

ARKANSAS SENATE
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1663

"TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE 7-5-411 REGARDING METHODS OF VOTING
ABSENTEE."

Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1663.

Amend House Bill No. 1663 as originally introduced:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and substitute:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 7-5-411(a), concerning methods of voting absentee, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Absentee voting may be accomplished in one (1) of the following methods and in no other manner:

(1)(A) By ballot cast by mail which must be received in the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than 7:30 p.m. on election day. The qualified elector shall personally mail his ballot, except that an administrator may mail the absentee ballots of a long-term care or residential care facility's residents in a single mailing. A qualified elector who is physically disabled may have another person mail the absentee ballot in a single mailing to the county clerk. If the ballot is not personally mailed by the qualified elector casting the ballot or otherwise mailed pursuant to this section, the ballot ~~may be challenged~~ shall not be counted.

(B)(i) However, except as provided in subdivision (a)(1)(B)(ii), absentee ballots by ballot applied for not later than thirty (30) days before the election by qualified electors outside the United States on election day which are signed, dated, postmarked, and mailed by the voters no later than the day of the election and received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. ten (10) calendar days after the date of the election.

(ii) Absentee ballots of Uniformed Services personnel, serving in active status, shall be counted if received by the county clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. ten (10) calendar days after the date of the election and the absentee ballot was executed no later than the date of the election.

(C) Each absentee ballot shall be mailed separately by the voter and shall not be included with any other absentee ballot in a bulk mailing except that an administrative head of a nursing home or hospital may mail the absentee ballots of the patients by bulk mail. Absentee ballots in any bulk mailing not otherwise permitted in this subsection shall not be counted;

(2)(A) By delivery of the ballot to the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than 7:30 p.m. on election day by a relative of the voter, the designated bearer, 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.

(B)(i) The designated bearer, authorized agent, or relative shall sign documentation upon delivery of absentee ballots to the county clerk.

(ii) However, no person may deliver absentee ballots to the clerk's office for more than five (5) persons; or

(3) The voter may deliver the ballot to the county clerk of the county of his or her residence not later than the close of regular business hours on the day before the election."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

**By: Senator Mahony
MG/VJF - 040220011501
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Secretary