

2021 Election Bills

Listed below are the bills that have been assigned to the Senate or House Election Committees. We use a color-coding system to rank the bills. The bills identified for action are highlighted in green or turquoise. Those highlighted in yellow, gray, or not highlighted will be monitored. Bills that are highlighted violet align with the LWV's priorities of redistricting.

When the Green, Turquoise, Violet bills receive a committee hearing, alerts and/or call-to-action messaging will be issued.

Color Code: **Green**=important bill. It complies with LWV priorities. **Actively support.** **Yellow**=good bill. It complies with LWV priorities; Not highlighted=watch bill---currently a neutral position on this bill; and **Gray**=negative impact. This bill erects barriers that hinder voting/democratic principles; **Turquoise**=bad bill. **Actively oppose** based on negative impact to voting rights; and **Violet**=important bill for redistricting.

SENATE ELECTIONS BILLS: Chair Senator Jon Ford (R) Dist. 38

Senator.Ford@iga.in.gov

SB 58 Authored by Sen. Mike Bohacek (R) Dist. 8

Vote centers. Requires that a vote center county must establish at least one vote center in each municipality located in the county. **Aligns with HB 1226**

SB 103 Authored by Sen. Greg Taylor (D) Dist. 33

Redistricting standards. Establishes redistricting standards for congressional and state legislative districts. Provides that the initial proposed plans for congressional and state legislative districts must comply with the redistricting standards. Allows the general assembly, during the process by which the initial proposed plans become effective by being enacted as a law, to consider and adopt modifications to the initial proposed plans that deviate from the redistricting standards as long as the reason or reasons for each deviation are publicly explained and documented. Provides that as much as feasibly possible no district may be created so as to unduly favor any person or political party. Provides that the general assembly shall: (1) take all steps necessary to ensure that the procedures are in place to provide the public with redistricting data and computer software for drawing maps; and (2) create a process for the public to submit maps to the general assembly for consideration.

Break down of SB 103 criteria:

Sec. 14. To the extent possible... district boundaries must seek to coincide with the boundaries of Indiana political subdivisions as follows:

- (1) The number of counties and cities divided among more than one district shall be minimized. **Limit the divisions of cities and counties.**
- (2) Except as provided in subdivision

(3), if there is a choice between political subdivisions to be divided, a more populous political subdivision shall be divided before a less populous political subdivision is divided.

(3) Subdivision (2) does not apply to a district boundary drawn along a county line that passes through a municipality that lies in more than one county.

Sec. 15. (a) To the extent practicable, a plan must seek to minimize the division among more than one district of geographical areas, such as neighborhoods of a city, public school corporation attendance districts, or regions of Indiana, where the residents have common cultural, ethnic, political, or socioeconomic interests that do not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of a political subdivision, such as a city or county. **Minimize the division of neighborhoods, school corporations, communities of interest or of common socioeconomic or cultural interest.**

(b) In establishing districts for a plan, consideration must be given to the effect that the plan has on language minority groups and racial minority groups as required by the federal Voting¹ Rights Act.

Sec. 16. (a) In establishing a plan for house of representative districts, the residential address of an incumbent representative may not be identified or considered.

(b) In establishing a plan for senate districts, the residential address of an incumbent senator may not be identified or considered.

(c) As much as feasibly possible, **no district may be created so as to unduly favor any person or political party.**

SB 179 Authored by Sen. Mike Gaskill (R) Dist. 26

County commissioner districts. Requires all county commissioner districts to contain, as nearly as possible, equal population and compact boundaries (currently, equal population and compactness requirements apply to only Lake County and St. Joseph County). Specifies ordinance requirements for the division of the county districts and specifies severability of the ordinance.

SB 182 Authored by Sen. Mike Gaskill (R) Dist. 26

Filling vacancies. Provides that in order for a precinct committeeman or a precinct vice committeeman (exercising the precinct committeeman's proxy) to participate in a caucus to fill a vacancy, the committeeman or vice committeeman must be entitled to vote for the office for which a successor is to be selected in the caucus. Makes a technical correction.

