

S.F. No. 1507 – Prohibiting acts of election-related interference and intimidation

Author: Senator Nicole L. Mitchell

Prepared by: Alexis C. Stangl, Director (651/296-4397)

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Section 1 [Investigate offenses against provisions of certain designated sections; assist in enforcement] requires the attorney general to assist in the enforcement of **section 2**, which regulates intimidation and interference related to election officials performing official duties. This section is effective July 1, 2023.

Section 2 [Election judges; violations; penalties] allows a county auditor or municipal clerk to remove a precinct election official for neglect, malfeasance, misconduct, or other cause.

Section 3 [Prohibited connections] prohibits a county auditor or municipal clerk from creating or disclosing an electronic image of the hard drive of an electronic voting system.

Section 4 [Intimidation and interference related to the performance of duties by an election official; penalties] prohibits various acts that would interfere with the performance of election duties.

Subd. 1 [Definition] defines election official to include a variety of people who serve in official roles relating to an election.

Subd. 2 [Intimidation] prohibits a person from using or threatening to use force, coercion, violence, or other intimidating behaviors against another person with the intent to influence an election official in performing the official's duties.

Subd. 3 [Interfering with or hindering the administration of an election] prohibits a person from hindering or interfering with an election official performing the official's duties.

Subd. 4 [Dissemination of personal information about an election official] prohibits a person from making publicly available personal information about an election official or the official's family if the dissemination poses a threat to the official's safety or the safety of the official's family.

Subd. 5 [Obstructing access] prohibits a person from intentionally and physically obstructing an election official's access to a place where the official performs a duty.

Subd. 6 [Tampering with voting equipment] prohibits a person from accessing or tampering with an electronic voting system. A person is prohibited from publishing passwords or other confidential information relating to an electronic voting system. If a person publishes such information, the person's access must be immediately revoked.

Subd. 7 [Tampering with ballot box] prohibits a person from tampering with a ballot box.

Subd. 8 [Tampering with statewide voter registration system, registration lists, or polling place rosters] prohibits a person from mutilating or erasing information on a voter registration list or polling place roster.

Subd. 9 [Unauthorized access to statewide voter registration system] prohibits a person from accessing the statewide voter registration system except where authorized to do so by law.

Subd. 10 [Vicarious liability; conspiracy] allows a person to be held vicariously liable for damage resulting from violations of this section and to be identified in a restraining order if the person aids another person to violate this section or conspires with another to violate this section.

Subd. 11 [Criminal penalties; civil remedies] provides that a person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor unless otherwise provided. The attorney general, county attorney, or election official may bring a civil action to prevent or restrain a violation of this section or to recover damages.

Section 5 [Administrative remedy; exhaustion] provides that violations of **section 4** are enforced as provided in that section and not by the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Section 6 [Appropriation] makes a blank appropriation from the general fund to the attorney general to enforce **section 4**.