

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 643

By: Senator K. Hammer
By: Representative Ladyman

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE
BALLOTS; TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING ELECTIONS;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE
BALLOTS; AND TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW
CONCERNING ELECTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A), concerning applications for absentee ballots and definitions, is amended to read as follows:

(A) For applications submitted using the form prescribed in § 7-5-405:

(i) In person at the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter no later than the time the county clerk's office regularly closes on the ~~day~~ Friday before election day;

(ii) Applications by mail must be received in the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than seven (7) days before the election for which the application was made;

(iii) A designated bearer may deliver the completed application to the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the applicant not later than the time the county clerk's office regularly closes on the ~~day~~ Friday before ~~the day of the~~ election day;

(iv) A person declared as the authorized agent of



the applicant may deliver the application to the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the applicant not later than 1:30 p.m. on the day of the election;

(v) An administrator may deliver the application in person at the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter no later than the time the county clerk's office regularly closes on the ~~day~~ Friday before election day; or

(vi)(a) Delivery by electronic means to the county clerk's office of the county of residence of the voter not later than seven (7) days before the election for which the application was made.

(b) The completed application sent by electronic means will be accepted only upon verification of the facsimile signature of the applicant by the county clerk.

(c) Once verified as a reasonable likeness of the voter's signature, the signature appearing on a copy of an application sent by electronic means shall be presumed to be authentic until proven otherwise; or

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-411(a)(2) and (3), concerning the methods of voting absentee, are amended to read as follows:

(2) By delivery of the ballot to the physical office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than 7:30 p.m. on election day by ~~the designated bearer, administrator, or~~ the authorized agent of the absentee voter who is medically unable to vote at the regular polling site, upon proper verification of the signature of the voter by the county clerk and validation of the identity of the authorized agent; ~~or~~

(3) By delivery of the ballot to the physical office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than the time the county clerk's office regularly closes on the Friday before election day by the registered voter, designated bearer, or administrator of the absentee voter, upon proper verification of the signature of the voter by the county clerk and validation of the identity of the registered voter, designated bearer, or administrator; or

(4) The voter may deliver the ballot to the physical office of the county clerk of the county of his or her residence not later than the close of regular business hours on the Friday ~~day~~ before the election

APPROVED: BECAME LAW ON 4/27/21 WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.