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SENATE BILL NO. 442

Offered January 8, 2020

Prefiled January 7, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-604, 24.2-649, 24.2-700, and 24.2-701 of the Code of Virginia and to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 24.2-604.4, 24.2-604.5, and 24.2-604.6, relating to polling place activities; reorganization of sections; technical amendments.

Patron—Edwards

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 24.2-604, 24.2-649, 24.2-700, and 24.2-701 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 24.2-604.4, 24.2-604.5, and 24.2-604.6 as follows:

§ 24.2-604. Polling places; prohibited activities; prohibited area; penalties.

A. During the times the polls are open and ballots are being counted, it shall be unlawful for any person (i) to loiter or congregate within 40 feet of any entrance of any polling place; (ii) within such distance to give, tender, or exhibit any ballot, ticket, or other campaign material to any person or to solicit or in any manner attempt to influence any person in casting his vote; or (iii) to hinder or delay a qualified voter in entering or leaving a polling place.

B. Prior to opening the polls, the officers of election shall post, in the area within 40 feet of any entrance to the polling place, sufficient notices which state "Prohibited Area" in two-inch type. The notices shall also state the provisions of this section in not less than 24-point type. The officers of election shall post the notices within the prohibited area to be visible to voters and the public.

C. The officers of election shall permit one authorized representative of each political party or independent candidate in a general or special election, or one authorized representative of each candidate in a primary election, to remain in the room in which the election is being conducted at all times. A representative may serve part of the day and be replaced by successive representatives. The officers of election shall have discretion to permit up to three authorized representatives of each political party or independent candidate in a general or special election, or up to three authorized representatives of each candidate in a primary election, to remain in the room in which the election is being conducted. The officers shall permit one such representative for each pollbook station. However, no more than one such representative for each pollbook station or three representatives of any political party or independent candidate, whichever number is larger, shall be permitted in the room at any one time. Each authorized representative shall be a qualified voter of any jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. Each representative shall present to the officers of election a written statement designating him to be a representative of the party or candidate and signed by the county or city chairman of his political party, the independent candidate, or the primary candidate, as appropriate. If the county or city chairman is unavailable to sign such a written designation, such a designation may be made by the state or district chairman of the political party. However, no written designation made by a state or district chairman shall take precedence over a written designation made by the county or city chairman. Such statement, bearing the chairman's or candidate's original signature, may be photocopied, and such photocopy shall be as valid as if the copy had been signed. No candidate whose name is printed on the ballot shall serve as a representative of a party or candidate for purposes of this section. Authorized representatives shall be allowed, whether in a regular polling place or central absentee voter precinct, to be close enough to the voter check-in table to be able to hear and see what is occurring; however, such observation shall not violate the secret vote provision of Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of Virginia or otherwise interfere with the orderly process of the election. Any representative who complains to the chief officer of election that he is unable to hear or see the process may accept the chief officer's decision or, if dissatisfied, he may immediately appeal the decision to the local electoral board or general registrar. Authorized representatives shall be allowed, whether in a regular polling place or central absentee voter precinct, to use a handheld wireless communications device, but shall not be allowed to use such a device to capture a digital image inside the polling place or central absentee voter precinct. The officers of election may prohibit the use of cellular telephones or other handheld wireless communications devices if such use will result in a violation of subsection A or D or § 24.2-607. Authorized representatives shall not be allowed in any case to provide assistance to any voter as permitted under § 24.2-649 or to wear any indication that they are authorized to assist voters either inside the polling place or within 40 feet of any entrance to the polling place.

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59 D. C. It shall be unlawful for any authorized representative *permitted in the polling place pursuant*  
 60 *to § 24.2-604.4, any voter, or any other person in the room to (i) hinder or delay a qualified voter; (ii)*  
 61 *give, tender, or exhibit any ballot, ticket, or other campaign material to any person; (iii) solicit or in any*  
 62 *manner attempt to influence any person in casting his vote; (iv) hinder or delay any officer of election;*  
 63 *(v) be in a position to see the marked ballot of any other voter; or (vi) otherwise impede the orderly*  
 64 *conduct of the election.*

65 E. The officers of election may require any person who is found by a majority of the officers present  
 66 to be in violation of this section to remain outside of the prohibited area. Any person violating  
 67 subsection A or D is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

68 F. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a candidate from entering any polling place on the  
 69 day of the election to vote, or to visit a polling place for no longer than 10 minutes per polling place  
 70 per election day, provided that he complies with the restrictions stated in subsections A, D, and J.

