

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1064

5 By: Representative D. Whitaker
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING;
10 TO ALLOW PERSONS OVER SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE TO VOTE
11 BY ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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

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; ~~and~~

33 (4) Any person who is over sixty-five (65) years of age on
34 election day.
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36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-404(b)(2), concerning the requirements



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

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 5 calendar year unless withdrawn by the voter.

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

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 11 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 7-5-405(a)(2)(B), concerning the required
 12 statement for a voter requesting an absentee ballot, is amended to read as
 13 follows:

14 (B) A statement in which the voter must indicate that he
 15 or she is requesting an absentee ballot because he or she will be:

16 (i) Unavoidably absent from the polling site on
 17 election day;

18 (ii) Unable to attend the polls on election day
 19 because of illness or physical disability;

20 (iii) Unable to attend the polls on election day
 21 because of residence in a long-term care or residential facility licensed by
 22 the state; ~~or~~

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

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

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

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

34 (B) This includes the following:

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

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

3 (iii) Voters with disabilities; and

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

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