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HOUSE BILL NO. 1959

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 6, 2019

A *BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-452, 24.2-612, 24.2-700, 24.2-701, 24.2-702.1, 24.2-703.1, 24.2-703.2, 24.2-706, 24.2-707, 24.2-709, and 24.2-1004 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 24.2-701.1, relating to absentee voting; no-excuse in-person available 21 days prior to elections.*

Patrons—Toscano, Lopez and Sickles

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 24.2-452, 24.2-612, 24.2-700, 24.2-701, 24.2-702.1, 24.2-703.1, 24.2-703.2, 24.2-706, 24.2-707, 24.2-709, and 24.2-1004 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 24.2-701.1 as follows:

§ 24.2-452. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

1. "Covered voter" means:

a. A uniformed-service voter or an overseas voter who is registered to vote in this state;
 b. A uniformed-service voter defined in subdivision 9 a whose voting residence is in this state and who otherwise satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements, including subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700;

c. An overseas voter who, before leaving the United States, was last eligible to vote in this state and, except for a state residency requirement, otherwise satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements;

d. An overseas voter who, before leaving the United States, would have been last eligible to vote in this state had the voter then been of voting age and, except for a state residency requirement, otherwise satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements; or

e. An overseas voter who was born outside the United States, is not described in subdivision c or d, and, except for a state residency requirement, otherwise satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements, if:

(1) The last place where a parent or legal guardian of the voter was, or under this chapter would have been, eligible to vote before leaving the United States is within this state; and

(2) The voter has not previously registered to vote in any other state.

2. "Dependent" means an individual recognized as a dependent by a uniformed service.
 3. "Federal postcard application" means the application prescribed under § 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. § 20301(b)(2).

4. "Federal write-in absentee ballot" means the ballot described in § 103 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 52 U.S.C. § 20303, that may be used in all elections in which the voter is eligible to vote as provided in § 24.2-702.1.

5. "Military-overseas ballot" means:

a. A federal write-in absentee ballot;
 b. A ballot specifically prepared or distributed for use by a covered voter in accordance with this title; or

c. A ballot cast by a covered voter in accordance with this title.

6. "Overseas voter" means a United States citizen who is outside the United States.

7. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

8. "Uniformed service" means:

a. Active and reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States;

b. The Merchant Marine, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, or the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States; or

c. The Virginia National Guard.

9. "Uniformed-service voter" means an individual who is qualified to vote and is:

a. A member of the active or reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard of the United States who is on active duty;

b. A member of the Merchant Marine, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, or the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States;

INTRODUCED

HB1959

c. A member on activated status of the National Guard; or

d. A spouse or dependent of a member referred to in this definition.

10. "United States," used in the territorial sense, means the several states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

§ 24.2-612. List of offices and candidates filed with Department of Elections and checked for accuracy; when ballots printed; number required.

Immediately after the expiration of the time provided by law for a candidate for any office to qualify to have his name printed on the official ballot and prior to printing the ballots for an election, each general registrar shall forward to the Department of Elections a list of the county, city, or town offices to be filled at the election and the names of all candidates who have filed for each office. In addition, each general registrar shall forward the name of any candidate who failed to qualify with the reason for his disqualification. On that same day, the general registrar shall also provide a copy of the notice to each disqualified candidate. The notice shall be sent by email or regular mail to the address on the candidate's certificate of candidate qualification, and such notice shall be deemed sufficient. The Department of Elections shall promptly advise the general registrar of the accuracy of the list. The failure of any general registrar to send the list to the Department of Elections for verification shall not invalidate any election.

Each general registrar shall have printed the number of ballots he determines will be sufficient to conduct the election. Such determination shall be based on the number of active registered voters and historical election data, including voter turnout, and shall be subject to the approval by the electoral board.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the Department of Elections may print or otherwise provide one statewide paper ballot style for each paper ballot style in use for presidential and vice-presidential electors for use only by persons eligible to vote for those offices only under § 24.2-402 or only for federal elections under § 24.2-453. The Department of Elections may apportion or authorize the printer or vendor to apportion the costs for these ballots among the localities based on the number of ballots ordered. Any printer employed by the Department of Elections shall execute the statement required by § 24.2-616. The Department of Elections shall designate a representative to be present at the printing of such ballots and deliver them to the appropriate general registrars pursuant to § 24.2-617. Upon receipt of such paper ballots, the electoral board or the general registrar shall affix the seal of the electoral board. Thereafter, such ballots shall be handled and accounted for, and the votes counted as the Department of Elections shall specifically direct.

