

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2017 and 2018 HB4854

by Rep. Joe Sosnowski

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/11-2	from Ch. 46, par. 11-2
10 ILCS 5/11-3	from Ch. 46, par. 11-3
10 ILCS 5/11-5	from Ch. 46, par. 11-5
10 ILCS 5/13-1	from Ch. 46, par. 13-1
10 ILCS 5/13-2	from Ch. 46, par. 13-2
10 ILCS 5/14-1	from Ch. 46, par. 14-1

Amends the Election Code. Provides that each election precinct shall contain 1,500 voters (now, 500 voters in counties, 600 voters in a municipality with a board of election commissioners and fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, or 400 voters in a municipality with a board of election commissioners and more than 500,000 inhabitants). Provides that, in a city with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, if any election precinct casts more than 1,500 votes (now, 800 votes) at 2 consecutive general elections, the state's attorney shall apply to the Circuit Court to compel the board to divide the precinct. Provides that, in a city with more than 500,000 inhabitants, if any election precinct casts more than 1,500 votes (now, 600 votes) at 2 consecutive general elections, the state's attorney shall apply to the Circuit Court to compel the board to divide the precinct. In provisions concerning the appointment of judges of election, provides that a county board or board of election commissioners may appoint or select, respectively, 3 or 5 judges of election for any general election (currently, 5 judges of election must be appointed or selected). Effective immediately.

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1 AN ACT concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Sections 11-2, 11-3, 11-5, 13-1, 13-2, and 14-1 as follows:
- 6 (10 ILCS 5/11-2) (from Ch. 46, par. 11-2)

Sec. 11-2. The County Board in each county, except in counties having a population of 3,000,000 inhabitants or over, shall, at its regular meeting in June, divide its election precincts which contain more than 1,500 800 voters, into election districts so that each district shall contain, as near as may be practicable, 1,500 500 voters, and not more in any case than 800. Whenever the County Board ascertains that any election precinct contains more than 1,500 600 registered voters, it may divide such precinct, at its regular meeting in June, into election precincts so that each precinct shall contain, as nearly as may be practicable, 1.500 voters. Insofar as is practicable, each precinct shall be situated within a single congressional, legislative and representative district and in not more than one County Board district and one municipal ward. In order to situate each precinct within a single district or ward, the County Board shall change the boundaries of election precincts after each decennial census as

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soon is practicable following the completion congressional and legislative redistricting. In determining whether a division of precincts should be made, the county board may anticipate increased voter registration in any precinct in which there is in progress new construction of dwelling units which will be occupied by voters more than 30 days before the next election. Each district shall be composed of contiquous territory in as compact form as can be for the convenience of the electors voting therein. The several county boards in establishing districts shall describe them by metes and bounds and number them. And so often thereafter as it shall appear by the number of votes cast at the general election held in November of any year, that any election district or undivided election precinct contains more than 1,500 800 voters, the County Board of the county in which the district or precinct may be, shall at its regular meeting in June, or an adjourned meeting in July next, after such November election, redivide or readjust such election district or election precinct, so that no district or election precinct shall contain more than the number of votes above specified. If for any reason the County Board fails in any year to redivide or readjust the election districts or election precinct, then the districts or precincts as then existing shall continue until the next regular June meeting of the County Board; at which regular June meeting or an adjourned meeting in July the County Board shall redivide or readjust the election districts or

