

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5062**

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled  
"Michigan election law,"  
by amending sections 31, 33, 514, 679a, 811, 847, 931, and 942 (MCL  
168.31, 168.33, 168.514, 168.679a, 168.811, 168.847, 168.931, and  
168.942), section 31 as amended by 2005 PA 71, section 33 as  
amended by 2002 PA 91, section 514 as amended by 1992 PA 195,  
section 679a as added by 2004 PA 256, sections 847 and 942 as  
amended by 1995 PA 261, and section 931 as amended by 1996 PA 583,  
and by adding section 31a.

**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

1 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328, for the conduct of  
2 elections and registrations in accordance with the laws of this  
3 state.

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

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

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

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

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

1 state.

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

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

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

17 (j) Establish a curriculum for comprehensive training and  
18 accreditation of all county, city, township, **AND** village ~~and~~  
19 ~~school elections~~ officials **WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONDUCTING**  
20 **ELECTIONS.**

21 **(K) ESTABLISH A CONTINUING ELECTION EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ALL**  
22 **COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, AND VILLAGE CLERKS.**

23 **(I)** ~~(k)~~ Establish and require attendance by all new appointed  
24 or elected election officials at an initial course of instruction  
25 within 6 months before the date of the election.

26 **(M)** ~~(l)~~ Establish a comprehensive training curriculum for all  
27 precinct inspectors.

House Bill No. 5062 (H-2) as amended March 28, 2012

1       (N) ~~(m)~~—Create an election day dispute resolution team that  
2 has regional representatives of the department of state, which team  
3 shall appear on site, if necessary.

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

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

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

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

17       **SEC. 31A. (1) IN ORDER TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE**  
18 **PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, AFTER EACH ELECTION THE SECRETARY OF STATE**  
19 **MAY AUDIT ELECTION PRECINCTS.**

20       **(2) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL DEVELOP AN ELECTION AUDIT**  
21 **PROGRAM THAT DETAILS THE DOCUMENTS TO BE INSPECTED AND THE**  
22 **PROCEDURES TO BE USED DURING AN ELECTION AUDIT CONDUCTED UNDER THIS**  
23 **SECTION. THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY TRAIN AND CERTIFY COUNTY CLERKS**  
24 **AND THEIR STAFFS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING ELECTION AUDITS OF**  
25 **PRECINCTS RANDOMLY SELECTED [BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE] IN THEIR COUNTIES.**  
26 **THE SECRETARY OF**  
27 **STATE SHALL SUPERVISE EACH COUNTY CLERK IN THE PERFORMANCE OF**  
**ELECTION AUDITS CONDUCTED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

1           (3) EACH COUNTY CLERK WHO CONDUCTS AN ELECTION AUDIT UNDER  
2 THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION AUDIT TO THE  
3 SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER THE ELECTION AUDIT.

4           Sec. 33. (1) The director of elections shall conduct training  
5 schools throughout this state ~~preceeding~~**BEFORE** the general November  
6 election, and ~~preceeding such~~**BEFORE** other elections as the director  
7 considers advisable, for county clerks and their representatives  
8 with respect to the conducting of elections in accordance with the  
9 election laws. Included in this training shall be instruction on  
10 the uniform voting system. ~~In case any~~**IF A** county clerk ~~shall fail~~  
11 **FAILS** to conduct in his or her county a training school for  
12 election boards within the county, the director of elections shall  
13 conduct ~~such~~**THE** training school, the cost of the training school  
14 to be charged as an obligation of the county.

15           (2) The director of elections shall train all county, city,  
16 and township clerks who are involved in the training of precinct  
17 inspectors. The training shall include team training and monitoring  
18 of their performance as trainers.

19           (3) The director of elections shall conduct all precinct  
20 inspector training in counties where the clerk has not been  
21 accredited to conduct the training schools.

22           (4) **THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS SHALL CONDUCT CONTINUING**  
23 **ELECTION EDUCATION TRAINING COURSES FOR COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, AND**  
24 **VILLAGE CLERKS TO ATTEND. EACH COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, AND VILLAGE**  
25 **CLERK IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND AND COMPLETE CONTINUING ELECTION**  
26 **EDUCATION TRAINING AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 2 YEARS TO MAINTAIN**  
27 **ACCREDITATION AS A CLERK. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS RESPONSIBLE**

1 FOR PROVIDING CONTINUING ELECTION EDUCATION TRAINING TO THE CLERKS  
2 AT NO CHARGE TO THE CLERKS, COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNSHIPS, OR  
3 VILLAGES.

