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SENATE BILL NO. 6

Offered January 10, 2018

Prefiled November 20, 2017

A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-705.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to absentee voting; late applications and in-person voting in certain circumstances.

Patrons—Ebbin; Delegates: Kory and Levine

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

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

**1. That § 24.2-705.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 24.2-705.1. Late applications and in-person absentee voting for business and medical emergencies.**

Any person registered and otherwise qualified to vote who becomes obligated after 12:00 noon on the ~~Saturday~~ Friday before an election to be absent from his county or city on election day for a purpose pertaining to (i) his business, profession, or occupation; (ii) the hospitalization of the applicant or a member of his immediate family; or (iii) the death of a member of his immediate family; may apply for an absentee ballot and vote absentee in person pursuant to this section and subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant applies in person for an absentee ballot ~~on~~ not later than the Monday immediately preceding the election, before 2:00 p.m., at the principal office of the registrar; and

2. The applicant signs a statement, which shall be deemed part of his absentee ballot application and subject to felony penalties for making false statements pursuant to § 24.2-1016, that he is required to leave the county or city before the opening of the polls on election day for a purpose pertaining to (i) his business, profession, or occupation; (ii) the hospitalization of the applicant or a member of his immediate family; or (iii) the death of a member of his immediate family; and that he did not have notice or knowledge of such required travel prior to 12:00 noon on the immediately preceding ~~Saturday~~ Friday.

*For purposes of this section:*

"Hospitalization" means confinement in a hospital as defined in § 32.1-123 or 37.2-100 and any comparable hospital in the District of Columbia or any state contiguous to Virginia.

"Immediate family" means the children including adopted children, grandchildren, grandparents, parents, legal guardian, siblings, whether of the whole or half blood, and spouse of the applicant.

~~"Hospitalization" refers to confinement in a hospital as defined in § 32.1-123 or 37.2-100 and any comparable hospital in the District of Columbia or any state contiguous to Virginia.~~

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