

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2068

By: Representative Lea

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PREVENT ELECTION MISCONDUCT; TO CLARIFY THE
PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PREVENT ELECTION MISCONDUCT; AND TO
CLARIFY THE PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE
VOTING.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-409(b)(4)(A)(v), concerning absentee voting procedures, is amended to read as follows:

(v) The voter statement shall include ~~a the~~ the following statement for a first-time voter who registers by mail: "If I am a newly registered voter of this county and this is the first time I am voting in this county, statement: "I am enclosing a copy of a current and valid photo identification card or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows my name and address, or the documentation from the administrator of a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state attesting that I am a resident of the facility."

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-412 is amended to read as follows:

7-5-412. Marking and return of absentee ballots – Delivery of mailed absentee ballots.

(a)(1) Upon receiving the blank absentee ballot, statement, and



envelopes, whether in the office of the county clerk or elsewhere, the voter shall mark the absentee ballot and place the absentee ballot in the provided envelope.

~~(2) He or she~~ The voter shall ~~then~~ seal the envelope containing the absentee ballot and place it in the other provided outer envelope with the following:

~~(1)(A)~~ (A) The executed voter statement; and

~~(2)(B)~~ (B) Either:

(i) A copy of a current and valid photographic identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the ~~first-time voter, for first-time voters who registered by mail. However, this requirement does not apply if:~~ voter; or

(ii) If the voter resides in a long-term care or residential care facility licensed by the state, documentation from the administrator of the facility attesting that the person is a resident of the facility.

~~(A) The voter registered to vote by mail and provided the identification at that time; or~~

~~(B) The first-time voter registered to vote by mail and submitted his or her driver's license number or at least the last four (4) digits of his or her social security number at the time and this information matches the information in an existing state identification record bearing the same number, name, and date of birth as provided in the registration.~~

~~(b) A voter who desires to cast an absentee ballot but who does not meet the identification requirements of subdivision (a)(2) of this section may cast his or her absentee ballot by mail, and the absentee ballot shall be considered as a provisional ballot.~~

~~(e)~~ (b) Absentee ballots received by mail on election day before the polls close shall be delivered promptly by the county clerk to the election officials designated to canvass and count absentee ballots.