

1 AN ACT relating to elections.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 15 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) There is hereby established an Office of Election Investigations and Security*
6 *within the Office of the Attorney General, which shall:*

7 *(a) Respond to notifications or complaints generated by election officials or any*
8 *other person alleging a violation of the state election law;*

9 *(b) Review notices and reports of an alleged violation of the state election law*
10 *and conduct investigations of any incidents that it determines require*
11 *further investigation;*

12 *(c) Initiate independent inquiries or conduct preliminary investigations into*
13 *any alleged violation of the state election law in any jurisdiction of this state*
14 *that it determines requires investigation;*

15 *(d) Employ investigators to conduct any investigations;*

16 *(e) Oversee the voter fraud hotline; and*

17 *(f) For purposes of investigation, have the authority to receive sworn*
18 *statements and issue subpoenas to compel the production of records and*
19 *other documents.*

20 *(2) If the office determines there may be a violation of any criminal law or state*
21 *election law, it shall inform the Attorney General or refer the findings of its*
22 *investigation to the appropriate Commonwealth's or county attorney for further*
23 *investigation or prosecution.*

24 *(3) The office shall submit a report by July 1 of each year to the Legislative Research*
25 *Commission, which provides detailed information on investigations of alleged*
26 *violations of the state election laws during the prior calendar year and includes:*

27 *(a) The total number of complaints received, independent investigations*

1 initiated, and complaints referred to another agency for further
2 investigation or prosecution; and

3 **(b) For each alleged violation investigated:**

4 **1. The source of the alleged violation;**

5 **2. The law allegedly violated and the nature of the violation reported;**

6 **3. The county in which the alleged violation occurred;**

7 **4. Whether the alleged violation was referred to another agency and, if**
8 **so, to which agency; and**

9 **5. The current status of the investigation or resulting criminal case,**
10 **unless the investigation is open.**

11 **(4) All reports of alleged election law violations made by election officials or any**
12 **other person to the Secretary of State or the State Board of Elections shall be**
13 **forwarded to the Office of Election Investigations and Security.**

14 **(5) This section shall not be construed to limit or restrict the jurisdiction of any other**
15 **office or agency of the state empowered by law to investigate, act upon, or dispose**
16 **of alleged state election law violations.**