

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FEBRUARY 10, 2024

SB 189 Text portions of ballots shall be counted for vote tabulation

The text portion of the paper ballot marked and printed by the electronic ballot marker indicating the elector's selection shall constitute the official ballot and shall constitute the official vote for purposes of vote tabulation, any recount conducted pursuant to 21-2-495, and any audit conducted pursuant to 21-2-498. The official tabulation count of any ballot scanner shall be based upon the text portion or the machine mark, provided that such mark clearly denotes the elector's selection and does not use a QR code, bar code, or similar coding, of such ballots and not any machine coding that may be printed on such ballots."

PASSED SENATE 02/06/24

House Second Readers 02/08/24

SB 355 Prohibit the Use of Ranked-Choice Voting

Ranked-choice voting shall not be used in determining the election or nomination of any candidate to any local, state , or federal office.

This Code section shall not apply to electors who are entitled to vote absentee ballot under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act..

PASSED SENATE 01/26/2024

House Second Readers 01/30/24

SB 358 Remove the Secretary of State from the State Election Board

"With the approval of the board, (the executive director may) employ and fix the compensation of personnel, including investigators, as determined necessary to assist the executive director in his or her duties."

Add to the SEB duties the investigation of the administration of primary and election laws by the Secretary of State and local election officials.

PASSED SENATE 01/26/2024

House Second Readers 01/30/2024

SB 332 Prosecuting Attorneys Qualifications Commission; promulgate standards of conduct and rules for the commission's governance

Remove the wording that requires that the standards and rules shall be effective only upon review and adoption by the Supreme Court.

PASSED SENATE 02/06/2024 (Judiciary)

House Second Readers 02/08/2024 (Judiciary Non-Civil)

HB 974 SOS make scanned ballot images available to the public

Scanned images created by the voting system shall have a resolution of no less than 200 dpi. Scanned ballot images shall be maintained for no less than 24 months.

"(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, including, but not limited to, the certification requirement in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 21-2-300, all absentee ballots tabulated pursuant to this Code section shall be scanned so that there is a digital image of each such ballot. All such scans shall have a resolution of no less than 600 dots per inch, or the highest resolution possible within the certified voting system. All such scans shall be posted and maintained by the program provided for in subsection (j.1) of Code Section 21-2-493."

Committee Favorably Reported 02/09/2024

HB 976 Ballots Used in Optical Scan Voting Systems shall use paper with a visible watermark security feature

PASSED HOUSE (167 Y/ 1 N) 01/31/2024

Senate Read and Referred 02/01/2024

NEW BILLS

SB 446 Revise period of Advanced Voting

Decrease the number of weekday advanced voting from 15 to 10 days, starting from the third Thursday before the primary or election and ending the Wednesday prior to the election.

Senate Read and Referred 02/06/2024

HB 1118 Increase penalty for use of violence to interfere with duties of poll or election workers or prevent electors from voting

provided, however, that a person who is convicted shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not less than five nor more than 20 years or to pay a fine not to exceed \$100,000.00, or both."

House Second Readers 02/07/2024

HB 1159 Elections; certain persons disqualified from holding office pursuant to operation of the United States Constitution shall not be nominated or elected to office; provide

House Second Readers 02/08/2024

HB 1039 Political committees shall require disclosures on content or postings made by social media personalities that are paid for by such candidate or committee; provide

Committee Favorably Reported 02/09/2024