SB 243 Authored by Sen. James Buck (R) Dist. 21

Nomination of candidates. Provides that, if none of the candidates for nomination for United States Senate by a political party required to hold a primary election receive a majority of the votes in the primary election, the political party shall choose its nominee for the office at the state party convention from among the two candidates who receive the greatest number of votes at the primary election. **This language gives political parties the right to choose their party's Senate candidate if the people's vote does not equal a majority.**

SB 260 Authored by Sen. Greg Walker (R) Dist. 41

Circuit court clerk matters. Provides that certain individuals who are not eligible to vote because of age may serve as certain election officers, both before and on election day, and as assistants in the **preparation of absentee ballots.** Provides that a school that is used as a polling

place may not provide on-site instruction to students on election day. Establishes a procedure for casting a voter's ballot at an early voting site if the voter does not complete the procedures for casting the voter's ballot. Provides that absentee ballots may be scanned, but not tabulated, before election day. Eliminates the requirement that the alcohol and tobacco commission distributes a registry of permits to the circuit court clerks. Eliminates the requirement that notice of certain alcohol and tobacco commission hearings be given to the circuit court clerk. Makes improvements to current election laws.

SB 283 Authored by Sen. Fady Qaddoura (D) Dist. 30

Redistricting commission. Establishes a redistricting commission (commission) to create, hold hearings on, take public comment about, and recommend plans to redraw general assembly districts and congressional districts. Provides for the appointment of four commission members by the legislative leadership. Establishes the redistricting commission nominating committee (committee) to receive applications from and evaluate applicants to fill the five remaining positions on the commission. Provides for selection of those five commission members from pools of applicants selected by the committee. Requires the legislative services agency (agency) to provide staff and administrative services to the commission. Establishes standards to govern the commission and the agency in the creation of redistricting plans. Provides that the general assembly must meet and enact redistricting plans before October 1 of a redistricting year. Authorizes the general assembly to convene in a session to act on redistricting bills at times other than the times the general assembly is currently authorized to meet. Repeals the current law establishing a redistricting commission for congressional redistricting.

SB 291 Authored by Sen. Jean Breaux (D) Dist. 34

Early voting. Requires a county election board to establish at least one satellite office in the county for an election. Requires a county to establish one additional satellite office in the county for each 30,000 active voters in the county. Requires that an absentee ballot marked and forwarded by a voter who subsequently dies be counted if the voter's name appears on the registration rolls for the precinct, and the absentee ballot would otherwise be entitled to be counted if the voter had not died.

Senate Bill 353 Authored by Sen. Erin Houchin (R) Dist. 47

Various election law matters. Requires an individual to show the individual's proof of citizenship to register to vote. Requires a risk-limiting audit to be conducted after each election before the results are certified.

"Proof of citizenship" refers to any one (1) An individual's birth certificate showing the individual's birth in the United States. (2) Certificate of Naturalization (3) Certificate of Citizenship. (4) Report of Birth Abroad of to United States Citizen. (5) valid unexpired U.S. passport. This bill an unnecessary burden to registration, esp. impacting minorities and disadvantaged populations. It may definitely limit LWV and other organizations from registering voters.

SB 173 Authored by Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D) Dist. 2

referred to Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law

Prohibition of firearms at polling places. Prohibits a person from carrying a firearm in, on, or near: (1) a chute; (2) polls; (3) areas where voters congregate or are likely to congregate; or (4)

any room where ballots are being counted. Provides that the offense is a Class C misdemeanor. Enhances the offense to a: (1) Class A misdemeanor if the person has a prior unrelated conviction for the offense; or (2) Level 6 felony if the person points the firearm at another person. Specifies: (1) a defense; and (2) certain notice requirements. Prohibits certain other defenses. Defines certain terms.

