

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ELLINGTON.

0551H.021

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to visually impaired voters.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be
2 known as section 115.1000, to read as follows:

3 **115.1000. 1. (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an election authority**
4 **with more than three hundred fifty thousand residents shall make available for all**
5 **statewide elections, elections for the general assembly, or local elections at least one voting**
6 **machine per polling location for use by blind or visually impaired persons.**

7 **(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an election authority with fewer**
8 **than three hundred fifty thousand residents shall make available for all statewide elections,**
9 **elections for the general assembly, or local elections at least one voting machine for use by**
10 **blind or visually impaired persons.**

11 **(3) For purposes of this section, each election authority shall be presumed to possess**
12 **an accessible voting machine for purposes of compliance with the Help America Vote Act,**
13 **and such machine shall be made available at state and local elections in the same manner**
14 **as for federal elections.**

15 **2. Any additional election costs for the maintenance and use of such machines**
16 **during statewide and general assembly elections shall be paid by the state and subject to**
17 **appropriation.**

3. Any qualified voter may cast a ballot using the accessible voting machine without
confirmation of blindness or visual impairment by an election authority, but the provisions

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 **of this section shall not be interpreted to require that blind or visually impaired persons**
19 **use an accessible voting machine. Upon signing an affidavit, blind or visually impaired**
20 **voters may continue to vote by absentee ballot as provided by general law or by any other**
21 **legal method of voting with the assistance of election judges under section 115.445.**

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