

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 HOUSE BILL 1843

 By: Fugate and **Blancett**

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 An Act relating to elections; amending 26 O.S. 2011,
9 Section 7-116.1, which relates to provisional
10 ballots; authorizing absentee voter to cast certain
 provisional ballot; providing exceptions; providing
 for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

14 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2011, Section 7-116.1, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 A. Provisional ballots shall be available for all elections
17 conducted by the county election board. Provisional ballots shall
18 include all offices, candidates and questions and shall be identical
19 to the regular ballots for each precinct. The Secretary of the
20 State Election Board shall promulgate rules and shall prescribe
21 materials necessary for the implementation of provisional ballots.

22 B. Persons who are not listed in the precinct registry, but who
23 claim to be registered voters in the precinct and eligible to vote
24 in the election, shall be entitled to vote a provisional ballot upon

1 execution of an affidavit prescribed by the Secretary of the State
2 Election Board. Registered voters required to show identification,
3 as described in Section 7-114, 14-115.4 or 14-121 of this title and
4 who are unable to show one of the acceptable forms of identification
5 described in such sections, shall be entitled to cast a provisional
6 ballot. Persons identified in Section 14-121 of this title shall be
7 entitled to vote a provisional ballot upon execution of an affidavit
8 prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board. Persons
9 who are listed in the precinct registry for a partisan primary
10 election, but who dispute the political affiliation indicated by
11 such precinct registry, shall be entitled to vote a provisional
12 ballot for a party other than the one indicated. However, such
13 provisional ballot shall be counted only if evidence is found by the
14 secretary of the county election board of the voter's valid voter
15 registration in the party for which the provisional ballot was cast.
16 Persons described in Section 2 of this act shall be entitled to cast
17 a provisional ballot.

18 C. Provisional ballots shall be segregated from the regular
19 ballots cast in the precinct in the manner prescribed by the
20 Secretary of the State Election Board and shall not be inserted in
21 the precinct voting device. Information provided by a person who
22 votes a provisional ballot shall be investigated by the secretary of
23 the county election board after the election. A provisional ballot
24 shall be counted only if it is cast in the precinct of the voter's

1 residence and if evidence of the provisional voter's valid voter
2 registration, or of the voter's identity, is found, except a
3 provisional ballot cast by a voter identified in Section 14-121 of
4 this title shall be counted.

5 D. No information concerning provisional ballots, except the
6 number of provisional ballots cast in the county, shall be made
7 public by any election official prior to 1:00 p.m. on Friday
8 following the election. The county sheriff shall secure sealed
9 ballot transfer cases containing provisional ballots that have been
10 counted after 1:00 p.m. on Friday following the election until 5:00
11 p.m. on Tuesday next succeeding the election or, in the event a
12 recount contest is filed, until such times as the transfer cases
13 are delivered to the district courtroom.

14 E. In the event that the secretary of any county election board
15 is unable to complete the investigation and verification of
16 provisional ballots by 1:00 p.m. on Friday following the election,
17 the Secretary of the State Election Board shall be authorized to
18 extend the period for the investigation and verification of
19 provisional ballots. When such an extension is required by any
20 county for a statewide election, the extension shall apply
21 statewide. The Secretary shall promulgate rules establishing
22 procedures for requesting and granting such extensions.

23 F. All materials used for procuring and casting a provisional
24 ballot shall be retained by the secretary of the county election

1 board for a period of twenty-four (24) months after the day of the
2 election.`

3 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-134.1 of Title 26, unless
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6 An absentee voter may cast an in-person provisional ballot
7 pursuant to Section 7-116.1 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes on
8 election day at the polling place for the precinct to which the
9 voter is assigned or at an in-person absentee voting site in the
10 county where the voter is registered to vote during the in-person
11 absentee voting period if:

12 1. The ballot of the absentee voter has not been received by
13 the county election board by election day; provided, the provisional
14 ballot shall only be counted if the secretary of the county election
15 board confirms that the absentee ballot was not received by the
16 statutory deadline; or

17 2. The absentee voter received a notice of rejection on or
18 before election day; provided, the provisional ballot shall only be
19 counted if the secretary of the county election board confirms that
20 the absentee ballot was rejected.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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23 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS AND ETHICS, dated
24 02/11/2021 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.