealed packages containing ballots or 7 allows access to electronically stored election information, (b) gives or 8 9 delivers to any person not lawfully entitled thereto an official ballot, or (c) unlawfully misplaces or carries away, negligently loses, permits 10 to be taken away from him or her, fails to deliver, alters, or destroys 11 any such package of ballots or any ballot, blank, list of voters book and 12 official summary of votes cast, card of instructions, or other required 13 paper or electronically stored election information shall be guilty of a 14 Class III felony. 15
- (2) Any printer employed to print the official ballots or any person 16 engaged in printing the same who knowingly and willfully (a) prints or 17 causes or permits to be printed any official ballots printed otherwise 18 than the copy for the same furnished by the election commissioner or 19 county clerk, (b) prints any false or fraudulent ballots, (c) 20 appropriates any of such ballots to himself or herself or gives, 21 delivers, or knowingly permits any of such ballots to be taken by any 22 23 person other than the election commissioner or county clerk, or (d) seals 24 up or causes or permits to be sealed up or delivers to the election commissioner or county clerk a less number of ballots than the number 25 endorsed thereon shall be quilty of a Class I misdemeanor. 26
- 27 (3) Any person who knowingly has in his or her possession any
  28 official ballot illegally obtained or attempts to vote any ballot other
  29 than the official ballot lawfully obtained shall be guilty of a Class I
  30 misdemeanor.
- 31 Sec. 34. Section 45-621, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

- 1 2016, is amended to read:
- 2 45-621 (1) All fees collected under the Collection Agency Act shall
- 3 be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to a special fund to be
- 4 known as the Nebraska Collection Agency Fund. The board may use the fund
- 5 as may be necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the
- 6 act. The fund shall be paid out only on proper vouchers approved by the
- 7 board and upon warrants issued by the Director of Administrative Services
- 8 and countersigned by the State Treasurer as provided by law. All fees and
- 9 expenses of the Attorney General in representing the board pursuant to
- 10 the act shall be paid out of such fund. Transfers from the fund to the
- 11 Election Technology Administration Fund or the General Fund may be made
- 12 at the direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Nebraska Collection
- 13 Agency Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state
- 14 investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the
- 15 Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.
- 16 (2) On or before July 5, 2013, the State Treasurer shall transfer
- 17 one hundred thousand dollars from the Nebraska Collection Agency Fund to
- 18 the Election Administration Fund.
- 19 Sec. 35. Section 49-14,140, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 20 2016, is amended to read:
- 21 49-14,140 The Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission Cash
- 22 Fund is hereby created. The fund shall consist of funds received by the
- 23 commission pursuant to sections 49-1449.01, 49-1470, 49-1480.01, 49-1482,
- 24 49-14,123, and 49-14,123.01 and subdivision (4) of section 49-14,126. The
- 25 fund shall be used by the commission in administering the Nebraska
- 26 Political Accountability and Disclosure Act. Any money in the Nebraska
- 27 Accountability and Disclosure Commission Cash Fund available for
- 28 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
- 29 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
- 30 Investment Act.
- 31 On April 25, 2013, the State Treasurer shall transfer \$630,870 from

- 1 the Campaign Finance Limitation Cash Fund to the Nebraska Accountability
- 2 and Disclosure Commission Cash Fund to be used for development,
- 3 implementation, and maintenance of an electronic filing system for
- 4 campaign statements and other reports under the Nebraska Political
- 5 Accountability and Disclosure Act and for making such statements and
- 6 reports available to the public on the web site of the commission.—The
- 7 State Treasurer shall transfer the balance of the Campaign Finance
- 8 Limitation Cash Fund to the Election Administration Fund on or before
- 9 July 5, 2013, or as soon thereafter as administratively possible.
- 10 Sec. 36. Section 84-510, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
- 11 amended to read:
- 12 84-510 (1) The Corporation Cash Fund is created. Transfers from the
- 13 fund to the Election <u>Technology</u> Administration Fund, the Records
- 14 Management Micrographics Services Revolving Fund, the Secretary of State
- 15 Administration Cash Fund, or the General Fund may be made at the
- 16 direction of the Legislature. Any money in the Corporation Cash Fund
- 17 available for investment shall be invested by the state investment
- 18 officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska
- 19 State Funds Investment Act.
- 20 (2) On or before July 5, 2013, the State Treasurer shall transfer
- 21 one hundred seventy thousand four hundred dollars from the Corporation
- 22 Cash Fund to the Secretary of State Administration Cash Fund.
- 23 (3) On or before July 5, 2014, the State Treasurer shall transfer
- 24 sixty-five thousand eight hundred dollars from the Corporation Cash Fund
- 25 to the Secretary of State Administration Cash Fund.
- 26 (4) On or before July 5, 2013, the State Treasurer shall transfer
- 27 thirty-nine thousand four hundred dollars from the Corporation Cash Fund
- 28 to the Records Management Micrographics Services Revolving Fund.
- 29 (5) On or before July 5, 2014, the State Treasurer shall transfer
- 30 twenty-one thousand nine hundred dollars from the Corporation Cash Fund
- 31 to the Records Management Micrographics Services Revolving Fund.

LB316 2017 LB316 2017

1 Sec. 37. Original sections 32-118, 32-204, 32-221, 32-223, 32-230,

- 2 32-231, 32-232, 32-236, 32-301, 32-320, 32-328, 32-608, 32-805, 32-806,
- 3 32-807, 32-810, 32-814, 32-815, 32-816, 32-821, 32-901, 32-903, 32-910,
- 4 32-914, 32-916, 32-1001, 32-1010, 32-1012, 32-1013, 32-1032, 32-1041,
- 5 32-1521, 32-1522, and 84-510, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and
- 6 sections 45-621 and 49-14,140, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
- 7 2016, are repealed.