4 Sec. 514. If the registration of an elector is ~~cancelled,~~  
5 **CANCELED**, the clerk shall make a proper entry on the original and  
6 duplicate registration cards, indicating the date and the cause for  
7 cancellation, and shall affix his or her signature to the entries.  
8 All copies of the ~~cancelled-~~**CANCELED** registration cards shall be  
9 filed in the office of the clerk. All duplicates of the original  
10 registration cards ~~so cancelled-~~**CANCELED** may be destroyed 2 years  
11 after the registrations are ~~cancelled-~~**CANCELED**. The clerk may also  
12 destroy the original registration cards of an elector ~~10-~~5 years  
13 after the date of cancellation of the elector's registration, if  
14 the registration is not reinstated within that period. The clerk  
15 may also destroy any ~~cancelled-~~**CANCELED** original registration cards  
16 2 years after the date of cancellation if the ~~cancelled-~~**CANCELED**  
17 registration cards are reproduced ~~pursuant to-~~**UNDER** the records  
18 ~~media-~~**REPRODUCTION** act, 1992 PA 116, MCL 24.401 TO 24.406, and the  
19 reproductions are on file in the office of the clerk. The  
20 reproductions may be destroyed after the expiration of the  
21 statutory retention date of the reproduced records. The  
22 registration records, if combustible, shall be destroyed by  
23 burning.

24 Sec. 679a. (1) The ~~legislative body-~~**ELECTION COMMISSION** of a  
25 city, township, or village ~~may,~~**SHALL**, by resolution, provide that  
26 at an election at which the ballots are counted and certified at  
27 the precinct, 1 or more additional boards of election inspectors be

1 appointed to serve as receiving boards. For a precinct having  
2 receiving boards, the board of election commissioners shall appoint  
3 a receiving board consisting of 2 or more election inspectors, with  
4 an equal number from each major political party, and shall appoint  
5 an equal number of election inspectors from each major political  
6 party.

7 (2) Not less than 2 election inspectors in a precinct,  
8 representing each of the major political parties, shall deliver to  
9 the receiving board for that precinct a sealed ballot container  
10 containing the voted ballots, and, in a separate sealed envelope,  
11 the poll book and statement of returns. The poll book and statement  
12 of returns may be enclosed in a single sealed envelope.

13 (3) The receiving board shall open the sealed envelope and  
14 review the poll book and statement of returns to determine both of  
15 the following:

16 (a) That the ballot container is properly sealed and the seal  
17 number is properly recorded in the poll book and the statement of  
18 returns. If the ballot container is not properly sealed or there is  
19 a discrepancy with the seal number recorded in the poll book or the  
20 statement of returns, the election inspectors who delivered the  
21 ballot container and the receiving board shall together take the  
22 necessary steps to correct the discrepancy. The election inspectors  
23 and the receiving board shall note the discrepancy and the  
24 corrective action in the remarks section of the poll book and all  
25 shall sign the notation.

26 (b) That the number of individuals voting recorded in the poll  
27 book equals the number of ballots issued to electors, as shown by

1 the statement of returns. If the number of individuals voting as  
2 shown by the poll book does not equal the number of ballots counted  
3 as shown by the statement of returns, and if an explanation of the  
4 discrepancy has not been noted in the poll book, the receiving  
5 board shall ask the election inspectors about the discrepancy, note  
6 the explanation in the poll book, and all shall sign the notation.

7 (4) If the poll book or statement of returns has been  
8 erroneously sealed in the ballot container, the election inspectors  
9 may open the ballot container and remove the poll book or statement  
10 of returns. The elections inspectors and receiving board shall note  
11 the corrective action in the remarks section of the poll book and  
12 all shall sign the notation before placing the poll book or  
13 statement of returns in a separate sealed envelope. If the  
14 statement of returns was sealed in the ballot container and the  
15 poll book was sealed in an envelope, the poll book shall be removed  
16 from the sealed envelope for the notation of corrective action to  
17 be recorded before placing the poll book and statement of returns  
18 in a sealed envelope. The receiving board shall notify the clerk of  
19 the board of canvassers responsible for canvassing all or a portion  
20 of the election of the corrective action taken.

21 (5) When the receiving board has completed the review under  
22 subsection (3), the receiving board shall place the poll book and  
23 statement of returns in the appropriate envelope, sealed with a red  
24 paper seal and initialed by the receiving board. If permitted by  
25 the clerk of the board of canvassers, the poll books and statement  
26 of returns from more than 1 precinct may be included and delivered  
27 in a single envelope.



