



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Fifth Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1571

ballot drop boxes; surveillance; appropriation

Purpose

Prohibits voted early ballots from being returned by mail. Outlines requirements for ballot drop-boxes, including: 1) acceptance of ballots and ballot batches; 2) generating receipts; 3) cameras or recording systems; and 4) preventing the ballot box from accepting ballots if the camera or recording system is malfunctioning. Appropriates \$_____ from the state General Fund (state GF) in FY 2022 to the Secretary of State (SOS).

Background

Counties or municipalities that establish drop-boxes must develop and implement security procedures. Ballot drop-boxes must be located in a secure location approved by the county board of supervisors and an unstaffed outdoor drop-box must be securely fastened in a manner to prevent moving or tampering. An unstaffed indoor drop-box must be secured in a manner that will prevent unauthorized removal. All drop-boxes must be clearly marked as an official ballot drop-box and secured by a lock or sealable with a tamper-evident seal. Only an election official or designated ballot retriever may have access to the keys to remove the deposited ballots ([E.P.M. Ch. 2 \(1\)\(D\)\(1;3\)](#)).

S.B. 1571 appropriates \$_____ from the state GF in FY 2022 to the SOS.

Provisions

1. Prohibits voted early ballots from being mailed to a county recorder or other officer in charge of elections and requires early ballots to be returned by hand.
2. Requires a ballot drop-box used to receive voted early ballots to:
 - a) accept only one ballot at a time;
 - b) accept no more than seven ballots in a single batch from one person;
 - c) log the receipt of each ballot;
 - d) generate a paper receipt that specifies the number of ballots accepted by the ballot drop-box from a person;
 - e) include a functioning camera or video recorder that photographs or video records each person who deposits early ballots;
 - f) link the photographs or video records to the ballots deposited by a person;
 - g) retain images of a person depositing early ballots and a copy of the issued receipt as an official election record; and
 - h) prevent the ballot drop-box from accepting ballots if the camera or video recorder stops operating until the camera or video recorder operates normally again.

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3. Appropriates \$_____ from the state GF in FY 2022 to the SOS to procure, install, operate and maintain 24-hour per-day photo and video surveillance for each ballot drop-box in Arizona.
4. Exempts the appropriation from lapsing.
5. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 9, 2022

MH/HW/slp