

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

SENATE BILL 1999

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to absentee voting; amending Section 1, Chapter 286, O.S.L. 2022 (26 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 14-115.12), which relates to accessible absentee ballot for blind person; requiring certain documentation to receive certain absentee ballot; updating statutory references; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 286, O.S.L. 2022 (26 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 14-115.12), is amended to read as follows:

Section 14-115.12. A. 1. A registered voter who swears or affirms that the voter is physically unable to vote in person at the voter's precinct on the day of the election because the voter is a blind person and who provides documentation from a licensed physician confirming that the voter is a blind person, as defined by Section 72 of Title 7 of the Oklahoma Statutes, may request that an accessible absentee ballot be delivered to the voter electronically in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board.

1 A system for electronic delivery of absentee ballots to voters who
2 are blind persons may include the same or similar requirements as
3 the electronic delivery system authorized for uniformed services
4 voters as set forth in Section 14-118 of ~~Title 26 of the Oklahoma~~
5 ~~Statutes~~ this title.

6 2. An accessible absentee voting packet for voters who are
7 blind persons, which shall include all necessary materials except
8 the absentee ballot, shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the
9 State Election Board. The accessible absentee voting packet may be
10 delivered to the voter by United States mail or electronically.

11 B. 1. The electronic delivery system may provide the voter the
12 opportunity to use the voter's personal computer to mark an
13 accessible absentee ballot privately and independently and then
14 print the marked ballot.

15 2. The absentee ballot shall be accompanied by an absentee
16 ballot affidavit, which shall be executed in the same manner as
17 provided for affidavits in Section 14-113.2 of ~~Title 26 of the~~
18 ~~Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

19 3. The voter shall return the absentee ballot and executed
20 affidavit to the secretary of the county election board in the same
21 manner provided in Section 14-113.2 of ~~Title 26 of the Oklahoma~~
22 ~~Statutes~~ this title. Nothing in this section shall allow for an
23 absentee ballot to be returned to the county election board
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1 electronically, and no absentee ballot returned electronically shall
2 be eligible to be counted by a county election board.

3 C. A registered voter who is a blind person, as defined by
4 Section 72 of Title 7 of the Oklahoma Statutes, may choose to
5 request the assistance of another person to complete any
6 requirements of this section, as provided in Section 7-123.3 of
7 ~~Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

8 D. Upon return of an absentee ballot described in this section,
9 the secretary of the county election board shall cause it to be
10 processed in the same manner as prescribed by law for other absentee
11 ballots.

12 E. Any person who is not qualified for the electronic delivery
13 of an absentee ballot as provided in this section, but who applies
14 for an absentee ballot described in this section, shall be deemed
15 guilty of a felony as provided in Section 16-102.2 of ~~Title 26 of~~
16 ~~the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title.

17 F. The Secretary of the State Election Board may promulgate
18 rules or procedures to implement the requirements of this section.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective January 1, 2025.

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