1           Sec. 811. All election returns, including poll lists,  
2 statements, tally sheets, ~~absent voters' applications,~~ absent  
3 voters' return envelopes bearing the statement required by section  
4 761, absent voters' records required by section 760, and other  
5 returns made by the inspectors of election of the several precincts  
6 shall be carefully preserved and may be destroyed after the  
7 expiration of 2 years following the primary or election at which  
8 the same were used. **ALL APPLICATIONS EXECUTED UNDER SECTION 523 AND**  
9 **ALL ABSENT VOTERS' APPLICATIONS SHALL BE CAREFULLY PRESERVED AND**  
10 **MAY BE DESTROYED AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF 6 YEARS FOLLOWING THE**  
11 **PRIMARY OR ELECTION AT WHICH THOSE APPLICATIONS WERE EXECUTED.** All  
12 ballots used at any primary or election may be destroyed after ~~7~~**30**  
13 days following the final determination of the board of canvassers  
14 with respect to ~~such~~**THE** primary or election unless a petition for  
15 recount has been filed and not completed or unless their  
16 destruction is stayed by an order of a court.

17           Sec. 847. The secretary of state may authorize the release of  
18 all ballots, ballot boxes, voting machines, and equipment after ~~10~~  
19 **30** days following certification of an election by the board of  
20 state canvassers in a precinct other than a precinct in which 1 or  
21 more of the following occur:

22           (a) A petition for recount has been filed with the board of  
23 state canvassers.

24           (b) A petition has been filed pursuant to section 879.

25           (c) A court of competent jurisdiction has issued an order  
26 restraining interference with ballots, ballot boxes, voting  
27 machines, and equipment.

1           Sec. 931. (1) A person who violates 1 or more of the following  
2 subdivisions is guilty of a misdemeanor:

3           (a) A person shall not, either directly or indirectly, give,  
4 lend, or promise valuable consideration ~~to~~ or for any person ~~as~~  
5 an inducement to influence the manner of voting by a person  
6 relative to a candidate or ballot question ~~or~~ as a reward for  
7 refraining from voting.

8           (b) A person shall not, either before, on, or after an  
9 election, for the person's own benefit or on behalf of any other  
10 person, receive, agree, or contract for valuable consideration for  
11 1 or more of the following:

12           (i) Voting or agreeing to vote, or inducing or attempting to  
13 induce another to vote, at an election.

14           (ii) Refraining or agreeing to refrain, or inducing or  
15 attempting to induce another to refrain, from voting at an  
16 election.

17           (iii) Doing anything prohibited by this act.

18           (iv) Both distributing absent voter ballot applications to  
19 voters and receiving signed applications from voters for delivery  
20 to the appropriate clerk or assistant of the clerk. This  
21 subparagraph does not apply to an authorized election official.

22           (c) A person shall not solicit any valuable consideration from  
23 a candidate for nomination for, or election to, an office described  
24 in this act. This subdivision does not apply to requests for  
25 contributions of money by or to an authorized representative of the  
26 political party committee of the organization to which the  
27 candidate belongs. This subdivision does not apply to a regular

1 business transaction between a candidate and any other person that  
2 is not intended for, or connected with, the securing of votes or  
3 the influencing of voters in connection with the nomination or  
4 election.

5 (d) A person shall not, either directly or indirectly,  
6 discharge or threaten to discharge an employee of the person for  
7 the purpose of influencing the employee's vote at an election.

8 (e) A priest, pastor, curate, or other officer of a religious  
9 society shall not, for the purpose of influencing a voter at an  
10 election, impose or threaten to impose upon the voter a penalty of  
11 excommunication, dismissal, or expulsion ~~or~~ command or advise the  
12 voter ~~under~~ pain of religious disapproval.

13 (f) A person shall not hire a motor vehicle or other  
14 conveyance or cause the same to be done, for conveying voters,  
15 other than voters physically unable to walk, to an election.

16 (g) In a city, township, village, or school district that has  
17 a board of election commissioners authorized to appoint **ELECTION**  
18 inspectors, ~~of election,~~ an **ELECTION** inspector, ~~of election,~~ a  
19 clerk, or other election official who accepts an appointment as an  
20 **ELECTION** inspector ~~of election~~ shall not fail to report at the  
21 polling place designated on election morning at the time specified  
22 by the board of election commissioners, unless excused as provided  
23 in this subdivision. A person who violates this subdivision is  
24 guilty of a misdemeanor ~~or~~ punishable by a fine of not more than  
25 \$10.00 or imprisonment for not more than 10 days, or both. An  
26 **ELECTION** inspector, ~~of election,~~ clerk, or other election official  
27 who accepts an appointment as an **ELECTION** inspector ~~of election~~ is

1 excused for failing to report at the polling place on election day  
2 and is not subject to a fine or imprisonment under this subdivision  
3 if 1 or more of the following requirements are met:

4 (i) The **ELECTION** inspector, ~~of election,~~ clerk, or other  
5 election official notifies the board of election commissioners or  
6 other officers in charge of elections of his or her inability to  
7 serve at the time and place specified, 3 days or more before the  
8 election.

