

SB81 INTRODUCED



1 SB81
2 2Q83ISI-1
3 By Senators Singleton, Coleman, Figures, Smitherman
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 08-Feb-24



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, the Governor, Auditor, and
6 Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries appoint
7 registrars of voters. This bill would require the
8 appointing authorities to consider additional factors
9 when appointing each board of registrars.

10 Also under existing law, the state pays each
11 board of registrar a salary of eighty dollars (\$80) per
12 day for each day of service.

13 This bill would increase the salary of each
14 registrar.

15 Under existing law, registrars are considered
16 state employees for certain purposes.

17 This bill would provide that registrars are not
18 considered county or state employees except for certain
19 limited purposes.

20 This bill would also make nonsubstantive,
21 technical revisions to update the existing code
22 language to current style.

23
24
25 A BILL
26 TO BE ENTITLED
27 AN ACT
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Relating to boards of registrars; to amend Sections 17-3-2 and 17-3-5, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the membership of the boards of registrars; to increase the salary of each registrar; to further provide for the employment status of registrars; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 17-3-2 and 17-3-5, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§17-3-2

(a) Registration shall be conducted in each county by a board of three reputable and suitable persons to be appointed, unless otherwise provided by law, by the Governor, Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, or by a majority of them acting as a state board of appointment. The registrars shall be qualified electors, residents of the county, shall have a high school diploma or equivalent, and possess the minimum computer and map reading skills necessary to function in the office. The Secretary of State shall prescribe guidelines to assist the state board of appointment in determining the qualifications of registrars. The registrars shall not hold an elective office during their term. One of the members shall be designated by the state board of appointment as chair of the board of registrars for each county. The Governor, Auditor, and Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, or a majority of them acting as a state board of appointment, shall work to assure that



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membership of each board of registrars is reflective of the racial demographics of the state.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), the Legislature may provide by local law for the appointment of additional members to the board of registrars for a county that has two courthouses.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply in any county having a population of not less than 600,000 inhabitants according to the 1970 or any succeeding federal decennial census, and any currently effective local law or general law of local application providing for the appointment of any member of the board of registrars in the county shall remain in full force and effect and shall not be repealed by operation of this chapter."

"§17-3-5

(a) Each registrar shall receive a salary in the amount of ~~eightyone~~ eightyone hundred dollars ~~(\$80)~~ (\$100) per day for each day's attendance upon business of the board, to be paid by the state and disbursed to the county commissions and disbursed by the county commissions to each registrar on order of a quorum of the board of registrars of the county. The state Comptroller shall issue to each county commission on a monthly basis an amount sufficient to fund these payments plus the employer share of the Social Security or Federal Insurance Corporation Act tax. The county commission will provide to the state Comptroller an invoice itemized to reflect payments made. If a legal holiday falls on a day the board is to be in session, and the courthouse of the county is closed for the



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85 holiday, the board of registrars shall be compensated for the
86 holiday. Each registrar shall receive a mileage allowance
87 equal to the amount allowed state employees or employees of
88 the county, whichever is greater, for official travel in the
89 course of attending the business of the board, including
90 attending continuing education programs. Travel and other
91 expenses shall be paid by the county commissions to the boards
92 of registrars, and the state shall reimburse the county
93 commissions based on a written request submitted by the county
94 commissions to the state Comptroller.

95 (b) The provisions of this section regarding travel
96 mileage shall not apply in any county having a population of
97 600,000 or more inhabitants according to the 1970 or any
98 succeeding federal decennial census, and any currently
99 effective local law or general law of local application
100 regarding travel mileage for registrars in the county shall
101 remain in full force and effect and shall not be repealed by
102 operation of this chapter.

103 (c) Members of the boards of registrars of this state
104 are ~~hereby~~ declared to be state employees for the purposes of
105 Chapter 28 of Title 36.

106 (d) Members of the boards of registrars of this state
107 shall be treated as equals with other state and county
108 employees in regard to Social Security protection and
109 benefits.

110 (e) All payments by a county to any member of a county
111 board of registrars ~~(except for mileage or reimbursement for~~
112 ~~expenses)~~, except for mileage or reimbursement for expenses,



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shall be treated for Social Security purposes equally with payments by that county to ~~other~~ county employees of the county.

(f) The state office for Social Security and the state Comptroller and each county commission ~~are directed to~~shall take all necessary action to ~~insure~~ensure that members of the boards of registrars of this state are treated as other state and county employees in regard to Social Security protection and benefits as provided in Chapter 28 of Title 36, including, if necessary, amending the federal-state agreement referred to in Chapter 28 of Title 36~~r~~ to implement the intent of the Legislature as expressed herein.

(g) No county commission may reduce the current county supplement upon the effect of this section by implementation of Act 94-693.

(h) (1) A county commission may allow the chair or any member of the county board of registrars who has served at least 16 years in that position to participate in any health insurance program provided by the county upon the same terms, conditions, and employee contributions as required for county employees.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to any health insurance plans administered by the State of Alabama as described in Title 36, Chapter 29 and Title 11, Chapter 91A.

(i) Members of the boards of registrars are not county or state employees, and no member of the board of registrars shall be considered a county or state employee except as provided in this section.



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141 (j) On working days, the board of registrars shall do
142 both of the following:

143 (1) Be open the same hours as the courthouse of the
144 county, or alternatively, establish regular hours and make
145 those hours available to the public.

146 (2) Have a registrar present during those hours."

147 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
148 1, 2024.