The general registrar shall make printed ballots available for absentee voting not later than 45 days prior to any election or within three business days of the receipt of a properly completed absentee ballot application, whichever is later. In the case of a special election, excluding for federal offices, if time is insufficient to meet the applicable deadline established herein, then the general registrar shall make printed ballots available as soon after the deadline as possible. For the purposes of this chapter, making printed ballots available includes mailing of such ballots or electronic transmission of such ballots pursuant to § 24.2-706 to a qualified absentee voter who is eligible for an absentee ballot under subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700. Not later than five days after absentee ballots are made available, each general registrar shall report to the Department of Elections, in writing on a form approved by the Department of Elections, whether he has complied with the applicable deadline.

Only the names of candidates for offices to be voted on in a particular election district shall be printed on the ballots for that election district.

The general registrar shall send to the Department of Elections a statement of the number of ballots ordered to be printed, proofs of each printed ballot for verification, and copies of each final ballot. If the Department of Elections finds that, in its opinion, the number of ballots ordered to be printed by any general registrar is not sufficient, it may direct the general registrar to order the printing of a reasonable number of additional ballots.

§ 24.2-700. Persons entitled to vote by absentee ballot.

A. The following registered voters may vote by absentee ballot in accordance with the provisions of this chapter in any election in which they are qualified to vote:

1. Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation or while on personal business or vacation, will be absent from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote;

2. Any person who is (i) a member of a uniformed service, as defined in § 24.2-452, on active duty, (ii) temporarily residing outside of the United States, or (iii) the spouse or dependent residing with any person listed in clause (i) or (ii), and who will be absent on the day of the election from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote;

3. Any student attending a school or institution of higher education, or his spouse, who will be absent on the day of election from the county or city in which he is entitled to vote;

4. Any duly registered person with a disability, as defined in § 24.2-101, who is unable to go in person to the polls on the day of election because of his disability, illness, or pregnancy;

5. Any person who is confined while awaiting trial or for having been convicted of a misdemeanor, provided that the trial or release date is scheduled on or after the third day preceding the election. Any person who is awaiting trial and is a resident of the county or city where he is confined shall, on his request, be taken to the polls to vote on election day if his trial date is postponed and he did not have an opportunity to vote absentee;

6. Any person who is a member of an electoral board, registrar, officer of election, or custodian of voting equipment;

7. Any duly registered person who is unable to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because he is primarily and personally responsible for the care of an ill or disabled family member who is confined at home;

8. Any duly registered person who is unable to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because of an obligation occasioned by his religion;

9. Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for 11 or more hours of the 13 hours that the polls are open pursuant to § 24.2-603;

10. Any person who is a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 18.2-51.1; firefighter, as defined in § 65.2-102; volunteer firefighter, as defined in § 27-42; search and rescue personnel, as defined in § 18.2-51.1; or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in § 32.1-111.1;

11. Any person who has been designated by a political party, independent candidate, or candidate in a primary election to be a representative of the party or candidate inside a polling place on the day of the election pursuant to subsection C of § 24.2-604 and § 24.2-639; or

12. Any person granted a protective order issued by or under the authority of any court of competent jurisdiction.

B. Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot in person beginning on the twenty-first day prior to any election in which he is qualified to vote.

§ 24.2-701. Application for absentee ballot.

A. The State Board shall furnish each general registrar with a sufficient number of applications for official absentee ballots. The registrars shall furnish applications to persons requesting them.

The State Board shall implement a system that enables eligible persons to request and receive an absentee ballot application electronically through the Internet. Electronic absentee ballot applications shall be in a form approved by the State Board.

Except as provided in § 24.2-703, a separate application shall be completed for each election in which the applicant offers to vote. An application for an absentee ballot may be accepted the later of (i) 12 months before an election or (ii) the day following any election held in the twelfth month prior to the election in which the applicant is applying to vote.