SB 398 Authored by Sen. Greg Walker (R) Dist. 41

Various elections matters. Requires the election division (instead of the Indiana election commission) to prescribe a uniform generic seal for use on certain ballots when the circuit court clerk is a candidate on the ballot. Allows a person who is 16 or 17 years of age to serve as a precinct election officer without the written approval of the school principal if school is not in session on election day. Requires certification by the county chairman of a candidate in a political party primary or town convention if the candidate cast a nonpartisan ballot at the most recent primary election in which the candidate voted. Updates municipal primary dates. Prohibits the printing of an independent or political party device on a ballot under specified circumstances. Specifies ballot placement of names when there are both at-large and district candidates in an election district. Specifies the manner in which a voter with print disabilities may request certain applications. Specifies that absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters are entitled to vote by mail using a combined form. Requires the secretary of state to develop a system that complies with the Web Content Guidelines for accessibility. Requires counties to mail absentee ballots by nonforwardable mail. Prohibits a ballot label including a straight party ticket option in specified circumstances. Requires a county to compare signatures upon receipt of an absentee ballot and specifies the procedure. Sets forth a procedure if a county election board does not unanimously determine that an absentee ballot signature is genuine. States that the position of an absentee ballot counter or a provisional ballot counter is not a lucrative office for purposes of the Constitution of the State of Indiana. Allows a member of the Indiana state recount commission to appoint a proxy. Specifies the deadline for filling a candidate vacancy. Allows a county election board by unanimous vote to authorize an absentee voter board to visit a voter to complete an absentee ballot application and provide the voter with an absentee ballot. Sets forth the process for a replacement ballot, if the county uses electronic poll books or is a vote center county. (Current law for counties using a paper poll list is noon for the receipt of an absentee ballot.) Removes the requirement that a county election board adopt a resolution concerning the processing of absentee ballots. (current law only allows for Marion County to use a machine to open ballots). Establishes procedures and forms for the curing of mismatched signatures involving an absentee ballot and unsigned absentee ballots. Allows an individual who is not a voter to serve as an absentee board member. Provides for a Level 6 felony for inducing or procuring another person to vote or refrain from voting for or against a candidate or public question at: (1) a caucus; or (2) the appointment of a candidate by a political party chairman or central committee officer; by giving, offering, or promising a person money or other property. Changes the deadline for certification of a question on a referendum from 60 days to 74 days. Makes technical corrections. **This bill offers a series of actions to improve the election process.**

SB 402 Authored by Sen. J.D. Ford (D) Dist. 29

Various elections matters. **Provides that the polls close at 7 p.m.** (Under current law, the polls must close at 6 p.m.) **This bill lists several improvements to voter registration that benefits the voter:** Provides that an application to obtain or renew a motor vehicle driver's license or permit or

an identification card serves as a voter registration application unless the applicant expressly declines on the application to register to vote. Provides that a voter becomes registered to vote when: (1) the county voter registration office determines the voter appears to be eligible to vote at the address on the voter's voter registration application; and (2) the voter receives notice of this determination. Requires a county voter registration office to note that a voter is in inactive status if the notice of voter registration is returned by the United States Postal Service due to an unknown or insufficient address. Eliminates the seven day period during which a voter's voter registration application is considered pending. Permits a voter to register at the polls by completing a voter registration form and an affirmation that the person has not voted elsewhere in the election and by providing proof of residence. **Permits a voter who is qualified to vote in person to vote by absentee ballot. Removes all other qualifications for a voter to vote by absentee ballot except for a voter with disabilities who is unable to make a voting mark on the ballot or sign the absentee ballot secrecy envelope. (Such a disabled voter is currently required to vote before an absentee voter board.) Requires each absentee ballot mailed to a voter to be assigned a unique tracking number as prescribed by the election division using IMb Tracing. Requires the election division to incorporate a feature in the computerized list that enables county election officials and a voter to use IMb Tracing to track the voter's absentee ballot from the time the absentee ballot was mailed to the voter until the time the absentee ballot was received by the county election officials.** Permits a county election board to authorize nonpartisan election observers for educational purposes to be present at the polls. Permits a county election board to authorize a public health safety officer to be present at the polls to monitor the public health. **Requires each county to establish one satellite office for absentee voting in addition to absentee voting provided in the circuit court clerk's office. Requires each county to establish an additional satellite office for each 25,000 or fraction of 25,000 active voters in the county. Requires that in a township with at least 25,000 active voters, a satellite office must be established for each 25,000 active voters in the township. Provides that a voter may return a completed absentee ballot sealed in an absentee ballot envelope to the county election board by depositing the absentee ballot envelope in an absentee ballot drop box. Provides that absentee ballots may be scanned, but not tabulated, before election day.** Provides that a person who knowingly does any electioneering in an area within 100 feet of an absentee ballot drop box commits a Class A misdemeanor. Repeals a provision that requires the rejection of an absentee ballot marked and forwarded by a voter who subsequently dies before election day. Repeals obsolete statutes relating to counting absentee ballots in precincts. Makes conforming changes

