

1 advanced voting methods have the potential to:

2 (1) Expand the range of choices available to voters by allowing them to vote for
3 candidates of minor political parties or unaffiliated candidates without fear of giving an
4 advantage to the candidate they least prefer;

5 (2) Reduce both election administration costs and campaign expenditures by combining
6 primary and general elections; and

7 (3) Promote campaigns that are more positive and focused on issues because candidates
8 will seek to appeal to opponents' supporters as a second choice.

9 **17-29-3. Voter choice study commission - established - definitions.** -- (a) The voter
10 choice study commission is hereby established for the purpose of studying instant runoff voting
11 and other advanced voting methods.

12 (b) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, "Advanced voting
13 method" means a voting method that allows an elector to indicate a preference for more than one
14 candidate in an election and that determines the winner of the election by majority vote.
15 "Advanced voting method" includes, but is not limited to, instant runoff voting, approval voting,
16 range voting, and proportional voting.

17 (c) The voter choice study commission shall consist of thirteen (13) members selected as
18 follows:

19 (1) Seven (7) members to be appointed by the speaker of the house, no more than five (5)
20 of whom shall be from the same political party, and at least three (3) of whom shall be the clerk
21 of a city or town of this state;

22 (2) Six (6) members to be appointed by the president of the senate, no more than four (4)
23 of whom shall be from the same political party, at least two (2) of whom shall be the clerk of a
24 city or town of this state; and

25 (3) Provided, that all members of the study commission shall be registered voters of this
26 state at the time of their selection and at all times while they remain on said study group.

27 (d) Members of the voter choice study group shall be appointed no later than August 1,
28 2011.

29 (e) The voter choice study commission shall:

30 (1) Study advanced voting methods;

31 (2) Analyze the requirements for implementing advanced voting methods, including
32 public education, voting equipment and technology, ballot designs, the costs of conducting the
33 pilot project established by this chapter and using advanced voting methods in elections for state
34 and federal offices, and savings due to the elimination of primary elections;

- 1 (3) Determine the level of public support for a change in voting methods;
- 2 (4) Review the experience of other states in conducting elections using advanced voting
3 methods;
- 4 (5) Recommend statutory changes to implement advanced voting methods in elections for
5 state and federal offices to be held in the state in 2014;
- 6 (6) Make recommendations on making all voting systems used in the state compatible
7 with advanced voting methods by 2014, including a review of the availability and costs of
8 necessary voting equipment;
- 9 (7) Make recommendations to the governing bodies and designated election officials of
10 political subdivisions of the state on preparing to conduct an election using an advanced voting
11 methods; and
- 12 (8) Consider changes to the state's statutes governing access to the ballot for presidential
13 candidates.
- 14 (f) The voter choice study commission shall present a report on its work to the general
15 assembly, the governor, and the secretary of state no later than January 4, 2012.
- 16 (g) The director of research of the legislative council and the director of the office of
17 legislative legal services shall provide staff assistance to the voter choice study commission.
- 18 (h) The members of the voter choice study commission shall serve without compensation;
19 except that the members shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance
20 of their duties.

21 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC02600/SUB A
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO ELECTIONS

1 This act would establish a study commission to explore the possible use of advanced
2 voting methods for electing persons in this state. The act would define several forms of advanced
3 voting methods, which essentially use non-traditional forms of voting that seek to produce the
4 winner of an election by majority vote.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC02600/SUB A
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