



AN ACT UPDATING THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION ADMINISTRATORS AND ELECTION STAFF; AMENDING SECTIONS 13-1-203 AND 13-4-203, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 13-1-203, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-1-203. Secretary of state to advise, assist, and train. (1) The secretary of state shall advise and assist election administrators, including administrators of school elections under Title 20, chapter 20, with regard to:

- (a) the application, operation, and interpretation of Title 13, except for chapter 35, 36, or 37;
- (b) the implementation and operation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, Public Law 103-31;

and

- (c) the procedures adopted pursuant to 13-17-211.

(2) The secretary of state shall prepare and distribute training materials for election judges to be trained pursuant to 13-4-203. Sufficient copies of the materials to supply all election judges in the county and to provide a small extra supply must be sent to each election administrator.

(3) (a) The secretary of state shall hold at least one ~~workshop~~ training session every 2 years to instruct election administrators and their staffs ~~in use of the materials~~ on how to conduct and administer primary and general elections. The training shall also include instruction on the use of the statewide voter registration system. ~~Workshops~~ The training may be held in various locations around the state. The training must also be offered online and through teleconferencing.

(b) Costs of the biennial training, including the materials, and ~~workshops~~ must be paid by the secretary of state. Attendees of the training must receive a certificate of instruction, which is valid for 2 years.

(4) In addition to completing the biennial training under subsection (3), each election administrator shall complete 6 hours of election-related continuing education each year that is approved by the secretary of state.

Costs for the continuing education must be paid by the counties.

(5) The secretary of state shall:

(a) certify for election administration purposes each election administrator who attends the biennial training and completes the required continuing education; and

(b) provide a certificate of completion to election staff who attend the biennial election training described in subsection (3).

(6) An election administrator may require that election staff complete the continuing education described in subsection (4) and provide a certificate of completion to staff who complete it."

Section 2. Section 13-4-203, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-4-203. Instruction of judges -- training materials. (1) Before each election, all election judges ~~who do not possess a current certificate of instruction obtained pursuant to 13-1-203(3)~~ must be instructed by the election administrator. In precincts where voting systems are used, instructions must cover both how to operate the voting system and how to manually process any paper ballots.

(2) ~~Chief election judges~~ An election administrator may be required require a chief election judge to attend the training session before each election, as well as a special session that may be held the election administrator may hold for chief election judges only, even if they the chief election judge possess possesses a current certificate of instruction completion pursuant to 13-1-203(5)(b).

(3) Any individual willing to be appointed as an election judge may attend an instruction session by registering with the election administrator. However, the individual may not be paid for attendance unless the individual is appointed as an election judge.

(4) Each election judge completing a training session under this section must be given a certificate of completion. An individual may not serve as an election judge without a valid current ~~certificate obtained under 13-1-203(3) or this section.~~ However, this requirement does not apply to individuals filling vacancies in emergencies.

(5) ~~All election judges shall obtain a~~ A certificate of instruction or be recertified completion is current if the certificate is obtained before the primary election in an even-numbered years year.

(6) Notice of the place and time of instruction must be given by the election administrator to the presiding officers of the political parties in the county."

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2016.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0069, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2015.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2015.

HOUSE BILL NO. 69
INTRODUCED BY G. CUSTER
BY REQUEST OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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