An application that is completed in person at the same time that the applicant registers to vote shall be held and processed no sooner than the fifth day after the date that the applicant registered to vote; however, this requirement shall not be applicable to any person who is qualified to vote absentee under subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700.

Any application received before the ballots are printed shall be held and processed as soon as the printed ballots for the election are available.

For the purposes of this chapter, the general registrar's office shall be open a minimum of eight hours between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the first and second Saturday immediately preceding ~~all a November general elections, except May general elections,~~ election and on the Saturday immediately preceding any primary election, May general election, or special election.

Unless the applicant is disabled, all applications for absentee ballots shall be signed by the applicant who shall state, subject to felony penalties for making false statements pursuant to § 24.2-1016, that to the best of his knowledge and belief the facts contained in the application are true and correct and that he has not and will not vote in the election at any other place in Virginia or in any other state. If the applicant is unable to sign the application, a person assisting the applicant will note this fact on the applicant signature line and provide his signature, name, and address.

B. Applications for absentee ballots shall be completed in the following manner:

1. An application completed in person shall be ~~made not less than three days prior to the election in which the applicant offers to vote and~~ completed only in the office of the general registrar. ~~The applicant shall sign the application and signed by the applicant~~ in the presence of a registrar. The applicant shall provide one of the forms of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643. Any applicant who does not show one of the forms of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643 shall be offered a provisional ballot under the provisions of § 24.2-653. The State Board of Elections shall provide instructions to the general registrar for the handling and counting of such provisional

182 ballots pursuant to subsection B of § 24.2-653 and this section.

183 2. Any other application may be made by mail, electronic or telephonic transmission to a facsimile
184 device if one is available to the office of the general registrar or the office of the State Board if a
185 device is not available locally, or other means. The application shall be on a form furnished by the
186 registrar or, if made under subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700, may be on a federal postcard application
187 prescribed pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 20301(b)(2). The federal postcard application may be accepted the
188 later of (i) 12 months before an election or (ii) the day following any election held in the twelfth month
189 prior to the election in which the applicant is applying to vote. The application shall be made to the
190 appropriate registrar no later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh day prior to the election in which the
191 applicant offers to vote.

192 C. Applications for absentee ballots shall contain the following information:

193 1. The applicant's printed name, the last four digits of the applicant's social security number, and the
194 reason the applicant will be absent or cannot vote at his polling place on the day of the election.
195 However, an applicant completing the application in person shall not be required to provide the last four
196 digits of his social security number;

197 2. A statement that he is registered in the county or city in which he offers to vote and his residence
198 address in such county or city. Any person temporarily residing outside the United States shall provide
199 the last date of residency at his Virginia residence address, if that residence is no longer available to
200 him. Any person who makes application under subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700 who is not a registered
201 voter may file the applications to register and for a ballot simultaneously;

202 3. The complete address to which the ballot is to be sent directly to the applicant, unless the
203 application is made in person at a time when the printed ballots for the election are available and the
204 applicant chooses to vote in person at the time of completing his application. The address given shall be
205 (i) the address of the applicant on file in the registration records; (ii) the address at which he will be
206 located while absent from his county or city; or (iii) the address at which he will be located while
207 temporarily confined due to a disability or illness. No ballot shall be sent to, or in care of, any other
208 person; and

209 4. In the case of a person, or the spouse or dependent of a person, who is on active duty as a
210 member of the uniformed services as defined in § 24.2-452, the branch of service to which he or the
211 spouse belongs; or

212 5. In the case of a student, or the spouse of a student, who is attending a school or institution of
213 higher education, the name of the school or institution of higher education; or

214 6. In the case of any duly registered person with a disability, as defined in § 24.2-101, who is unable
215 to go in person to the polls on the day of the election because of his disability, illness, or pregnancy,
216 that he is a person with a disability, illness, or pregnancy; or

217 7. In the case of a person who is confined awaiting trial or for having been convicted of a
218 misdemeanor, the name of the institution of confinement; or

219 8. In the case of a person who will be absent on election day for business reasons, the name of his
220 employer or business; or

