

HOUSE BILL 1662

By Griffey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2,
relative to elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 9, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) This section applies to the 2022 elections and all elections thereafter.

(b) Beginning with the 2022 election cycle and notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a county election commission shall not use voting machines or ballot marking devices. Each county election commission shall use hand-marked paper ballots, which must be counted using an optical ballot scanner.

(c) A county election commission shall not select an optical scan ballot scanner that uses proprietary software. The software must be open to public inspection before and after the election.

(d) If a county election commission cannot acquire the necessary equipment to implement this section before the 2022 elections, the county election commission may request the secretary of state for an extension to 2024 for compliance.

(e) This state shall share in at least fifty percent (50%) of the cost of a county election commission complying with this section, subject to appropriations.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-104, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

() Poll watchers may take video of the proceedings at the polling place.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-5-207, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

() The coordinator of elections shall prescribe security features that must be used on paper ballots. The security features may include watermarks, fluorescence, digital holograms, or any other technology that ensures the ballots cannot be duplicated. The coordinator of elections may change the ballot security features from election to election.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 2-7-113, is amended by deleting the section.

SECTION 5. Section 4 of this act takes effect January 1, 2024, the public welfare requiring it. The remaining sections of this act take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.