SB 415 Authored by Sen. Jack Sandlin (R) Dist. 36

Political activity of employees and contractors. Provides that notwithstanding any ordinance or resolution of a political subdivision, an employee of the political subdivision may serve as the chairman of a county political party while continuing to serve as an employee of the unit free from any discipline or other sanctions. Provides that a unit may not adopt an ordinance or resolution that: (1) provides that an individual who does business with the unit may not hold an office or other position in a political party; or (2) prohibits an individual who holds an office or other position in a political party from doing business with the city. Provides that such an ordinance or resolution is void. Provides that except when on duty or acting in an official capacity and except where otherwise provided by Indiana or federal law, an employee of a political subdivision may not be discouraged from engaging in political activity or denied the right to choose to refrain from engaging in political activity provided such activities do not impede or impair the efficient operation of the employee's employing agency.

HOUSE ELECTIONS AND APPORTIONMENT BILLS: Chair Rep. Tim Wesco (R)
Dist. 21 h21@iga.in.gov

HB 1019 Authored by Rep. John Bartlett (D) Dist. 95

Unlawful slating. Provides that a political party or other person may not: (1) solicit or receive money or other property as a condition that the person, another person, or a political party supporter slate a candidate; (2) pay money or give other property in exchange for the support or slating of a candidate by a person or a political party; or (3) require an individual to refrain from seeking the nomination of a political party for an elected office in a primary election if party does not slate the individual as the political for election to the office. Provides that a civil penalty may be assessed against a political party or other person of not more than three times the value of the money or property solicited, received, paid, or given in violation of the prohibition. Provides that any agreement entered into in violation of the prohibition is void. *Makes it illegal to pay candidates to run.*

HB 1130 Authored by Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D) Dist.

Ballot access for minor parties. Provides that the term "major political party" refers to: (1) with respect to the state, any of the parties whose nominees received more than 2,500 votes statewide for secretary of state in the last election; or (2) with respect to a political subdivision, any of the parties whose nominees received more than 250 votes in that political subdivision for secretary of state in the last election. Provides that a political party whose nominee received at least 2,500 votes but less than 25% of the votes cast for secretary of state at the last election shall nominate the party's candidates at a state convention and for certain local offices at a county convention. Provides that the petition of nomination for an independent or minor political party must be signed by 250 registered voters in the election district that the candidate seeks to represent. *This may be helpful language for candidates from minority parties or independents.*

HB 1133 Authored by Rep. Pat Boy (D) Dist. 9

Vote by mail. Requires that all elections be conducted by mail beginning with elections in 2024. Provides for the January 1, 2024, expiration of several provisions of the election code that will be obsolete under a vote by mail system. Requires the interim study committee on elections to study the transition to a vote by mail system and propose necessary legislation to accomplish the transition.

