

**CHAPTER 187****( HB 622 )**

AN ACT relating to elections and declaring an emergency.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 118.720 is amended to read as follows:

When an election is to be held to fill a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress, *or in the office of United States Senator*, a proclamation therefor, in lieu of a writ of election, shall be issued and signed by the Governor and shall be directed to the proper sheriffs. The proclamation shall be published by the sheriffs as required by KRS 118.750. *The candidate who is certified as the winner of the special election shall hold the position of the office of which he or she has been elected for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

➔Section 2. KRS 118.740 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) A copy of a proclamation issued under KRS 118.710 or 118.720, or a writ of election issued under KRS~~{ 63.200,}~~ 67C.103, 118.730, 120.205, or 120.215 shall be forwarded by mail to the sheriff of each county in the district in which the election is to be held, at least fifty-six (56) days before the election. The sheriff of each county in which an election is to be held shall give notice at least forty-nine (49) days before the day of election. If, from any cause, the sheriff cannot properly act, he or she shall immediately hand the writ or proclamation to the person authorized to act in his or her place.
- (2) If a special election is administered under KRS 118.730(2), the notice required by subsection (1) of this section shall include the location of the election.

➔Section 3. KRS 118.770 is amended to read as follows:

When a writ of election or proclamation is issued to fill a vacancy as prescribed in KRS~~{ 63.200,}~~ 118.710, 118.720, or 118.730, independent, or political organization, or political group petitions and certificates of nomination shall be filed at least forty-nine (49) days before the day of election, and if filed with the Secretary of State shall be immediately certified by him or her to the proper county clerks~~{, except as may be provided under KRS 63.200}~~.

➔Section 4. The following KRS section is repealed:

63.200 United States Senator -- Procedures for filling of vacancy.

➔Section 5. Whereas it is critically important to safeguard the fundamental right to vote, and it is a reasonable legislative task to ensure the citizens of the Commonwealth can elect their United States Senator in the event of a vacancy, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage and approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

**Veto Overridden April 12, 2024.**