221 9. In the case of a person who will be absent on election day for personal business or vacation
222 reasons, the name of the county or city in Virginia or the state or country to which he is traveling; or

223 10. In the case of a person who is unable to go to the polls on the day of election because he is
224 primarily and personally responsible for the care of an ill or disabled family member who is confined at
225 home, his relationship to the family member; or

226 11. In the case of a person who is unable to go to the polls on the day of election because of an
227 obligation occasioned by his religion, that he has an obligation occasioned by his religion; or

228 12. In the case of a person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or
229 occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for
230 11 or more hours of the 13 hours that the polls are open pursuant to § 24.2-603, the name of his
231 business or employer and hours he will be at the workplace and commuting on election day; or

232 13. In the case of a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 18.2-51.1; firefighter, as defined in
233 § 65.2-102; volunteer firefighter, as defined in § 27-42; search and rescue personnel, as defined in
234 § 18.2-51.1; or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in § 32.1-111.1, that he is a first
235 responder; or

236 14. In the case of a person who has been designated by a political party, independent candidate, or
237 candidate in a primary election to be a representative of the party or candidate inside a polling place on
238 the day of the election pursuant to subsection C of § 24.2-604 and § 24.2-639, the fact that he is so
239 designated; or

240 15. In the case of a person who has been granted a protective order issued by or under the authority
241 of any court of competent jurisdiction, the name of the county or city in Virginia or the state of the
242 issuing court.

243 D. An application shall not be required for any registered voter appearing in person to cast an

absentee ballot during the 21 days immediately preceding the election in which he is offering to vote.

§ 24.2-701.1. Absentee voting in person.

A. Absentee voting in person shall be available on the forty-fifth day prior to any election and shall continue until 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election.

1. Any registered voter eligible to vote absentee pursuant to subsection A of § 24.2-700 may vote absentee in person beginning on the forty-fifth day prior to the election in which he is offering to vote and continuing until the twenty-second day prior to such election. He shall complete the application for an absentee ballot required by § 24.2-701, and the general registrar shall process that application in accordance with the provisions of § 24.2-706.

2. Any registered voter may vote absentee in person on or after the twenty-first day prior to the election in which he is offering to vote. He shall provide his name and his residence address in the county or city in which he is offering to vote. After verifying that the voter is a registered voter of that county or city, the general registrar shall enroll the voter's name and address on the absentee voter applicant list maintained pursuant to § 24.2-706.

A registered voter voting by absentee ballot in person shall provide one of the forms of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643. If he does not show one of the forms of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643, he shall be offered a provisional ballot under the provisions of § 24.2-653. The State Board shall provide instructions to the general registrar for the handling and counting of such provisional ballots pursuant to subsection B of § 24.2-653 and this section.

B. Absentee voting in person shall be available during regular business hours. The electoral board of each county and city shall provide for absentee voting in person in the office of the general registrar or the secretary of the electoral board. For purposes of this chapter, such office shall be open a minimum of eight hours between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the first and second Saturday immediately preceding a November general election and on the Saturday immediately preceding any primary election, May general election, or special election.

C. Additional locations in the county or city approved by the electoral boards may be available for absentee voting in person. Any such location shall be in a public building owned or leased by the county, city, or town within the county and may be in a facility that is owned or leased by the Commonwealth and used as a location for Department of Motor Vehicles facilities or as an office of the general registrar. Any such location shall have adequate facilities for the protection of all elections materials produced in the process of absentee voting in person, the voted and unvoted absentee ballots, and any voting systems in use at the location.

D. The general registrar may provide for the casting of absentee ballots in person pursuant to this section on voting systems. The Department shall prescribe the procedures for use of voting systems. The procedures shall provide for absentee voting in person on voting systems that have been certified and are currently approved by the State Board. The procedures shall be applicable and uniformly applied by the Department to all localities using comparable voting systems.

E. At least two officers of election shall be present during all hours that absentee voting in person is available and shall represent the two major political parties, except in the case of a party primary, when they may represent the party conducting the primary. However, such requirement shall not apply when (i) voting systems that are being used pursuant to subsection D are located in the office of the general registrar or the secretary of the electoral board and (ii) an officer of election and the general registrar, an assistant registrar, or the secretary of the electoral board are present.