HB 1134 Authored by Rep. Ethan Manning (R) Dist. 23

Nomination of candidates. Provides that a candidate for United States Senator, governor, presidential elector, or alternate presidential elector nominated by a convention or by a petition of nomination must have a petition signed by at least 4,500 voters of Indiana, including at least 500 voters from each congressional district requesting the candidate be nominated. *Burden added to seek more signatures party candidates.*

HB 1195 Authored by Rep. Thomas Saunders (R) Dist. 54 *Same as HB 1504*

Straight ticket voting. Removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight ticket voting) in a general or municipal election, except

for candidates for presidential electors. Repeals superseded statutes relating to straight ticket voting. **Gets rid of straight-ticket voting in order to clear up confusion when casting a ballot.**

HB 1216 Authored by Rep. Sue Errington (D) Dist. 34

Ranked choice voting for local elections. **Permits** a municipality to implement ranked choice voting for all of the municipality's elected offices. Permits a county to implement ranked choice voting for all offices elected in the county. Permits a school corporation to implement ranked choice voting for election of members of the governing body of the school corporation. Establishes the procedure for a voter to rank the candidates according to the voter's choice when there are three or more candidates for election to an office. Establishes the procedures to count the voter's choices as votes at various stages of tabulating ballots. **Key wording: Permits municipalities, counties, and school corporation to implement Ranked Voting.**

HB 1226 Authored by Rep. Jake Teshka (R) Dist. 7; Co-Authored by Rep. Timothy Wesco (R)

Vote centers. Requires that a vote center county must establish at least one vote center in each municipality located in the county. **SB 58**

HB 1288 Authored by Rep. Ryan Lauer (R) Dist. 59

Election security. Provides that a voting system must include the following: (1) Votes stored as a whole number, without the use of decimals or fractions. (2) Vote tabulation allowing for a ratio of one person to one vote. (3) No weighted vote features. Provides that a voting system using an automatic tabulating machine may be tabulated only within Indiana. Provides that the results from a voting system must be published to the public before any results are transmitted outside of Indiana.

HB 1290 Authored by Rep. Curt Nisly (R) Dist. 22; Co-Authored by Rep. John Jacob (R)

Commission on election integrity. Establishes the commission on election integrity. Requires the commission to consider various means by which to increase the integrity of elections in Indiana. Requires the commission to submit a report to the legislative council, including recommendations for legislation, not later than July 1, 2022. Provides that the statute expires January 1, 2023.

HB 1301 Authored by Rep. Vernon Smith (D) Dist. 14

Same day registration. Permits a voter to register at the polls by completing a voter registration form and an affirmation that the individual has not voted elsewhere in the election and by providing proof of residence. Requires the ballot of a voter who registers at the polls to be treated as a provisional ballot.

HB 1330 Authored by Rep. Blake Johnson (D) Dist. 100

Automatic voter registration. Provides that an application to obtain or renew a motor vehicle driver's license or permit or an identification card serves as a voter registration application unless the applicant expressly declines on the application to register to vote. Provides that a voter becomes registered to vote when the county voter registration office determines the voter appears to be eligible to vote at the address on the voter's voter registration application.

House Bill 1357 Authored by Rep. Timothy Wesco (R) Dist. 21, Co-Authored by Rep. Alan Morrison (R)

Circuit court clerk matters. Provides that certain individuals who are not eligible to vote because of age may serve as certain election officers, both before and on election day, and as assistants in the preparation of absentee ballots. Provides that a school that is used as a polling place may not provide on-site instruction to students on election day. Provides that a precinct may be established with fewer than 600 active voters if establishing the precinct would avoid establishing a split precinct. Establishes a procedure for casting a voter's ballot at an early voting site if the voter does not complete the procedures for casting the voter's ballot. Provides that absentee ballots may be scanned, but not tabulated, before election day. Requires the county election board to begin entering unofficial results canvassed by the county election board into the computerized list beginning at 7 p.m. on election night and continuing at stated intervals through the day after election day until the entry of unofficial results is completed. Provides that a person who violates any provision of the election law by providing any other person with information concerning the number of votes received by candidates or on a public question on absentee ballots before the close of the polls on election day commits a Level 6 felony. (Under current law, the crime is committed only if certain cited provisions of election law are violated.) Eliminates the requirement that the alcohol and tobacco commission distributes a registry of permits to the circuit court clerks. Eliminates the requirement that notice of certain alcohol and tobacco commission hearings be given to the circuit court clerk. **Expands on SB 260.**

