

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2006 SESSION

## CHAPTER 177

*An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-655 of the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; ascertaining the vote by officers of election; observers of the process.*

[S 435]

Approved March 23, 2006

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 24.2-655 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 24.2-655. Representatives of political parties and candidates to be present on request.

Before proceeding to ascertain the vote, the officers of election shall determine whether no more than two representatives of each political party having candidates in the election and one representative of each independent candidate or primary candidate request to be present while the absentee ballots are cast, votes are counted, and returns are completed.

Each representative shall be a qualified voter of the city or county in which the polling place is located and shall present to the officers of election a written statement certifying that he is an authorized representative, signed by his party chairman for the jurisdiction in which the election is held, the independent candidate, or the candidate in a primary, as appropriate. Such representatives shall be entitled to be present while the votes are counted and shall remain until the returns are completed.

In case such representatives, or any of them, do not request to be present, the officers shall notify the bystanders, if any, and select one or more to be present with any available representatives of the parties or candidates so that there are as many as four bystanders and representatives present.

*The representatives and bystanders lawfully present shall have an unobstructed view of the officers of election and their actions while the absentee ballots are cast, votes are counted, and returns are completed. The representatives and bystanders lawfully present are prohibited from interfering with the officers of election in any way.*