F. The Department shall include absentee ballots voted in person in its instructions for the preparation, maintenance, and reporting of ballots, pollbooks, records, and returns.

§ 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 A 2 of § 24.2-700 may use a federal write-in absentee ballot in any election. Such ballot shall be submitted and processed in the manner provided by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. § 20301 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, 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 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 application.

C. This section shall not be construed to require that an absentee ballot be sent to the absentee voter on receipt of a federal write-in absentee ballot unless the voter has also submitted an absentee ballot

305 application pursuant to § 24.2-701 or 24.2-703.

306 **§ 24.2-703.1. Special annual applications for absentee ballots for certain ill or disabled voters.**

307 Any person who is eligible for an absentee ballot under subdivision A 4 of § 24.2-700 because of a
308 disability or illness and who is likely to remain so eligible for the remainder of the calendar year shall
309 be eligible to file a special annual application to receive ballots for all elections in which he is eligible
310 to vote in a calendar year. His first such application shall be accompanied by a statement, on a form
311 prescribed by the State Board and signed by the voter and his physician, provider as defined in
312 § 37.2-403, or accredited religious practitioner, that the voter is eligible for an absentee ballot under
313 subdivision A 4 of § 24.2-700 and likely to remain so eligible for the remainder of the calendar year.

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

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

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

324 **§ 24.2-703.2. Replacement absentee ballots for certain disabled or ill voters; penalty.**

325 A voter seeking to cast an absentee ballot may obtain a replacement absentee ballot subject to the
326 following conditions: (i) the voter applied for an absentee ballot under subdivision A 4 of § 24.2-700
327 because of a disability or illness; (ii) the application was approved and an absentee ballot mailed to the
328 voter; and (iii) the voter did not receive or has lost the absentee ballot on or before the Saturday before
329 the election. In such case, the voter may request a replacement absentee ballot by the close of business
330 for the local elections office on the Saturday before election day and designate, in writing, a
331 representative to obtain a replacement absentee ballot on his behalf from the general registrar and to
332 return the properly completed ballot as directed by the general registrar no later than the close of polls
333 on the day of election for which the absentee ballot is valid. The representative shall be age eighteen or
334 older and shall not be an elected official, a candidate for elected office, or the deputy, spouse, parent, or
335 child of an elected official or candidate. The voter and representative shall complete the form prescribed
336 by the State Board to implement the provisions of this section. The form shall include a statement
337 signed by the voter that he did not receive the ballot or has lost the ballot. Statements on the form shall
338 be subject to felony penalties for making false statements pursuant to § 24.2-1016.

339 **§ 24.2-706. Duty of general registrar on receipt of application; statement of voter.**

340 A. On receipt of an application for an absentee ballot, the general registrar shall enroll the name and
341 address of each registered applicant on an absentee voter applicant list that shall be maintained in the
342 office of the general registrar with a file of the applications of the listed applicants received. The list
343 shall be available for inspection and copying and the applications shall be available for inspection only
344 by any registered voter during regular office hours. Upon request and for a reasonable fee, the
345 Department of Elections shall provide an electronic copy of the absentee voter applicant list to any
346 political party or candidate. Such list shall be used only for campaign and political purposes. Any list
347 made available for inspection and copying under this section shall contain the post office box address in
348 lieu of the residence street address for any individual who has furnished at the time of registration or
349 subsequently, in addition to his street address, a post office box address pursuant to subsection B of
350 § 24.2-418.

351 No list or application containing an individual's social security number, or any part thereof, or the
352 individual's day and month of birth, shall be made available for inspection or copying by anyone. The
353 Department of Elections shall prescribe procedures for general registrars to make the information in the
354 lists and applications available in a manner that does not reveal social security numbers or parts thereof,
355 or an individual's day and month of birth.

356 B. The completion and timely delivery of an application for an absentee ballot shall be construed to
357 be an offer by the applicant to vote in the election.

358 The general registrar shall note on each application received whether the applicant is or is not a
359 registered voter. In reviewing the application for an absentee ballot, the general registrar shall not reject
360 the application of any individual because of an error or omission on any record or paper relating to the
361 application, if such error or omission is not material in determining whether such individual is qualified
362 to vote absentee.