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election precincts in manner as herein required. When at any meeting of the County Board any redivision, readjustment or change in name or number of election districts or election precincts is made by the County Board, the County Clerk shall immediately notify the State Board of Elections of such redivision, readjustment or change. The County Board in every case shall fix and establish the places for holding elections in its respective county and all elections shall be held at the places so fixed. The polling places shall in all cases be upon the ground floor in the front room, the entrance to which is in a highway or public street which is at least 40 feet wide, and is as near the center of the voting population of the precinct as is practicable, and for the convenience of the greatest number of electors to vote thereat; provided, however, where the County Board is unable to secure a suitable polling place within the boundaries of a precinct, it may select a polling place at the most conveniently located suitable place outside the precinct; but in no case shall an election be held in any room used or occupied as a saloon, dramshop, bowling alley or as a place of resort for idlers and disreputable persons, billiard hall or in any room connected therewith by doors or hallways. No person shall be permitted to vote at any election except at the polling place for the precinct in which he resides, except as otherwise provided in this Section or Article 19 of this Act. In counties having a population of 3,000,000 inhabitants or over the County Board shall divide its

election precincts and shall fix and establish places for holding elections as hereinbefore provided during the month of January instead of at its regular meeting in June or at an adjourned meeting in July.

However, in the event that additional divisions of election precincts are indicated after a division made by the County Board in the month of January, such additional divisions may be made by the County Board in counties having a population of 3,000,000 inhabitants or over, at the regular meeting in June or at adjourned meeting in July. The county board of such county may divide or readjust precincts at any meeting of the county board when the voter registration in a precinct has increased beyond 1,500 800 and an election is scheduled before the next regular January or June meeting of the county board.

When in any city, village or incorporated town territory has been annexed thereto or disconnected therefrom, which annexation or disconnection becomes effective after election precincts or election districts have been established as above provided in this Section, the clerk of the municipality shall inform the county clerk thereof as provided in Section 4-21, 5-28.1, or 6-31.1, whichever is applicable. In the event that a regular meeting of the County Board is to be held after such notification and before any election, the County Board shall, at its next regular meeting establish new election precinct lines in affected territory. In the event that no regular meeting of the County Board is to be held before such election

the county clerk shall, within 5 days after being so informed, call a special meeting of the county board on a day fixed by him not more than 20 days thereafter for the purpose of establishing election precincts or election districts in the affected territory for the ensuing elections.

At any consolidated primary or consolidated election at which municipal officers are to be elected, and at any emergency referendum at which a public question relating to a municipality is to be voted on, notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, the election authority shall establish a polling place within such municipality, upon the request of the municipal council or board of trustees at least 60 days before the election and provided that the municipality provides a suitable polling place. To accomplish this purpose, the election authority may establish an election precinct constituting a single municipality of under 500 population for all elections, notwithstanding the minimum precinct size otherwise specified herein.

Notwithstanding the above, when there are no more than 50 registered voters in a precinct who are entitled to vote in a local government or school district election, the election authority having jurisdiction over the precinct is authorized to reassign such voters to one or more polling places in adjacent precincts, within or without the election authority's jurisdiction, for that election. For the purposes of such local government or school district election only, the votes of the

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reassigned voters shall be tallied and canvassed as votes from the precinct of the polling place to which such voters have been reassigned. The election authority having jurisdiction over the precinct shall approve all administrative and polling place procedures. Such procedures shall take into account voter convenience, and ensure that the integrity of the election process is maintained and that the secrecy of the ballot is not violated.

Except in the event of a fire, flood or total loss of heat in a place fixed or established by any county board or election authority pursuant to this Section as a polling place for an election, no election authority shall change the location of a polling place so established for any precinct after notice of the place of holding the election for that precinct has been given as required under Article 12 unless the election authority notifies all registered voters in the precinct of the change in location by first class mail in sufficient time for such notice to be received by the registered voters in the precinct at least one day prior to the date of the election.

The provisions of this Section apply to all precincts, including those where voting machines or electronic voting systems are used.

23 (Source: P.A. 86-867.)

