

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 SENATE BILL 525

By: Boren

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to conduct of elections; amending 26
8 O.S. 2011, Section 7-130, which relates to commission
9 of watchers; requiring secretary of county election
10 board to provide list of commissioned watchers to
11 state party chairs; clarifying statutory language;
12 and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2011, Section 7-130, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 7-130. Any candidate or any recognized political party
17 shall be entitled to have a watcher present at any place where an
18 official count is being conducted. ~~Such~~ The watcher ~~must~~ shall be
19 commissioned in writing by the candidate, or by the chair of the
20 recognized political party of the county in which the watcher is
21 being authorized. ~~Such~~ The commission ~~must~~ shall be filed with the
22 secretary of the appropriate county election board no later than
23 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday preceding the election. The secretary of the
24 county election board shall provide a list of all commissioned poll
watchers to the state chair of all recognized political parties

1 prior to the election. Watchers must subscribe to an oath to
2 observe all laws and rules prescribed for watchers as ~~hereinafter~~
3 provided in this section. ~~Such~~ The oath ~~must~~ shall be administered
4 by the inspector of the precinct in which the watcher is authorized.
5 Watchers shall be entitled to observe the voting device both before
6 the polls are opened and after the polls are closed; provided,
7 ~~further, that such~~ watchers shall not be present at the polling
8 place at other times. Watchers may be commissioned to observe
9 voting device testing and to accompany personnel assigned to repair
10 or maintain machines during the period of the election. ~~In such~~
11 ~~case, the watchers~~ but shall be limited to observing the repair or
12 maintenance work being performed and making a written record of such
13 work. Any watcher who violates the law prescribed for watchers
14 shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

15 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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