9 (ii) The **ELECTION** inspector, ~~of election,~~ clerk, or other  
10 election official is excused from duty by the board of election  
11 commissioners or other officers in charge of elections for cause  
12 shown.

13 (h) A person shall not willfully fail to perform a duty  
14 imposed upon that person by this act ~~,~~ or disobey a lawful  
15 instruction or order of the secretary of state as chief state  
16 election officer or of a board of county election commissioners,  
17 board of city election commissioners, or board of **ELECTION**  
18 inspectors. ~~of election.~~

19 (i) A delegate or member of a convention shall not solicit a  
20 candidate for nomination before the convention for money, reward,  
21 position, place, preferment, or other valuable consideration in  
22 return for support by the delegate or member in the convention. A  
23 candidate or other person shall not promise or give to a delegate  
24 money, reward, position, place, preferment, or other valuable  
25 consideration in return for support by or vote of the delegate in  
26 the convention.

27 (j) A person elected to the office of delegate to a convention

1 shall not accept or receive any money or other valuable  
2 consideration for his or her vote as a delegate.

3 (k) A person shall not, while the polls are open on an  
4 election day, solicit votes in a polling place or within 100 feet  
5 from an entrance to the building in which a polling place is  
6 located.

7 (l) A person shall not keep a room or building for the purpose,  
8 in whole or in part, of recording or registering bets or wagers ~~τ~~  
9 or of selling pools upon the result of a political nomination,  
10 appointment, or election. A person shall not wager property, money,  
11 or thing of value, or be the custodian of money, property, or thing  
12 of value ~~τ~~—staked, wagered, or pledged, upon the result of a  
13 political nomination, appointment, or election.

14 (m) A person shall not participate in a meeting or a portion  
15 of a meeting of more than 2 persons, other than the person's  
16 immediate family, at which an absent voter ballot is voted.

17 (n) A person, other than an authorized election official,  
18 shall not, either directly or indirectly, give, lend, or promise  
19 any valuable consideration to or for a person to induce that person  
20 to both distribute absent voter ballot applications to voters and  
21 receive signed absent voter ballot applications from voters for  
22 delivery to the appropriate clerk.

23 **(O) A PERSON SHALL NOT THREATEN OR INTIMIDATE AN ELECTOR WHILE**  
24 **THE ELECTOR IS ENTERING A POLLING PLACE, APPLYING TO VOTE, ENTERING**  
25 **A VOTING COMPARTMENT, VOTING, OR LEAVING A POLLING PLACE.**

26 **(P) A PERSON SHALL NOT PROVIDE MISINFORMATION REGARDING AN**  
27 **ELECTION TO AN ELECTOR.**

1           (2) A person who violates a provision of this act for which a  
2 penalty is not otherwise specifically provided in this act ~~is~~  
3 guilty of a misdemeanor.

4           (3) A person or a person's agent who knowingly makes,  
5 publishes, disseminates, circulates, or places before the public,  
6 or knowingly causes directly or indirectly to be made, published,  
7 disseminated, circulated, or placed before the public, in this  
8 state, either orally or in writing, an assertion, representation,  
9 or statement of fact concerning a candidate for public office at an  
10 election in this state, that is false, deceptive, scurrilous, or  
11 malicious, without the true name of the author being subscribed to  
12 the assertion, representation, or statement if written, or  
13 announced if unwritten, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

14           (4) As used in this section, "valuable consideration"  
15 includes, but is not limited to, money, property, a gift, a prize  
16 or chance for a prize, a fee, a loan, an office, a position, an  
17 appointment, or employment.

18           Sec. 942. An offense under this act ~~other than fraudulent~~  
19 ~~registration~~ shall not be prosecuted unless the prosecution is  
20 commenced within ~~2 years after the date of the registration,~~  
21 ~~primary, or election in connection with which the offense is~~  
22 ~~alleged to have been committed. Fraudulent registration under this~~  
23 ~~act shall not be prosecuted unless the prosecution is commenced~~  
24 ~~within~~ 3 years after the time the offense is discovered. The  
25 complaining witness or any other person who is called to testify in  
26 behalf of the people in a proceeding under this section shall not  
27 be liable to criminal prosecution under this act for an offense in

1 respect to which he or she is examined or to which his or her  
2 testimony relates, except to prosecution for perjury committed in  
3 the testimony.