- 24 (10 ILCS 5/11-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 11-3)
- Sec. 11-3. It shall be the duty of the Board of

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Commissioners established by Article 6 of this Act, within 2 months after its first organization, to divide the city, village or incorporated town which may adopt or is operating under Article 6, into election precincts, each of which shall be situated within a single congressional, legislative and representative district insofar as is practicable and in not more than one County Board district and one municipal ward; in order to situate each precinct within a single district or ward, the Board of Election Commissioners shall change the boundaries of election precincts after each decennial census as soon as is practicable following the completion of congressional and legislative redistricting and such precincts shall contain as nearly as practicable 1,500 600 qualified voters, and in making such division and establishing such precincts such board shall take as a basis the poll books, or the number of votes cast at the previous presidential election. Within 90 days after each presidential election, such board in a city with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, village or incorporated town shall revise and rearrange such precincts on the basis of the votes cast at such election, making such precincts to contain, as near as practicable, 1,500 600 actual voters; but at any time in all instances where the vote cast at any precinct, at any election, equals 1,500 800, there must be a rearrangement so as to reduce the vote to the standard of 1,500 600 as near as may be. However, any apartment building in which more than 1,500 800 registered voters reside may be made

a single precinct even though the vote in such precinct exceeds 1,500~800. Within 90 days after each presidential election, a board in a city with more than 500,000 inhabitants shall revise and rearrange such precincts on the basis of the votes cast at such election, making such precincts to contain, as near as practicable, 1,500~400 actual voters; but at any time in all instances where the vote cast at any precinct, at any election, equals 600, there must be a rearrangement so as to reduce the vote to the standard of 400 as near as may be. However, any apartment building in which more than 1,500~600 registered voters reside may be made a single precinct even though the vote in such precinct exceeds 1,500~600.

Immediately after the annexation of territory to the city, village or incorporated town becomes effective the Board of Election Commissioners shall revise and rearrange election precincts therein to include such annexed territory.

Provided, however, that at any election where but one candidate is nominated and is to be voted upon at any election held in any political subdivision of a city, village or incorporated town, the Board of Election Commissioners shall have the power in such political subdivision to determine the number of voting precincts to be established in such political subdivision at such election, without reference to the number of qualified voters therein. The precincts in each ward, village or incorporated town shall be numbered from one upwards, consecutively, with no omission.

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- 1 The provisions of this Section apply to all precincts,
- 2 including those where voting machines or electronic voting
- 3 systems are used.
- 4 (Source: P.A. 84-1308.)
- 5 (10 ILCS 5/11-5) (from Ch. 46, par. 11-5)

Sec. 11-5. If any election district or precinct subject to the jurisdiction of a county board or a board of election commissioners in a city with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants, village or incorporated town casts more than 1,500 800 votes each at two consecutive general November elections for State officers, the state's attorney, upon the request of an elector in any such district or precinct, shall apply to the Circuit Court for relief by mandamus to compel the appropriate board to divide such district or precinct as required by law. Any relief so granted shall not apply to any election occurring within 60 days thereafter. If any election precinct subject to the jurisdiction of a board of election commissioners in a city with more than 500,000 inhabitants casts more than 1,500 $\frac{600}{100}$ votes at each of the two consecutive general November elections for State officers, the state's attorney, upon the request of an elector in any such precinct, shall apply to the Circuit Court for relief by mandamus to compel the appropriate board to divide such precinct as required by law. Any relief so granted shall not apply to any election occurring within 60 days thereafter.

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1 (Source: P.A. 84-323.)

2 (10 ILCS 5/13-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 13-1)

Sec. 13-1. In counties not under township organization, the county board of commissioners shall at its meeting in July in each even-numbered year appoint in each election precinct 5 capable and discreet persons meeting the qualifications of Section 13-4 to be judges of election. Where neither voting machines nor electronic, mechanical or electric voting systems are used, the county board may, for any precinct with respect to which the board considers such action necessary or desirable in view of the number of voters, and shall for general elections for any precinct containing more than 600 registered voters, appoint in addition to the 5 judges of election a team of 5 tally judges. In such precincts the judges of election shall preside over the election during the hours the polls are open, and the tally judges, with the assistance of the holdover judges designated pursuant to Section 13-6.2, shall count the vote after the closing of the polls. However, the County Board of Commissioners may appoint 3 judges of election to serve in lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise required by this Section (1) to serve in any emergency referendum, or in any odd-year regular election or in any special primary or special election called for the purpose of filling a vacancy in the office of representative in the United States Congress or to nominate candidates for such purpose, or (2) if the county

board passes an ordinance to reduce the number of judges of election to 3 for primary elections, or (3) for any general election. The tally judges shall possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same division between political parties as is provided for judges of election.

