

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

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1925

5 By: Representative Beaty Jr.
6 By: Senator Gilmore
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE BALLOTS;
9 TO REQUIRE AN OATH FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT; AND FOR
10 OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

12 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING ABSENTEE
13 BALLOTS; AND TO REQUIRE AN OATH FOR AN
14 ABSENTEE BALLOT.
15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
17

18 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 7-5-409(b)(5), concerning the materials
19 furnished to qualified electors for absentee ballots, is amended to read as
20 follows:
21

22 (5)(A) A sealable envelope upon which shall be printed or
23 written the words: "Return Envelope", the address of the county clerk, the
24 precinct of the voter, and the words: "ABSENTEE BALLOT,,
25, ELECTION".
26

27 (B)(i) The sealable envelope required under subdivision
28 (b)(5)(A) of this section shall be imprinted with the following oath:
29 "I hereby swear or affirm that I am duly qualified to vote in this election
30 according to the Arkansas Constitution, that I have not yet voted during this
31 election, that each ballot contained in this envelope is my ballot, and that
32 I have received no assistance in voting my ballot that I would not have been
33 entitled to receive had I voted in person at my voting precinct.
34

35 _____
36 Signature of Voter



1 Dated on this _____ day of _____ 20____

2 Signature of Witness

3 Printed Name of Witness

4 _____

5 Address of Witness."

6 (ii) Execution of the oath shall be witnessed by at
 7 least one (1) individual who is eighteen (18) years of age or older.

8 (iii) If a voter cannot sign the oath because of a
 9 physical handicap or the inability to read, the voter shall mark the absentee
 10 ballot and have the mark witnessed by an individual designated by the voter;
 11 and

12

13 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 7-5-412(a), concerning the marking, return,
 14 and delivery of absentee ballots, is amended to read as follows:

15 (a) Upon receiving the blank absentee ballot, voter statement, and
 16 envelopes, whether in the office of the county clerk or elsewhere, the voter
 17 shall mark the absentee ballot and place the absentee ballot in the provided
 18 envelope. He or she shall then seal the envelope containing the absentee
 19 ballot and place it in the other provided outer envelope with the following:

20 (1) The completed and executed voter statement, including
 21 identification of the designated bearer, authorized agent, or administrator
 22 when appropriate; ~~and~~

23 (2)(A) Verification of voter registration; or

24 (B) A copy of a current and valid photographic
 25 identification or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement,
 26 government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name
 27 and address of the first-time voter, for first-time voters who registered by
 28 mail. However, this requirement does not apply if:

29 (i) The voter registered to vote by mail and
 30 provided the identification at that time; or

31 (ii) The first-time voter registered to vote by mail
 32 and submitted his or her driver's license number or at least the last four
 33 (4) digits of his or her Social Security number at the time and this
 34 information matches the information in an existing state identification
 35 record bearing the same number, name, and date of birth as provided in the
 36 registration; and

1 (3)(A) Except as otherwise provided under subdivision (a)(3)(B)
2 of this section, the completed and executed oath required under § 7-5-409,
3 including the signature of the individual witnessing the execution of the
4 oath.

5 (B) A person who is casting an absentee ballot is not
6 required to submit a completed and executed oath under subdivision (a)(3)(A)
7 of this section if the voter is unable to attend the polls on election day:

8 (i) Because of an illness or physical disability;
9 (ii) Due to an observance of a religious discipline
10 or religious holiday;

11 (iii) Because of residence in a long-term care or
12 residential care facility licensed by the state; or

13 (iv) Because the voter:

14 (a) Is in active service as a member of the
15 armed services of the United States or the voter is a spouse or a dependent
16 of a person who is in active service as a member of the armed services of the
17 United States; and

18 (b) Resides outside the county.