

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 643

5 By: Senator K. Hammer
6 By: Representative Ladyman
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE
10 BALLOTS; TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING ELECTIONS;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE
16 BALLOTS; AND TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW
17 CONCERNING ELECTIONS.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-404(a)(3)(A), concerning applications
23 for absentee ballots and definitions, is amended to read as follows:

24 (A) For applications submitted using the form prescribed
25 in § 7-5-405:

26 (i) In person at the office of the county clerk of
27 the county of residence of the voter no later than the time the county
28 clerk's office regularly closes on the ~~day~~ Friday before election day;

29 (ii) Applications by mail must be received in the
30 office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later
31 than seven (7) days before the election for which the application was made;

32 (iii) A designated bearer may deliver the completed
33 application to the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of
34 the applicant not later than the time the county clerk's office regularly
35 closes on the ~~day~~ Friday before ~~the day of the~~ election day;

36 (iv) A person declared as the authorized agent of



1 the applicant may deliver the application to the office of the county clerk
2 of the county of residence of the applicant not later than 1:30 p.m. on the
3 day of the election;

4 (v) An administrator may deliver the application in
5 person at the office of the county clerk of the county of residence of the
6 voter no later than the time the county clerk's office regularly closes on
7 the ~~day~~ Friday before election day; or

8 (vi)(a) Delivery by electronic means to the county
9 clerk's office of the county of residence of the voter not later than seven
10 (7) days before the election for which the application was made.

11 (b) The completed application sent by
12 electronic means will be accepted only upon verification of the facsimile
13 signature of the applicant by the county clerk.

14 (c) Once verified as a reasonable likeness of
15 the voter's signature, the signature appearing on a copy of an application
16 sent by electronic means shall be presumed to be authentic until proven
17 otherwise; or

18
19 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-411(a)(2) and (3), concerning the
20 methods of voting absentee, are amended to read as follows:

21 (2) By delivery of the ballot to the physical office of the
22 county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than 7:30 p.m.
23 on election day by ~~the designated bearer, administrator, or~~ the authorized
24 agent of the absentee voter who is medically unable to vote at the regular
25 polling site, upon proper verification of the signature of the voter by the
26 county clerk and validation of the identity of the authorized agent; ~~or~~

27 (3) By delivery of the ballot to the physical office of the
28 county clerk of the county of residence of the voter not later than the time
29 the county clerk's office regularly closes on the Friday before election day
30 by the registered voter, designated bearer, or administrator of the absentee
31 voter, upon proper verification of the signature of the voter by the county
32 clerk and validation of the identity of the registered voter, designated
33 bearer, or administrator; or

34 (4) The voter may deliver the ballot to the physical office of
35 the county clerk of the county of his or her residence not later than the
36 close of regular business hours on the Friday ~~day~~ before the election

1 **APPROVED: BECAME LAW ON 4/27/21 WITHOUT THE GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE.**