

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
4 FOR ENGROSSED
5 HOUSE BILL 1711

By: Hill and Turner of the
House

6 and

7 Rosino of the Senate

8
9 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

10 [elections - allowing blind or visually impaired
11 persons to request certain ballot electronically -
12 providing for return of ballot - prohibiting return
of ballot electronically - providing for processing
of ballot - effective date]

13
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

15 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-115.12 of Title 26, unless
17 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 A. 1. A registered voter who swears or affirms that the voter
19 is physically unable to vote in person at the voter's precinct on
20 the day of the election because the voter is a blind person as
21 defined by Section 72 of Title 7 of the Oklahoma Statutes may
22 request that an accessible absentee ballot be delivered to the voter
23 electronically in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State
24 Election Board. A system for electronic delivery of absentee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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