363 If the application has been properly completed and signed and the applicant is a registered voter of
364 the precinct in which he offers to vote, the general registrar shall, at the time when the printed ballots
365 for the election are available, send by the deadline set out in § 24.2-612, obtaining a certificate or other
366 evidence of either first-class or expedited mailing or delivery from the United States Postal Service or

other commercial delivery provider, or deliver to him in person in the office of the registrar, the following items and nothing else:

1. An envelope containing the folded ballot, sealed and marked "Ballot within. Do not open except in presence of a witness."

2. An envelope, with printing only on the flap side, for resealing the marked ballot, on which envelope is printed the following:

"Statement of Voter."

"I do hereby state, subject to felony penalties for making false statements pursuant to § 24.2-1016, that my FULL NAME is _____ (last, first, middle); that I am now or have been at some time since last November's general election a legal resident of _____ (STATE YOUR LEGAL RESIDENCE IN VIRGINIA including the house number, street name or rural route address, city, zip code); that I received the enclosed ballot(s) upon application to the registrar of such county or city; that I opened the envelope marked 'ballot within' and marked the ballot(s) in the presence of the witness, without assistance or knowledge on the part of anyone as to the manner in which I marked it (or I am returning the form required to report how I was assisted); that I then sealed the ballot(s) in this envelope; and that I have not voted and will not vote in this election at any other time or place.

Signature of Voter _____

Date _____

Signature of witness _____"

For elections held after January 1, 2004, instead of the envelope containing the above oath, an envelope containing the standard oath prescribed by the presidential designee under § 101(b)(7) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. § 20301 et seq.) shall be sent to voters who are qualified to vote absentee under that Act.

When this statement has been properly completed and signed by the registered voter and witnessed, his ballot shall not be subject to challenge pursuant to § 24.2-651.

3. A properly addressed envelope for the return of the ballot to the general registrar by mail or by the applicant in person.

4. Printed instructions for completing the ballot and statement on the envelope and returning the ballot.

For federal elections held after January 1, 2004, for any voter who is required by subparagraph (b) of 52 U.S.C. § 21083 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to show identification the first time the voter votes in a federal election in the state, the printed instructions shall direct the voter to submit with his ballot (i) a copy of a current and valid photo identification or (ii) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter. Such individual who desires to vote by mail but who does not submit one of the forms of identification specified in this paragraph may cast such ballot by mail and the ballot shall be counted as a provisional ballot under the provisions of § 24.2-653. The Department of Elections shall provide instructions to the electoral boards for the handling and counting of such provisional ballots pursuant to subsection B of § 24.2-653 and this section.

5. For any voter entitled to vote absentee under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. § 20301 et seq.), information provided by the Department of Elections specific to the voting rights and responsibilities for such citizens, or information provided by the registrar specific to the status of the voter registration and absentee ballot application of such voter, may be included.

The envelopes and instructions shall be in the form prescribed by the Department of Elections.

C. If the applicant ~~makes completes~~ his application ~~to vote~~ in person under § 24.2-701 at a time when the printed ballots for the election are available, ~~the general registrar, on the determination of the qualifications of the applicant to vote, shall provide to the applicant the items set forth in subdivisions 1 through 4, and no item shall be removed by the applicant from the office of the general registrar he may request that the general registrar send to him by mail the items set forth in subdivisions B 1 through 4, instead of casting the ballot in person. On the request of the applicant, Such request shall be made no~~ later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh day prior to the election in which the applicant offers to vote, and the general registrar ~~may shall send the those items set forth in subdivisions 1 through 4 to the applicant~~ by mail, obtaining a certificate or other evidence of mailing.

