

HOUSE BILL 350
(REPRESENTATIVE LARRY WOLPERT)
EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

Directives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes two types of directives that can be issued by the SOS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Temporary: Effective only during the period of 90 days prior to an election and 40 days after the election. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temporary directives can <i>only</i> be issued and are <i>only</i> effective during this time period. ▪ Temporary directives cannot become permanent directives unless a) the situation is likely to recur and b) the temporary directive must be re-introduced as a permanent directive. ○ Permanent: Cannot be issued during the time period in place for temporary directives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The SOS must provide “reasonable notice” of the issuance of the directive and allow for public review of all permanent directives for an undetermined amount of time.
High School Precinct Officers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In any precinct with six or more precinct officers, up to two high school students (under age 18) may serve as precinct officers.
Bi-Partisan Transport of Ballots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The presiding judge <i>and</i> an employee or appointee of the board of elections (of the opposing political party) shall deliver to the board of elections the ballots, poll book, poll list, tally sheets etc. <i>Note:</i> there is no provision in the bill that requires they ride together in same vehicle.
Late Return of Absentee Ballots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any ballot received within ten days after Election Day shall be counted toward the final tally if that ballot has a postmark with a date <i>prior</i> to Election Day. • This provision includes military absent voter’s ballots.
Ballot Envelope Size Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removes outdated specific size requirements for return envelopes and replaces with language stating the return envelope must be of such size that the ID envelope can be “conveniently” placed within it. Also removes requirement that election mail be printed in red ink.
B.V.M.E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes the makeup of the Board of Voting Machine Examiners (5 Members): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SOS remains chair of BVME and retains tie- breaking authority. ○ Two members appointed by SOS. ○ One member each appointed by the two leaders of the opposite party to the SOS. • Each member of the board shall be a “competent and experienced election officer or a person who is knowledgeable about the operation of voting equipment”.
Voting Machine Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any voting machine certified after Dec. 1, 2008 shall have received the most recent federal certification number issued by the EAC. • Any voting equipment certified for use in Ohio as of Dec. 1, 2008 must meet the 2002 voting system standards adopted by the FEC. • A county wishing to acquire additional voting equipment after Dec. 1, 2008 shall not be considered to have acquired new machines if the following applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new voting equipment is identical to the equipment currently being used. ○ The new voting equipment does not replace or change the primary voting system used in that county. ○ The acquisition of new voting equipment is for replacement purposes or to meet machine allocation requirements.
Special Election Precinct Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If, at a special election, only a portion of a precinct is included within the boundaries of an election district the board of elections may assign that partial precinct to another precinct within the same election district for that special election. • These partial precincts can be assigned to a different precinct in an adjoining county if the number of voters to be reassigned is two hundred or less.