

SENATE BILL NO. 308

March 24, 2021, Introduced by Senators DALEY, BUMSTEAD, LASATA, HORN, THEIS, STAMAS, ZORN, BIZON, VICTORY, BARRETT and OUTMAN and referred to the Committee on Elections.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending section 31 (MCL 168.31), as amended by 2012 PA 271.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 31. (1) The secretary of state shall do all of the
2 following:
3 (a) Subject to subsection (2), issue instructions and
4 promulgate rules pursuant to the administrative procedures act of
5 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, for the conduct of

1 elections and registrations in accordance with the laws of this
2 state.

3 (b) Advise and direct local election officials as to the
4 proper methods of conducting elections.

5 (c) Publish and furnish for the use in each election precinct
6 before each state primary and election a manual of instructions
7 that includes specific instructions on assisting voters in casting
8 their ballots, directions on the location of voting stations in
9 polling places, procedures and forms for processing challenges, and
10 procedures on prohibiting campaigning in the polling places as
11 prescribed in this act.

12 (d) Publish indexed pamphlet copies of the registration,
13 primary, and election laws and furnish to the various county, city,
14 township, and village clerks a sufficient number of copies for
15 their own use and to enable them to include 1 copy with the
16 election supplies furnished each precinct board of election
17 inspectors under their respective jurisdictions. The secretary of
18 state may furnish single copies of the publications to
19 organizations or individuals who request the same for purposes of
20 instruction or public reference.

21 (e) Prescribe and require uniform forms, notices, and supplies
22 the secretary of state considers advisable for use in the conduct
23 of elections and registrations.

24 (f) Prepare the form of ballot for any proposed amendment to
25 the constitution or proposal under the initiative or referendum
26 provision of the constitution to be submitted to the voters of this
27 state.

28 (g) Require reports from the local election officials the
29 secretary of state considers necessary.

1 (h) Investigate, or cause to be investigated by local
2 authorities, the administration of election laws, and report
3 violations of the election laws and regulations to the attorney
4 general or prosecuting attorney, or both, for prosecution.

5 (i) Publish in the legislative manual the vote for governor
6 and secretary of state by townships and wards and the vote for
7 members of the state legislature cast at the preceding November
8 election, which ~~shall~~**must** be returned to the secretary of state by
9 the county clerks on or before the first day of December following
10 the election. All clerks shall furnish to the secretary of state,
11 promptly and without compensation, any further information
12 requested of ~~them~~**the clerks** to be used in the compilation of the
13 legislative manual.

14 (j) Establish a curriculum for comprehensive training and
15 accreditation of all county, city, township, and village officials
16 who are responsible for conducting elections.

17 (k) Establish a continuing election education program for all
18 county, city, township, and village clerks.

19 (l) Establish and require attendance by all new appointed or
20 elected election officials at an initial course of instruction
21 within 6 months before the date of the election.

22 (m) Establish a comprehensive training curriculum for all
23 precinct inspectors.

24 (n) Create an election day dispute resolution team that has
25 regional representatives of the department of state, which team
26 ~~shall~~**must** appear on site, if necessary.

27 (o) **Establish and require signature verification training for**
28 **all county, city, and township clerks and for all precinct**
29 **inspectors that complies with the rules promulgated by the**

1 **secretary of state under subsection (3) for an objective signature**
2 **verification process.**

3 (2) Pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969,
4 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, the secretary of state shall
5 promulgate rules establishing uniform standards for state and local
6 nominating, recall, and ballot question petition signatures. The
7 standards for petition signatures may include, but need not be
8 limited to, standards for all of the following:

9 (a) Determining the validity of registration of a circulator
10 or individual signing a petition.

11 (b) Determining the genuineness of the signature of a
12 circulator or individual signing a petition, including digitized
13 signatures.

14 (c) Proper designation of the place of registration of a
15 circulator or individual signing a petition.

16 (3) Pursuant to the administrative procedures act of 1969,
17 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, the secretary of state shall
18 promulgate rules establishing an objective signature verification
19 process that is to be used in training all county, city, and
20 township clerks and all precinct inspectors as required under
21 subsection (1) (o). The objective signature verification process
22 must not include a presumption regarding the validity of any
23 signature that is to be verified.