

# STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

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## Summary of Revisions to the

## RULES FOR COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSIONERS TRAINING

The State Board of Election Commissioners met on June 23, 2015 and approved for public comment revisions to the "Rules for County Election Commissioners Training". The public comment period ended on August 10, 2015. The State Board of Election Commissioners met again on October 30, 2015 to approve revisions to the "Rules for County Election Commissioners Training".

Below is a summary of the rules that were approved by the Board on June 23, 2015 for the public comment period, followed by a list of persons commenting on the rule, a summary of the comments, the agency's response to the comments, and the changes to the rules as a result of the public comments.

Initial changes include: 1) Section 700: amending the definition of "Election Official" as a result of Act 1042 of 2015; 2) adding the definition of "Candidate" as it relates to the qualifications of an election commissioner; and 3) Section 701: amending the qualifications of county election commissioners as a result of Act 1253 of 2015.

### PERSONS COMMENTING ON THE RULE

Dennis Bosch – Garland County Election Commissioner (via email on August 7, 2015)

### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

§ 700: Commenter asks "since the County Clerk is now required to attend training, should the County Clerk be included in the definitions?"

§ 702: Commenter asks "what is the difference between comprehensive and advanced training?"

### AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

§ 700: No change to the rule is necessary. The clear purpose of Act 1253 is to provide a trainer for county clerk personnel who conduct early voting. Therefore, the proper training for county clerks is that for poll worker trainers, and the poll worker training rules have been amended to provide for the county clerks to be trained.

County clerks and deputy county clerks from many counties routinely attend election commissioner training, though it is not required of them, and any and all clerk personnel are welcome to do so.

§ 702: The rule states:

*Each member of the county boards of election commissioners shall attend either a **comprehensive** training program conducted by the State Board of Election Commissioners*

*before the regularly scheduled preferential primary election or an **advanced** training program conducted by the State Board of Election Commissioners after each regular legislative session. Any member of a county board of election commissioners who has not served on the commission during the previous preferential primary and general elections and previously attended the **comprehensive** training program conducted by the State Board of Election Commissioners must attend the comprehensive training program. A member of a county board of election commissioners shall attend additional interim training if deemed necessary and appropriate by the State Board.*

This is not a germane comment, but the comment is considered as a request for information. The difference between the two types of training is essentially as follows: advanced training is for experienced commissioners who may not need to be exposed again to the basic information supplied in comprehensive training, but *do* need to be updated on law changes and provided the opportunity to ask questions and share experiences. Because of significant turnover on county election commissions, advanced training is not being offered for the current election cycle.

#### RULE CHANGES AS A RESULT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None