In addition to such precinct judges, the county board of commissioners shall appoint special panels of 3 judges each, who shall possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same division between political parties as is provided for other judges of election. The number of such panels of judges required shall be determined by regulations of the State Board of Elections which shall base the required numbers of special panels on the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction or the number of vote by mail ballots voted at recent elections, or any combination of such factors.

Such appointment shall be confirmed by the court as provided in Section 13-3 of this Article. No more than 3 persons of the same political party shall be appointed judges of the same election precinct or election judge panel. The appointment shall be made in the following manner: The county board of commissioners shall select and approve 3 persons as judges of election in each election precinct from a certified list, furnished by the chairman of the County Central Committee of the first leading political party in such precinct; and the

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county board of commissioners shall also select and approve 2 persons as judges of election in each election precinct from a certified list, furnished by the chairman of the County Central Committee of the second leading political party. However, if only 3 judges of election serve in each election precinct, no more than 2 persons of the same political party shall be judges of election in the same election precinct; and which political party is entitled to 2 judges of election and which political party is entitled to one judge of election shall be determined in the same manner as set forth in the next two preceding sentences with regard to 5 election judges in each precinct. Such certified list shall be filed with the county clerk not less than 10 days before the annual meeting of the county board of commissioners. Such list shall be arranged according to precincts. The chairman of each county central committee shall, insofar as possible, list persons who reside within the precinct in which they are to serve as judges. However, he may, in his sole discretion, submit the names of persons who reside outside the precinct but within the county embracing the precinct in which they are to serve. He must, however, submit the names of at least 2 residents of the precinct for each precinct in which his party is to have 3 judges and must submit the name of at least one resident of the precinct for each precinct in which his party is to have 2 judges. The county board of commissioners shall acknowledge in writing to each county chairman the names of all persons submitted on such

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certified list and the total number of persons listed thereon. 1 2 If no such list is filed or such list is incomplete (that is, no names or an insufficient number of names are furnished for 3 certain election precincts), the county board of commissioners 5 shall make or complete such list from the names contained in the supplemental list provided for in Section 13-1.1. The 6 7 election judges shall hold their office for 2 years from their 8 appointment, and until their successors are duly appointed in 9 the manner provided in this Act. The county board of 10 commissioners shall fill all vacancies in the office of judge 11 of election at any time in the manner provided in this Act.

(10 ILCS 5/13-2) (from Ch. 46, par. 13-2)

(Source: P.A. 100-337, eff. 8-25-17.)

Sec. 13-2. In counties under the township organization the county board shall at its meeting in July in each even-numbered year except in counties containing a population of 3,000,000 inhabitants or over and except when such judges are appointed by election commissioners, select in each election precinct in the county, 5 capable and discreet persons to be judges of election who shall possess the qualifications required by this Act for such judges. Where neither voting machines nor electronic, mechanical or electric voting systems are used, the county board may, for any precinct with respect to which the board considers such action necessary or desirable in view of the number of voters, and shall for general elections for any

precinct containing more than 600 registered voters, appoint in addition to the 5 judges of election a team of 5 tally judges. In such precincts the judges of election shall preside over the election during the hours the polls are open, and the tally judges, with the assistance of the holdover judges designated pursuant to Section 13-6.2, shall count the vote after the closing of the polls. The tally judges shall possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same division between political parties as is provided for judges of election.

