

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2001 RECONVENED SESSION

CHAPTER 789

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-703.1, relating to special annual absentee ballot applications for permanently ill or disabled voters.

[H 1579]

Approved April 4, 2001

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-703.1 as follows:

§ 24.2-703.1. Special annual applications for absentee ballots for certain ill or disabled voters.

Any person who is eligible for an absentee ballot under subdivision 4 of § 24.2-700 because of a physical disability or physical illness and who is likely to remain so disabled or ill for the remainder of the calendar year shall be eligible to file a special annual application to receive ballots for all elections in which he is eligible to vote in a calendar year. His first such application shall be accompanied by a statement, on a form prescribed by the State Board and signed by the voter and his physician or accredited religious practitioner, that the voter is eligible for an absentee ballot under subdivision 4 of § 24.2-700 because of a physical disability or physical illness and likely to remain so disabled or ill for the remainder of the calendar year.

In accordance with procedures established by the State Board, the general registrar shall retain the application and form, enroll the applicant on a special absentee voter applicant list, and process the applicant's request for an absentee ballot for each succeeding election in the calendar year. The applicant shall specify by party designation the primary ballots he is requesting.

The general registrar shall send each such enrolled applicant a blank application by December 15 for each ensuing calendar year, and upon completion thereof, the applicant shall be eligible to receive ballots for all elections in which he is eligible to vote in that calendar year.

If an official reply to the application or an absentee ballot sent to the applicant is returned as undeliverable, or the general registrar knows that the applicant is no longer a qualified voter, no ballot for any subsequent election shall be sent to the voter until a new application is filed and accepted.

2. That the State Board of Elections shall monitor implementation of the provisions of this act and, annually beginning July 1, 2002, shall report to the General Assembly and the Governor the number of individuals benefiting from this absentee ballot procedure in each locality as well as any abuses of the procedure.