

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1064

By: Representative D. Whitaker

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING;
TO ALLOW PERSONS OVER SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE TO VOTE
BY ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE
VOTING; AND TO ALLOW PERSONS OVER SIXTY-
FIVE YEARS OF AGE TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE
BALLOT.

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;

(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; ~~and~~

(4) Any person who is over sixty-five (65) years of age on
election day.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-404(b)(2), concerning the requirements



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of the county clerk to mail an application for an absentee ballot, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(E)(i) For a voter who is over sixty-five (65) years of age on election day, the application shall remain in effect for one (1) calendar year unless withdrawn by the voter.

(ii) No later than twenty-five (25) days before each election during the calendar year in which a voter has applied for an absentee ballot under subdivision (b)(2)(E)(i) of this section, the county clerk shall mail an absentee ballot for each election.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-405(a)(2)(B), concerning the required statement for a voter requesting an absentee ballot, 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;

(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; or

(v) Over sixty-five (65) years of age on election day;

SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 7-5-405(b)(2), concerning persons the Secretary of State may prescribe separate absentee ballot application forms for, is amended to read as follows:

(2)(A) Persons whose application would be valid for one (1) calendar year.

(B) This includes the following:

(i) Persons who reside outside the county in which they are registered to vote;

(ii) Persons in long-term care or residential facilities licensed by the state; ~~and~~

(iii) Voters with disabilities; and

(iv) Persons who are over sixty-five (65) years of age on election day; and