However, the county board may appoint 3 judges of election to serve in lieu of the 5 judges of election otherwise required by this Section (1) to serve in any emergency referendum, or in any odd-year regular election or in any special primary or special election called for the purpose of filling a vacancy in the office of representative in the United States Congress or to nominate candidates for such purpose, or (2) if the county board passes an ordinance to reduce the number of judges of election to 3 for primary elections, or (3) for any general election.

In addition to such precinct judges, the county board shall appoint special panels of 3 judges each, who shall possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same division between political parties as is provided for other judges of election. The number of such panels of judges required shall be determined by regulations of

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the State Board of Elections, which shall base the required number of special panels on the number of registered voters in the jurisdiction or the number of absentee ballots voted at recent elections or any combination of such factors.

No more than 3 persons of the same political party shall be appointed judges in the same election district or undivided precinct. The election of the judges of election in the various election precincts shall be made in the following manner: The county board shall select and approve 3 of the election judges in each precinct from a certified list furnished by the chairman of the County Central Committee of the first leading political party in such election precinct and shall also select and approve 2 judges of election in each election precinct from a certified list furnished by the chairman of the County Central Committee of the second leading political party in such election precinct. However, if only 3 judges of election serve in each election precinct, no more than 2 persons of the same political party shall be judges of election in the same election precinct; and which political party is entitled to 2 judges of election and which political party is entitled to one judge of election shall be determined in the same manner as set forth in the next two preceding sentences with regard to 5 election judges in each precinct. The respective County Central Committee chairman shall notify the county board by June 1 of each odd-numbered year immediately preceding the annual meeting of the county board whether or not such certified list

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will be filed by such chairman. Such list shall be arranged according to precincts. The chairman of each county central committee shall, insofar as possible, list persons who reside within the precinct in which they are to serve as judges. However, he may, in his sole discretion, submit the names of persons who reside outside the precinct but within the county embracing the precinct in which they are to serve. He must, however, submit the names of at least 2 residents of the precinct for each precinct in which his party is to have 3 judges and must submit the name of at least one resident of the precinct for each precinct in which his party is to have 2 judges. Such certified list, if filed, shall be filed with the county clerk not less than 20 days before the annual meeting of the county board. The county board shall acknowledge in writing to each county chairman the names of all persons submitted on such certified list and the total number of persons listed thereon. If no such list is filed or the list is incomplete (that is, no names or an insufficient number of names are furnished for certain election precincts), the county board shall make or complete such list from the names contained in the supplemental list provided for in Section 13-1.1. Provided, further, that in any case where a township has been or shall be redistricted, in whole or in part, subsequent to one general election for Governor, and prior to the next, the judges of election to be selected for all new or altered precincts shall be selected in that one of the methods above detailed, which

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shall be applicable according to the facts and circumstances of the particular case, but the majority of such judges for each such precinct shall be selected from the first leading political party, and the minority judges from the second leading political party. Provided, further, that in counties having a population of 3,000,000 inhabitants or over the selection of judges of election shall be made in the same manner in all respects as in other counties, except that the provisions relating to tally judges are inapplicable to such counties and except that the county board shall meet during the month of January for the purpose of making such selection, each township committeeperson shall assume the responsibilities given to the chairman of the county central committee in this Section for the precincts within his or her township, and the township committeeperson shall notify the county board by the preceding October 1 whether or not the certified list will be filed. Such judges of election shall hold their office for 2 years from their appointment and until their successors are duly appointed in the manner provided in this Act. The county board shall fill all vacancies in the office of judges of elections at any time in the manner herein provided.

22 Such selections under this Section shall be confirmed by 23 the circuit court as provided in Section 13-3 of this Article.

(Source: P.A. 100-337, eff. 8-25-17.)

(10 ILCS 5/14-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 14-1)

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Sec. 14-1. (a) The board of election commissioners established or existing under Article 6 shall, at the time and in the manner provided in Section 14-3.1, select and choose 5 persons, men or women, as judges of election for each precinct in such city, village or incorporated town, except for a general election the board of election commissioners may select and choose 3 or 5 persons as judges of election for each precinct.

