

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1648

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE NASHEED.

5581L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to voter centers.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 115.116, to read as follows:

2 **115.116. 1. As used in this section, "voter center" means a temporary voting**
3 **location open only on election days in which a person can cast a ballot for any federal or**
4 **statewide office or a municipal office without appearing at such person's precinct voting**
5 **location.**

6 **2. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the board of election**
7 **commissioners for any city not within a county or any home rule city with more than four**
8 **hundred thousand inhabitants and located in more than one county may establish and run**
9 **voter centers in addition to voter precincts on any primary, special, or general election day**
10 **on which any citywide or statewide office, presidential primary, or special election is on the**
11 **ballot. Voter centers shall not be authorized for any local district or political subdivision**
12 **elections except for municipal elections. The number and location of voter centers may be**
13 **determined by the board, which shall make a good faith effort to distribute such centers**
14 **in an optimal manner throughout the city based on considerations such as geographic**
15 **diversity, population density, and economic efficiency. The board may choose to allocate**
16 **existing staff and resources to the voter centers in lieu of providing such support to**
17 **individual precincts. The board may make use of facilities offered free of charge, such as**
businesses, churches, or community centers, to serve as the venue for voting centers.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **3. Voting centers shall allow only for in-person voting on election day, and may**
19 **make use of regular or provisional ballots for such in-person voting. Voting centers shall**
20 **not accept absentee ballots if such ballots are cast before the election day. Election**
21 **authorities shall make any necessary ballots available at the voter center and shall follow**
22 **all rules regarding the storage and counting of ballots, including the use of provisional**
23 **ballots. Voting centers shall be subject to all regulations governing elections in this**
24 **chapter.**

25 **4. The secretary of state shall offer advice and assistance to any board establishing**
26 **voter centers by establishing nonmandatory criteria that facilitate the operation of the**
27 **voter centers. Such criteria may include a recommendation on the distribution of existing**
28 **staff and resources to voter centers and recommending optimal venues for voting centers.**

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