

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0245

Pen and paper ballots.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Knapp, Brown, G, Haroldson  
and Locke and Senator(s) McKeown

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to elections; requiring counties to use pen  
2 and paper as the default method to mark ballots for  
3 elections in Wyoming; providing an exception; making  
4 conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

5

6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

7

8 **Section 1.** W.S. 22-13-119 is created to read:

9

10 **22-13-119. Paper ballots required; exceptions.**

11

12 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each  
13 county shall provide paper ballots and pens as the default  
14 method to mark ballots for all in-person voting in all  
15 elections in Wyoming. The county clerk shall provide all

1 voters with a paper ballot and a pen to mark the ballot  
2 secretly as provided in this Election Code.

3

4 (b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not prohibit  
5 any county clerk from providing electronic ballot marking  
6 devices for use by persons with disabilities. Electronic  
7 ballot marking devices shall comply with all federal  
8 accessibility requirements and shall conform with the  
9 requirements of this Election Code for voting machines and  
10 electronic voting systems. Nothing in this subsection shall  
11 authorize any county to use electronic ballot marking  
12 devices as the default method of marking ballots in the  
13 county.

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15 (c) As used in this section:

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17 (i) "Disability" has the meaning stated in the  
18 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the  
19 Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008;

20

21 (ii) "Electronic ballot marking device" means  
22 any electronic device that assists voters in marking  
23 ballots, including, without limitation, any voting machine

1 that uses a touch screen to produce a marked paper ballot  
2 or ballot card.

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4 **Section 2.** W.S. 22-10-102, 22-11-102, 22-21-109 and  
5 22-22-203(b) are amended to read:

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7 **22-10-102. Selection by county commissioners.**

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9 Subject to the limitations of W.S. 22-13-119, the board of  
10 county commissioners may adopt for use in any precinct in  
11 the county a type of voting machine meeting the standards  
12 specified in W.S. 22-10-101.

13

14 **22-11-102. Use authorized; purchase or lease.**

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16 Subject to the limitations of W.S. 22-13-119, the board of  
17 county commissioners of each county may adopt for use,  
18 either experimentally or permanently, in any election in  
19 any or all polling places within the county, any electronic  
20 voting system authorized by law.

21

22 **22-21-109. Supplies; regulations; costs.**

23

1 Subject to the limitations of W.S. 22-13-119, the county  
2 clerk may utilize voting machines or electronic voting  
3 systems at any bond election and may prescribe the form of  
4 the ballot, the duties of election officials, and other  
5 reasonable regulations pertaining thereto. The political  
6 subdivision holding the bond election shall pay the actual  
7 costs of the election or an equitably proportioned share of  
8 a concurrent election, as determined by the county clerk.

9

10 **22-22-203. Determining validity of application;**  
11 **placement on ballot; procedure for multi-county districts.**

12

13 (b) Subject to the limitations of W.S. 22-13-119,  
14 each county clerk in each election involving a school or  
15 community college district which crosses county boundaries  
16 shall determine whether voting machines, electronic voting  
17 system, paper ballots, or a combination thereof, shall be  
18 used to ~~insure~~ensure that each qualified elector votes  
19 only for the candidate or candidates from the school  
20 district and trustee residence area, if any, and from the  
21 community college district and subdistrict, if any, for  
22 which he is entitled to vote.

23

1           **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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(END)