

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 247

5 By: Senator J. Dotson
6 By: Representative Wing
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

14 TO ALLOW ABSENTEE VOTING FOR A RELIGIOUS
15 OBSERVANCE; AND TO AMEND THE LAW
16 CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING.
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-402 is amended to read as follows:
23 7-5-402. Voter qualification.

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

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

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

30 (3) Any person who is prevented from voting due to observance of
31 a religious discipline or religious holiday during the entire twelve (12)
32 hours that the polls are open on election day.
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34 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-405(a)(2)(B), concerning the
35 application form for absentee ballots, is amended to read as follows:

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



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

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

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

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

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

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14 **APPROVED: 2/24/23**
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