



# State of Tennessee

## PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 689

### SENATE BILL NO. 2118

By Massey, Yager, Yarbro

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2293

By Davis, Rudd, Crawford, Raper, Barrett, Sherrell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 6, relative to elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Print Disability Absentee Voting Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 2, Chapter 6, is amended by adding the following as a new part:

#### **2-6-701. Definitions.**

(a) As used in this part:

(1) "Low vision" means a partial or total loss of sight that is not correctible with prescription eyeglasses or contact lenses; and

(2) "Print disability" means a disability that interferes with the person's ability to effectively read, write, or use printed materials, and includes blindness, low vision, and physical disabilities, such as paralysis, that interfere with such abilities.

#### **2-6-702. Persons with print disabilities – Procedure for absentee by-mail voting.**

(a) Notwithstanding this title to the contrary, the coordinator of elections shall prepare an application to vote absentee by mail by which a registered voter with a print disability may request the administrator of elections to mail or electronically transmit an accessible ballot for voters with a print disability in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the applicant.

(b) An application to vote absentee by mail under this section must be made available on the secretary of state's website.

(c) An application to vote absentee by mail received from persons with print disabilities must be signed by the voter, under penalty of perjury, verifying that the information on the application is true and correct, that the voter is eligible to vote absentee by mail in the respective election for which the application is submitted, and that the voter has a print disability that prevents them from reading or marking an absentee by-mail paper ballot. This section must not be construed to allow the voter to use an electronic or digital signature. A voter may submit an application in a manner authorized by § 2-6-202.

(d)(1) Upon determining the applicant is entitled to vote in the election, the administrator of elections shall proceed under § 2-6-502(e) for transmitting voting materials to the voter.

(2) After receiving the absentee voting materials and completing the ballot, the voter shall sign the appropriate affidavit under penalty of perjury. The effect of the signature is to verify the information as true and correct and that the voter is eligible to vote in the election. The voter shall then mail the ballot. Nothing in this section must be construed to permit the transmission of a ballot by use of a fax machine or to

permit a ballot which has been voted by an applicant to be electronically transmitted to the county election commission.

SECTION 3. The headings in this act are for reference purposes only and do not constitute a part of the law enacted by this act. However, the Tennessee Code Commission is requested to include the headings in any compilation or publication containing this act.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect on August 2, 2024, the public welfare requiring it.

SENATE BILL NO. 2118

PASSED: April 1, 2024

  
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RANDY McNALLY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024

  
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BILL LEE, GOVERNOR