House Bill 1361 Authored by Rep. Tonya Pfaff (D) Dist. 43, Co-Authored by Rep. Carey Hamilton, Rep. Chris Campbell

Voter registration. Permits a voter to register at the polls by completing a voter registration form and an affirmation that the person has not voted elsewhere in the election and by providing proof of residence. Provides that the voter registration period in a general or municipal election continues up until the day before the general or municipal election. (**Current law provides** that the registration period in a general or municipal election ceases on the twenty-ninth day before a general or municipal election is conducted.) **Expands the voter registration deadline until the day before the Primary or General Election.**

HB1365 Authored by Rep. Timothy Wesco (R) Dist. 21

Various elections matter. Repeals obsolete dates and application provisions. Updates statutes setting schedules for upcoming elections. Amends the definition of "de minimis change" and "electronic poll book". Requires the entry of filing information concerning all candidates into the statewide voter registration system. Requires accurate presentation of a candidate's name containing a pronunciation symbol, such as an accent mark. Provides that if an appointed member of a board is or becomes the relative of an individual with the authority to nominate or appoint a member of the board, the appointed member vacates the office immediately by operation of law, but specifies that an individual serving as a board member on July 1, 2021, is exempt from the restriction. Provides that the precinct judge performs the duties of a precinct election sheriff when the position of the election sheriff has been omitted by a county election board or when a county vote center plan does not specify who performs those duties. Provides that a pollbook holder or a watcher must be a registered voter of the county. Provides that a media watcher must be a registered voter of Indiana or of another state. Requires the cancellation of a voter registration

record of an individual reported to be imprisoned following conviction of a felony in another state. Provides that a person is disqualified from assuming or being a candidate for an elected office if the person is a nonjudicial court employee who would violate Rule 4.6 of the Indiana Code of Judicial Conduct by being the candidate of a political party for nomination or election to an elected office or a political party office. Requires retention of electronic poll book information for the same retention period as other election records. Requires ballot proofs to be made available for inspection by county political party officials and school corporations before the county prints ballots. Specifies procedures for the return of an electronic poll book or a voting system from the polls of the precinct or from the vote centers after the close of the polls on election day (other than the ballots and other paper documents returned by the inspector and judge of the opposite political party). Permits a county election board or a board of elections and registration (rather than the Indiana election commission) to authorize a voter to cast an absentee ballot before a traveling board after the usual deadline for doing so if a local disaster emergency is declared by the county. **Requires that an absentee ballot application requesting that an absentee ballot be sent by mail or by traveling board, and submitted to a county using the statewide voter registration system, must include a telephone number to contact the applicant.** Specifies the requirements for the timing and security of the bipartisan initialing of absentee ballots. Specifies the procedure for an absentee board member or the circuit court clerk's office when a voter leaves the clerk's office or satellite office, or declines to return to the booth, without casting an absentee ballot. Requires a voting system to contain features to ensure that unauthorized software has not been installed on the equipment, and to permit the electronic adjudication of voter intent on ballots cast using the voting system. Requires the Voting System Technical Oversight Program to conduct random audits of voting systems and electronic poll books in odd-numbered years. Clarifies standards and procedures concerning determinations made regarding provisional ballots and federal write-in ballots. Repeals the current statute concerning the referral of a disputed ballot to a judge when a recount or contest has not been filed. Extends the deadline for filling a post-primary candidate vacancy from noon on June 30 to noon on July 3 and after July 3 in case of a successful challenge to a candidate nominated by party convention. Amends procedures for candidate filings to fill ballot vacancies in certain cases. Specifies the procedure requiring the reporting of problems experienced with voting systems or electronic poll books. Defines "anomaly". Makes conforming amendments. **Seems to clean up details related to elections.**

HB 1382 Authored by Rep. Chuck Moseley (D) Dist. 10

Student ID card. Requires each approved postsecondary educational institution to issue to each of its students a student ID card that contains all the information on the card that makes the card an acceptable proof of identification under Indiana election law.

