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HOUSE BILL NO. 240

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled December 30, 2019

A BILL to amend and reenact § 24.2-703.1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia, relating to absentee voting; annual applications for eligible absentee voters.

Patron—Sickles

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 24.2-703.1, as it is currently effective and as it shall become effective, of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 24.2-703.1. (Effective for elections prior to the general election on November 3, 2020) Special annual applications for absentee ballots for eligible absentee voters.

Any person who is eligible for an absentee ballot under ~~subdivision 4 of~~ § 24.2-700 because of a disability or illness and who is likely to remain so eligible 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, ~~provider as defined in §—37.2-403, or accredited religious practitioner,~~ that the voter is eligible for an absentee ballot under ~~subdivision 4 of~~ § 24.2-700 and likely to remain so eligible 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.

§ 24.2-703.1. (Effective for elections beginning with the general election on November 3, 2020) Special annual applications for absentee ballots for eligible absentee voters.

Any person who is eligible for an absentee ballot under ~~subdivision A 4 subsection A of~~ § 24.2-700 because of a disability or illness and who is likely to remain so eligible 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, ~~provider as defined in §—37.2-403, or accredited religious practitioner,~~ that the voter is eligible for an absentee ballot under ~~subdivision A 4 subsection A of~~ § 24.2-700 and likely to remain so eligible 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.

INTRODUCED

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