



100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB2821

Introduced 2/13/2018, by Sen. Terry Link - Melinda Bush

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/1-17 new

Amends the Election Code. Provides that an election jurisdiction may establish vote centers. Defines "vote center" as a polling place where a voter who resides in the county in which the vote center is located may vote without regard to which precinct the voter resides in. Contains provisions concerning the process a board of election commissioners or county board must go through to establish vote centers, including the creation of a vote center administration plan that contains specified information and adopting an order approving the plan. Contains various requirements for the establishment of vote centers in an election jurisdiction. With certain exceptions, provides that an order establishing vote centers in an election jurisdiction takes effect immediately upon the filing of the order with the State Board of Elections, after local approval.

LRB100 18831 MJP 34073 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by adding Section
5 1-17 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/1-17 new)

7 Sec. 1-17. Vote centers.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Board" means:

10 (1) the board of election commissioners; or

11 (2) if no board of election commissioners exists, the
12 county board for the county coterminous with the election
13 jurisdiction.

14 "Chief election administrator" means:

15 (1) the board of election commissioners; or

16 (2) the county clerk, if no board of election
17 commissioners exists.

18 "Vote center" means a polling place where a voter who
19 resides in the county in which the vote center is located may
20 vote without regard to which precinct the voter resides in.

21 (b) A board may establish vote centers in an election
22 jurisdiction by doing the following:

23 (1) the board shall hold an initial public hearing

1 where a draft plan shall be presented by the chief election
2 administrator for administration of vote centers in the
3 election jurisdiction;

4 (2) after presentation of the draft plan, the board
5 shall accept written public comments for at least 30 days;

6 (3) at least 30 days after presentation of the draft
7 plan, the board shall hold a final public hearing to
8 consider the draft plan, the written public comments, and
9 any other public comment that the board may permit on the
10 draft plan;

11 (4) after consideration of the draft plan and the
12 public comments, the board may:

13 (A) vote to adopt an order approving the draft
14 plan; or

15 (B) amend the draft plan and then vote to adopt an
16 order approving the amended draft plan.

17 The board may adopt the order to approve a plan by a
18 three-fifths vote of the board. The order and adopted plan must
19 be filed with the State Board of Elections and made available
20 to the public.

21 (c) The plan required by subsection (b) must include at
22 least the following:

23 (1) The total number of vote centers to be established.

24 (2) The location of each vote center.

25 (3) The total number of voters within the election
26 jurisdiction.

1 (4) The number of active voters within the election
2 jurisdiction.

3 (5) The number of inactive voters within the election
4 jurisdiction.

5 (6) For each vote center designated under paragraph
6 (2):

7 (A) a list of the precincts with polls that are to
8 be located at the vote center;

9 (B) the number, title, and compensation level of
10 the poll workers to be present at each vote center;

11 (C) the number and type of ballot variations that
12 will be provided at the vote center; and

13 (D) whether these ballots will be:

14 (i) delivered to the vote center before the
15 opening of the polls; or

16 (ii) printed on demand for a voter's use.

17 (7) A detailed description of any hardware, firmware,
18 or software used:

19 (A) to create an electronic poll list for each
20 precinct whose polls are to be located at a vote
21 center; or

22 (B) to manage data in an electronic poll book
23 through a secure electronic connection between the
24 chief election administrator and the election judges
25 administering a vote center.

26 (8) A description of the equipment and procedures to be

1 used to ensure that information concerning a voter entered
2 into any electronic poll book used by precinct election
3 officers at a vote center is immediately accessible to:

4 (A) the chief election administrator; and

5 (B) the electronic poll books used by election
6 judges at all other vote centers in the election
7 jurisdiction.

8 (9) The security and contingency plans to be
9 implemented by the election jurisdiction to:

10 (A) prevent a disruption of the vote center
11 process; and

12 (B) ensure that the election is properly conducted
13 if a disruption occurs.

14 (10) A certification that the vote center complies with
15 the accessibility requirements applicable to polling
16 places.

17 (11) The total number and locations of early voting
18 locations to be established at vote center locations
19 designated under paragraph (2).

20 (12) A plan to educate voters on the transition to vote
21 centers.

22 (13) A plan and allocation request to send a one-time
23 vote-by-mail application to all registered voters prior to
24 the first election where vote centers are utilized.