D. If the applicant states as the reason for his absence on election day any of the reasons set forth in subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700, the general registrar, at the time when the printed ballots for the election are available, shall mail by the deadline set forth in § 24.2-612 or deliver in person to the applicant in the office of the general registrar the items as set forth in subdivisions B 1 through 4 and, if necessary, an application for registration. A certificate or other evidence of mailing shall not be required. If the applicant requests that such items be sent by electronic transmission, the general registrar, at the time when the printed ballots for the election are available but not later than the deadline set forth in § 24.2-612, shall send by electronic transmission the blank ballot, the form for the envelope for

428 returning the marked ballot, and instructions to the voter. Such materials shall be sent using the official
429 email address or fax number of the office of the general registrar published on the Department of
430 Elections website. The State Board of Elections may prescribe by regulation the format of the email
431 address used for transmitting ballots to eligible voters. A general registrar may also use electronic
432 transmission facilities provided by the Federal Voting Assistance Program. The voted ballot shall be
433 returned to the general registrar as otherwise required by this chapter.

434 When the statement prescribed in subdivision 2 has been properly completed and signed by the
435 registered voter and witnessed, his ballot shall not be subject to challenge pursuant to ~~§ 24.2-651~~.

436 E. The circuit courts shall have jurisdiction to issue an injunction to enforce the provisions of this
437 section upon the application of (i) any aggrieved voter, (ii) any candidate in an election district in whole
438 or in part in the court's jurisdiction where a violation of this section has occurred, or is likely to occur,
439 or (iii) the campaign committee or the appropriate district political party chairman of such candidate.
440 Any person who fails to discharge his duty as provided in this section through willful neglect of duty
441 and with malicious intent shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor as provided in subsection A of
442 § 24.2-1001.

443 **§ 24.2-707. How ballots marked and returned by mail.**

444 On receipt of a mailed absentee ballot, the voter shall, in the presence of a witness, (i) open the
445 sealed envelope marked "ballot within" and (ii) mark and refold the ballot, as provided in §§ 24.2-644
446 and 24.2-646 without assistance and without making known how he marked the ballot, except as
447 provided by § 24.2-704.

448 After the voter has marked his absentee ballot, he shall (a) enclose the ballot in the envelope
449 provided for that purpose, (b) seal the envelope, (c) fill in and sign the statement printed on the back of
450 the envelope in the presence of a witness, who shall sign the same envelope, (d) enclose the ballot
451 envelope and any required assistance form within the envelope directed to the general registrar, and (e)
452 seal that envelope and mail it to the office of the general registrar or deliver it personally to the general
453 registrar. A voter's failure to provide in the statement on the back of the envelope his full middle name
454 or his middle initial shall not be a material omission, rendering his ballot void, unless the voter failed to
455 provide in the statement on the back of the envelope his full first and last name. A voter's failure to
456 provide the date, or any part of the date, including the year, on which he signed the statement printed
457 on the back of the envelope shall not be considered a material omission and shall not render his ballot
458 void. For purposes of this chapter, "mail" shall include delivery by a commercial delivery service, but
459 shall not include delivery by a personal courier service or another individual except as provided by
460 §§ 24.2-703.2 and 24.2-705.

461 An applicant who makes his application to vote in person at a time when the printed ballots for the
462 election are available shall follow the same procedure set forth above except that he may complete the
463 procedure in person in the office of the general registrar, or at another location or locations in the
464 county or city approved by the electoral board, before a registrar, or, if a ballot is cast at that time,
465 before the officers of election appointed by the electoral board. Any such location shall be in a public
466 building owned or leased by the city, the county, or a town within the county, with adequate facilities
467 for the protection of all records concerning the absentee voters, the absentee ballots, both voted and
468 unvoted, and any voting equipment in use at the location. Such location may be in a facility owned or
469 leased by the Commonwealth and used as a location for Department of Motor Vehicles facilities and for
470 an office of the general registrar. Such location shall be deemed the equivalent of the office of the
471 general registrar for the purpose of completing the application for an absentee ballot in person pursuant
472 to ~~§§ 24.2-701 and 24.2-706~~. On the request of the applicant, made no later than 5:00 p.m. on the
473 seventh day prior to the election in which the applicant offers to vote, the general registrar may send the
474 items set forth in subdivisions 1 through 4 of ~~§ 24.2-706~~ to the applicant by mail, obtaining a certificate
475 or other evidence of mailing.