HB 1147 Authored by Rep. Karen Engleman (R) Dist. 70; Co-Authored by Rep. Edward Clere (R)

Processing absentee ballots. Provides that absentee ballots may be scanned, but not tabulated, before election day. Provides that a person who knowingly provides any other person with information concerning the number of votes a candidate received for an office or cast to approve or reject a public question on absentee ballots under the statute permitting scanning of absentee ballots before the closing of the polls commits a Level 6 felony. Provides that every county may use machines instead of absentee ballot counters to open absentee ballot envelopes. (Currently such use of machines is permitted only in Marion County.)

HB 1479 Authored by Rep. Timothy Wesco (R) Dist. 21; Co-Authored by Rep. Zach Payne (R)

Early voting. Provides that the county election board may adopt a resolution authorizing the circuit court clerk to establish a satellite office to permit voters to cast absentee ballots for at least four hours on the third Saturday preceding election day.

HB 1485 Authored by Rep. Timothy Wesco (R) Dist. 21

Voting matters. Defines "breach of peace" and "law enforcement officer" for purposes of election law. Includes an identification document issued by a Native American Indian tribe or band for purposes of proof of identification. Provides for the carrying of firearms within the polls or chute. Permits a county to prohibit a precinct election officer from carrying a firearm within the polls or chute on election day as a condition of the appointment. Allows a political subdivision whose property is designated as a polling place location to adopt a policy prohibiting the carrying of firearms in the polls and the chute on election day. Specifies to whom a watcher must report any violation of election laws. Requires the prior consent of an inspector for a watcher to object to any other precinct election officer concerning an alleged violation of election laws and allows for the removal of the watcher and revocation of credentials for a violation. Amends the definition of "electioneering" and adds language prohibiting making verbal statements, displaying certain written statements, or the display of support for the approval or defeat of a public question and electioneering before election day in specified locations.

Legal Language:

5. IC 3-5-4-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 30, 2021]: Sec. 4.5. (a) This section does not apply to a public building designated as a polling location under IC 3-11-8-4 if the political subdivision owning the property adopts a policy prohibiting the carrying of firearms in the polls and chute on election day. However, a policy may not prevent a law enforcement officer from acting under IC 3-6-6-36. (b) Except as otherwise expressly provided by state law, an individual who is not otherwise prohibited from carrying a firearm under federal or state law, including a law enforcement officer acting under IC 3-6-6-36, may carry the firearm in the polls or chute if the individual: (1) is entitled to be present in the polls or chute; and (2) otherwise complies with law

A county may require that a precinct election officer not carry a firearm within the polls or chute on election day as a condition of the appointment of an individual as a precinct election officer as an independent contractor. **It is unclear whether this is saying if by law a person is allowed to carry a gun then it remains acceptable at a polling place.**

HB 1504 Authored by Rep. John Jacob (R) Dist. 93

Elimination of straight ticket voting. Removes a voter's option to vote for all candidates of a political party or an independent ticket at one time (straight ticket voting) in a general or municipal election, except for candidates for presidential electors. Repeals superseded statutes relating to straight ticket voting. **Same as HB 1195**

HB 1512 Authored by Rep. Terri Jo Austin (D) Dist. 36

Notice of polling locations; voter access. Provides that a county election board shall do the following: (1) Give not less than 21 days notice of the place of voting in each precinct by publication on the county's Internet web site and in the local newspaper stating whether the polls are located in an accessible facility, the number of registered voters in the precinct, and the number of voting systems assigned to each facility. (2) Submit the place of voting in each precinct to the election

division of the secretary of state's office not less than 29 days before an election. Provides that an elderly voter or a voter with a disability voting at an accessible facility shall be granted immediate access to a voting system.