

State of Arkansas  
94th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2023

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 247

By: Senator J. Dotson  
By: Representative Wing

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW ABSENTEE VOTING FOR A RELIGIOUS  
OBSERVANCE; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE  
VOTING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

TO ALLOW ABSENTEE VOTING FOR A RELIGIOUS  
OBSERVANCE; AND TO AMEND THE LAW  
CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-402 is amended to read as follows:  
7-5-402. Voter qualification.

The following persons, if possessing the qualifications of electors,  
may cast an absentee ballot in any election:

(1) Any person who will be unavoidably absent from his or her  
voting place on the day of the election; ~~and~~

(2) Any person who will be unable to attend the polls on  
election day because of illness or physical disability; and

(3) Any person who is prevented from voting due to observance of  
a religious discipline or religious holiday during the entire twelve (12)  
hours that the polls are open on election day.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-405(a)(2)(B), concerning the  
application form for absentee ballots, is amended to read as follows:

(B) A statement in which the voter must indicate that he



or she is requesting an absentee ballot because he or she will be:

(i) Unavoidably absent from the polling site on election day;

(ii) Unable to attend the polls on election day because of illness or physical disability; ~~or~~

(iii) Unable to attend the polls on election day because of residence in a long-term care or residential facility licensed by the state; or

(iv) Unable to attend the polls due to observance of a religious discipline or religious holiday during the entire twelve (12) hours that the polls are open on election day;

**APPROVED: 2/24/23**