25 (14) The following accommodations for accessibility
26 and placement considerations:

1 (A) vote center proximity to public
2 transportation;

3 (B) vote center proximity to communities with
4 historically low vote by mail usage;

5 (C) vote center location proximity to population
6 centers;

7 (D) vote center proximity to language minority
8 communities;

9 (E) vote center proximity to voters with
10 disabilities;

11 (F) vote center location proximity to low-income
12 communities;

13 (G) vote center proximity to communities of
14 eligible voters who are not registered to vote and may
15 need access to same day voter registration; and

16 (H) proximity to accessible and free parking at
17 vote centers.

18 (d) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, a plan
19 must provide a vote center for use by voters residing within
20 the election jurisdiction for use in a primary election,
21 general election, special election, municipal primary, or
22 municipal election conducted on or after the effective date of
23 the board's order.

24 A plan may provide that a vote center shall not be used in
25 a municipal election conducted in 2019 and every 4 years
26 thereafter for some or all of the towns located within the

1 election jurisdiction that have a population of less than
2 3,500.

3 (e) Except for special elections as provided under
4 subsection (f), when the total number of active voters in the
5 election jurisdiction equals at least 25,000, the following
6 apply:

7 (1) The plan must provide for at least one vote center
8 for each 7,500 active voters.

9 (2) In addition to the vote centers designated in
10 paragraph (1), the plan must provide for a vote center for
11 any remaining fraction of 7,500 active voters.

12 (f) When an election jurisdiction conducts a special
13 election that is conducted in only part of an election
14 jurisdiction and not on the same date as a primary, general, or
15 municipal election held in the election jurisdiction, the
16 following apply:

17 (1) The plan must provide for at least one vote center.

18 (2) If the election district for the special election
19 contains at least 5,000 active voters, the following apply:

20 (A) The plan must provide for at least one vote
21 center for each 5,000 active voters in the election
22 district.

23 (B) In addition to the vote centers required in
24 subparagraph (A), the plan must provide for a vote
25 center for any fraction of 5,000 active voters in the
26 election district.

1 (g) Before adopting an order establishing vote centers in
2 an election jurisdiction in accordance with this Section, the
3 chief election administrator must determine that:

4 (1) the secure electronic connection at each vote
5 center is sufficient to prevent:

6 (A) any voter from voting more than once; and

7 (B) unauthorized access by any person to:

8 (i) the electronic poll lists for a precinct
9 whose polls are to be located at the vote center;

10 or

11 (ii) the computerized list of voters in the
12 election jurisdiction;

13 (2) the planned design and location of the equipment
14 and precinct officers will provide the most efficient
15 access for:

16 (A) voters to enter the polls, cast their ballots,
17 and leave the vote center; and

18 (B) precinct election officials, watchers,
19 challengers, and poll book holders to exercise their
20 rights and perform their duties within the vote center;

21 (3) the planned design does not have a
22 disproportionately negative effect on racial or language
23 minority voters, based on 52 U.S.C. 10301;

24 (4) the planned design includes one vote center per
25 each 7,500 registered voters, and does not allow any
26 registered voter to live more than 5 miles away from an

1 election day vote center; no permanent polling place shall
2 be located within 1.5 miles of another permanent polling
3 place unless the polling place is located within an
4 election jurisdiction of at least 500,000 people; and

5 (5) each vote center is accessible to elderly voters
6 and voters with disabilities.

7 Within 2 years of the adoption of a vote center plan under
8 this Section, the election jurisdiction shall hold public
9 meetings to consider revising the plan with the public's input.

10 (h) Except as provided in subsection (i) or as specified
11 otherwise by the board, an order establishing vote centers in
12 an election jurisdiction in accordance with subsection (b)
13 takes effect immediately upon the filing of the order with the
14 State Board of Elections, after local approval.

15 (i) An order filed with the State Board of Elections in
16 accordance with subsection (b) during the final 60 days before
17 an election becomes effective on the day following the
18 election. An order filed with the State Board of Elections in
19 accordance with subsection (b) remains in effect until the
20 board, by a three-fifths vote, rescinds the order establishing
21 vote centers in the election jurisdiction and files a copy of
22 the document rescinding the order with the State Board of
23 Elections.

24 (j) Each county executive in a county with a vote center
25 and the State Board of Elections shall publish notice of the
26 location of each vote center. Each election authority shall

1 publish the location of the vote centers in the manner
2 prescribed for the publication of other polling places under
3 Article 12 of this Code. The election authority shall mail to
4 each voter a notice of the vote center locations, and notice
5 that the voter may vote in person at any vote center in the
6 election jurisdiction. The notice shall also include
7 information regarding which early voting locations will also
8 serve as election day vote centers.

9 (k) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the chief
10 election administrator shall administer an election conducted
11 at a vote center in accordance with federal law, this Code, and
12 the plan adopted with the board's order under subsection (b).