476 Failure to follow the procedures set forth above *in this section* shall render the applicant's ballot void.

477 The general registrar of any county or city using a central absentee voting precinct may provide for
478 the casting of absentee ballots on voting equipment prior to election day by applicants who are voting in
479 person. The Department of Elections shall prescribe procedures for the use of voting equipment. The
480 procedures shall provide for the casting of absentee ballots prior to election day by in-person applicants
481 on voting equipment which has been certified, and is currently approved, by the Department of
482 Elections. The procedures shall be applicable and uniformly applied by the Department of Elections to
483 all jurisdictions using comparable voting equipment. At least two officers of election, one representing
484 each political party, shall be present during all hours that absentee voting is available at any location at
485 which absentee ballots are cast prior to election day.

486 The requirement that officers of election shall be present if ballots are cast on voting equipment prior
487 to election day shall not be applicable when the voting equipment is located in the office of the general
488 registrar and the general registrar or an assistant registrar is present.

489 **§ 24.2-709. Ballot to be returned in manner prescribed by law.**

490 A. Any ballot returned to the office of the general registrar in any manner except as prescribed by
491 law shall be void. Absentee ballots shall be returned to the general registrar before the closing of the
492 polls. The registrar receiving the ballot shall (i) seal the ballot in an envelope with the statement or
493 declaration of the voter, or both, attached to the outside and (ii) mark on each envelope the date, time,
494 and manner of delivery. No returned absentee ballot shall be deemed void because the inner envelope
495 containing the voted ballot is imperfectly sealed so long as the outside envelope containing the ballot
496 envelope is sealed.

497 B. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection A, absentee ballots (i) received after the close of the
498 polls on any election day, (ii) received before 5:00 p.m. on the second business day before the State
499 Board meets to ascertain the results of the election pursuant to this title, (iii) requested on or before but
500 not sent by the deadline for making absentee ballots available under § 24.2-612, and (iv) cast by an
501 absentee voter who is eligible for an absentee ballot under subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700 shall be
502 counted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter and, if the voter is found entitled to vote,
503 included in the election returns. The electoral board shall prepare an amended certified abstract, which
504 shall include the results of such ballots, and shall deliver such abstract to the State Board by the
505 business day prior to its meeting pursuant to this title, and shall deliver a copy of such abstract to the
506 general registrar to be available for inspection when his office is open for business.

507 C. Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (i) of subsection B of § 24.2-427, an absentee ballot
508 returned by a voter in compliance with § 24.2-707 and this section who dies prior to the counting of
509 absentee ballots on election day shall be counted pursuant to the procedures set forth in this chapter if
510 the voter is found to have been entitled to vote at the time that he returned the ballot.

511 **§ 24.2-1004. Illegal voting and registrations.**

512 A. Any person who wrongfully deposits a ballot in the ballot container or casts a vote on any voting
513 equipment, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

514 B. Any person who intentionally (i) votes more than once in the same election, whether those votes
515 are cast in Virginia or in Virginia and any other state or territory of the United States, (ii) procures,
516 assists, or induces another to vote more than once in the same election, whether those votes are cast in
517 Virginia or in Virginia and any other state or territory of the United States, (iii) votes knowing that he is
518 not qualified to vote where and when the vote is to be given, or (iv) procures, assists, or induces
519 another to vote knowing that such person is not qualified to vote where and when the vote is to be
520 given is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

521 C. Any person who intentionally (i) registers to vote at more than one residence address at the same
522 time, whether such registrations are in Virginia or in Virginia and any other state or territory of the
523 United States, or (ii) procures, assists, or induces another to register to vote at more than one address at
524 the same time, whether such registrations are in Virginia or in Virginia and any other state or territory
525 of the United States, is guilty of a Class 6 felony. This subsection shall not apply to any person who,
526 when registering to vote, changing the address at which he is registered, transferring his registration, or
527 assisting another in registering, changing his address, or transferring his registration, provides the
528 information required by § 24.2-418 on the applicant's place of last previous registration to vote.

529 D. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a person entitled to vote absentee under
530 subdivision A 2 of § 24.2-700 from casting in the same election both a state ballot and a write-in
531 absentee ballot that is processed in the manner provided by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
532 Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. § 20301 et seq.). If both ballots are received prior to the close of the
533 polls on election day, the state ballot shall be counted.