Where neither voting machines nor electronic, mechanical or electric voting systems are used, the board of election commissioners may, for any precinct with respect to which the board considers such action necessary or desirable in view of the number of voters, and shall for general elections for any precinct containing more than 600 registered voters, appoint in addition to the 5 judges of election chosen under this subsection a team of 5 tally judges. In such precincts the judges of election shall preside over the election during the hours the polls are open, and the tally judges, with the assistance of the holdover judges designated pursuant to Section 14-5.2, shall count the vote after the closing of the polls. The tally judges shall possess the same qualifications and shall be appointed in the same manner and with the same division between political parties as is provided for judges of election. The foregoing provisions relating to the appointment of tally judges are inapplicable in counties with a population of 1,000,000 or more.

- 1 (b) To qualify as judges the persons must:
- 2 (1) be citizens of the United States;
- 3 (2) be of good repute and character and not subject to
 4 the registration requirement of the Sex Offender
 5 Registration Act;
 - (3) be able to speak, read and write the English language;
 - (4) be skilled in the 4 fundamental rules of arithmetic;
 - (5) be of good understanding and capable;
 - (6) not be candidates for any office at the election and not be elected committeemen;
 - (7) reside and be entitled to vote in the precinct in which they are selected to serve, except that in each precinct not more than one judge of each party may be appointed from outside such precinct. Any judge so appointed to serve in any precinct in which he is not entitled to vote must be entitled to vote elsewhere within the county which encompasses the precinct in which such judge is appointed and such judge must otherwise meet the qualifications of this Section, except as provided in subsection (c) or (c-5).
 - (c) An election authority may establish a program to permit a person who is not entitled to vote to be appointed as an election judge if, as of the date of the election at which the person serves as a judge, he or she:

1 (1)	is	а	U.S.	citizen;
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- 2 (2) is a junior or senior in good standing enrolled in 3 a public or private secondary school;
 - (3) has a cumulative grade point average equivalent to at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
 - (4) has the written approval of the principal of the secondary school he or she attends at the time of appointment;
 - (5) has the written approval of his or her parent or legal guardian;
 - (6) has satisfactorily completed the training course for judges of election described in Sections 13-2.1, 13-2.2, and 14-4.1; and
- 14 (7) meets all other qualifications for appointment and 15 service as an election judge.

No more than one election judge qualifying under this subsection may serve per political party per precinct. Prior to appointment, a judge qualifying under this subsection must certify in writing to the election authority the political party the judge chooses to affiliate with.

Students appointed as election judges under this subsection shall not be counted as absent from school on the day they serve as judges.

(c-5) An election authority may establish a program to permit a person who is not entitled to vote in that precinct or county to be appointed as an election judge if, as of the date

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- of the election at which the person serves as a judge, he or she:
- 3 (1) is a U.S. citizen;
- 4 (2) is currently enrolled in a community college, as
 5 defined in the Public Community College Act, or a public or
 6 private Illinois university or college;
- 7 (3) has a cumulative grade point average equivalent to at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
 - (4) has satisfactorily completed the training course for judges of election described in Sections 13-2.1, 13-2.2, and 14-4.1; and
- 12 (5) meets all other qualifications for appointment and 13 service as an election judge.

No more than one election judge qualifying under this subsection may serve per political party per precinct. Prior to appointment, a judge qualifying under this subsection must certify in writing to the election authority the political party the judge chooses to affiliate with.

Students appointed as election judges under this subsection shall not be counted as absent from school on the day they serve as judges.

(d) The board of election commissioners may select 2 additional judges of election, one from each of the major political parties, for each 200 voters in excess of 600 in any precinct having more than 600 voters as authorized by Section 11-3. These additional judges must meet the qualifications

- 1 prescribed in this Section.
- 2 (Source: P.A. 95-699, eff. 11-9-07; 95-818, eff. 1-1-09;
- 3 96-328, eff. 8-11-09.)
- 4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 5 becoming law.