

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-fourth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 04-0687.01 John Hershey

SENATE BILL 04-153

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Johnson S., and Reeves

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

McCluskey, Lundberg, Paccione, and Witwer

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Senate Committees

State Veterans & Military Affairs

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING COMBINING POLLING PLACES, AND, IN CONNECTION  
102 THEREWITH, AUTHORIZING DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIALS  
103 TO ESTABLISH VOTE CENTERS WHERE ANY ELECTOR  
104 REGISTERED IN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION MAY VOTE.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Authorizes a designated election official to establish one or more vote centers for any election. Defines "vote center" as a polling place at which any registered elector in the political subdivision holding the election may vote, regardless of the precinct in which the elector resides. States that precinct polling places shall not be used in any election for

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

which vote centers have been established.

Allows a designated election official to combine polling places or precincts in any election. Eliminates the requirement that a county clerk and recorder get the approval of the board of county commissioners to combine precincts for a primary or special legislative election.

Makes conforming amendments.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** 1-1-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
3 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

4 **1-1-104. Definitions.** As used in this code, unless the context  
5 otherwise requires:

6 (49.7) "VOTE CENTER" MEANS A POLLING PLACE AT WHICH ANY  
7 REGISTERED ELECTOR IN THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISION HOLDING THE  
8 ELECTION MAY VOTE, REGARDLESS OF THE PRECINCT IN WHICH THE  
9 ELECTOR RESIDES.

10 **SECTION 2. Repeal.** 1-5-101 (4), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
11 is repealed as follows:

12 **1-5-101. Establishing precincts and polling places for partisan**  
13 **elections.** ~~(4) Notwithstanding any other requirement under this section,~~  
14 ~~subject to approval by the board of county commissioners, county clerk~~  
15 ~~and recorders may combine precincts for any primary election or special~~  
16 ~~legislative election. If a county chooses to combine precincts, the county~~  
17 ~~shall publish polling place locations as provided in section 1-5-205.~~

18 **SECTION 3. Repeal.** 1-5-102.5 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes,  
19 is repealed as follows:

20 **1-5-102.5. Establishing polling places for coordinated elections.**  
21 ~~(2) For coordinated elections, the county clerk and recorder may~~  
22 ~~combine precincts and polling places.~~

1           **SECTION 4.** Part 1 of article 5 of title 1, Colorado Revised  
2 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to  
3 read:

4           **1-5-102.7. Combining precincts and polling places - vote**  
5 **centers.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SECTION 1-5-101,  
6 1-5-102, OR 1-5-102.5, A DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL MAY COMBINE  
7 POLLING PLACES OR PRECINCTS OR ESTABLISH ONE OR MORE VOTE  
8 CENTERS FOR ANY ELECTION. A DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL WHO  
9 COMBINES POLLING PLACES OR PRECINCTS OR ESTABLISHES A VOTE  
10 CENTER SHALL PUBLISH THE LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES PURSUANT TO  
11 SECTION 1-5-205.

12           (2) IF VOTE CENTERS ARE USED IN AN ELECTION IN A POLITICAL  
13 SUBDIVISION, PRECINCT POLLING PLACES SHALL NOT BE USED IN THE  
14 ELECTION IN THAT POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

15           (3) IF VOTE CENTERS ARE USED IN A GENERAL ELECTION IN A  
16 COUNTY WITH A POPULATION OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND OR MORE  
17 ACTIVE REGISTERED ELECTORS, THERE SHALL BE AT LEAST ONE VOTE  
18 CENTER FOR EVERY TEN THOUSAND ACTIVE REGISTERED ELECTORS;  
19 EXCEPT THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY WAIVE THIS REQUIREMENT  
20 FOR A COUNTY BEFORE THE ELECTION AT THE REQUEST OF THE COUNTY  
21 CLERK AND RECORDER.

22           **SECTION 5.** 1-6-111 (6), Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
23 to read:

24           **1-6-111. Number of election judges.** (6) For any election in  
25 which ~~the precincts and~~ polling places OR PRECINCTS are combined OR  
26 VOTE CENTERS ARE ESTABLISHED in accordance with ~~section 1-5-102.5~~  
27 SECTION 1-5-102.7, the county clerk and recorder or the designated

1 election official may assign one set of election judges to perform the  
2 functions of FOR all precincts and polling places so combined OR FOR  
3 EACH VOTE CENTER.

4 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.