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SENATE BILL NO. 55

Offered January 13, 2010

Prefiled January 4, 2010

A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-702.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to federal write-in absentee ballots; use in state and local elections.

Patrons—Martin, Hurt and Stuart; Delegate: Anderson

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 24.2-702.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-702.1. Federal write-in absentee ballots.

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a qualified absentee voter who is eligible for an absentee ballot under subdivision 2 of § 24.2-700 may use a federal write-in absentee ballot in general, special, and primary elections for federal, *state, and local* office. Such ballot shall be submitted and processed in the manner provided by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. § 1973ff et seq.) and this article.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, a federal write-in absentee ballot submitted pursuant to subsection A shall be considered valid for purposes of simultaneously satisfying both an absentee ballot application and a completed absentee ballot for federal, *state, and local* offices ~~only~~, provided that the ballot is received no later than the deadline for the return of absentee ballots as provided in § 24.2-709 for the election in which the voter offers to vote, and the application on the envelope contains the following information: (i) the voter's signature; however, if the voter is unable to sign, the person assisting the voter will note this fact in the voter signature box; (ii) the voter's printed name; (iii) the county or city in which he is registered and offers to vote; (iv) the residence address at which he is registered to vote; (v) his current military or overseas address; and (vi) the signature of a witness who shall sign the same envelope. If the voter is not currently registered in Virginia and is eligible to be, such federal write-in absentee ballot shall also be considered valid for the purpose of serving as a voter registration application.

INTRODUCED

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