71 G. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a minor from entering a polling place on the day  
 72 of the election to vote in a simulated election at that polling place, provided that the local electoral  
 73 board or general registrar has determined that such polling place can accommodate simulated election  
 74 activities without interference or substantial delay in the orderly conduct of the official voting process.  
 75 Persons supervising or working in a simulated election in which minors vote may remain within such  
 76 polling place. The local electoral board or general registrar and the chief officer for the polling place  
 77 shall exercise authority over, but shall have no responsibility for the administration of, simulated election  
 78 related activities at the polling place.

79 H. A local electoral board or general registrar may authorize in writing the presence of additional  
 80 neutral observers as may be deemed appropriate, except as otherwise prohibited or limited by this  
 81 section. Such observers shall comply with the restrictions in subsections A and D and shall not be  
 82 allowed in any case to provide assistance to any voter as permitted under § 24.2-649 or to wear any  
 83 indication that they are authorized to assist voters either inside the polling place or within 40 feet of any  
 84 entrance to the polling place.

85 I. The officers of election shall permit representatives of the news media to visit and film or  
 86 photograph inside the polling place for a reasonable and limited period of time while the polls are open.  
 87 However, the media (i) shall comply with the restrictions in subsections A and D; (ii) shall not film or  
 88 photograph any person who specifically asks the media representative at that time that he not be filmed  
 89 or photographed; (iii) shall not film or photograph the voter or the ballot in such a way that divulges  
 90 how any individual voter is voting; and (iv) shall not film or photograph the voter list or any other voter  
 91 record or material at the precinct in such a way that it divulges the name or other information  
 92 concerning any individual voter. Any interviews with voters, candidates or other persons, live  
 93 broadcasts, or taping of reporters' remarks, shall be conducted outside of the polling place and the  
 94 prohibited area. The officers of election may require any person who is found by a majority of the  
 95 officers present to be in violation of this subsection to leave the polling place and the prohibited area.

96 J. D. The provisions of subsections A and D C shall not be construed to prohibit a person who  
 97 approaches or enters the polling place for the purpose of voting from wearing a shirt, hat, or other  
 98 apparel on which a candidate's name or a political slogan appears or from having a sticker or button  
 99 attached to his apparel on which a candidate's name or a political slogan appears. This exemption shall  
 100 not apply to candidates, representatives of candidates, or any other person who approaches or enters the  
 101 polling place for any purpose other than voting.

102 E. *This section shall not be construed to prohibit a candidate from entering any polling place on the*  
 103 *day of the election to vote, or to visit a polling place for no longer than 10 minutes per polling place*  
 104 *per election day, provided that he complies with the restrictions stated in subsections A, C, and D.*

105 F. The officers of election may require any person who is found by a majority of the officers present  
 106 to be in violation of this section to remain outside of the prohibited area. Any person violating  
 107 subsection A or C is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

108 **§ 24.2-604.4. Polling places; authorized representatives of party or candidate; prohibited activities.**

109 A. The officers of election shall permit one authorized representative of each political party or  
 110 independent candidate in a general or special election, or one authorized representative of each  
 111 candidate in a primary election, to remain in the room in which the election is being conducted at all  
 112 times. A representative may serve part of the day and be replaced by successive representatives. The  
 113 officers of election shall have discretion to permit up to three authorized representatives of each  
 114 political party or independent candidate in a general or special election, or up to three authorized  
 115 representatives of each candidate in a primary election, to remain in the room in which the election is  
 116 being conducted. The officers shall permit one such representative for each pollbook station. However,  
 117 no more than one such representative for each pollbook station or three representatives of any political  
 118 party or independent candidate, whichever number is larger, shall be permitted in the room at any one  
 119 time.

120 B. Each authorized representative shall be a qualified voter of any jurisdiction of the

121 Commonwealth. No candidate whose name is printed on the ballot shall serve as a representative of a  
122 party or candidate for purposes of this section.

123 Each representative shall present to the officers of election a written statement designating him to be  
124 a representative of the party or candidate that is signed by the county or city chairman of his political  
125 party, the independent candidate, or the primary candidate, as appropriate. If the county or city  
126 chairman is unavailable to sign such a written designation, such a designation may be made by the  
127 state or district chairman of the political party. However, no written designation made by a state or  
128 district chairman shall take precedence over a written designation made by the county or city chairman.  
129 Such statement, bearing the chairman's or candidate's original signature, may be photocopied, and such  
130 photocopy shall be as valid as if the copy had been signed.

131 C. Authorized representatives shall be allowed, whether in a regular polling place or central  
132 absentee voter precinct, to be close enough to the voter check-in table to be able to hear and see what  
133 is occurring; however, such observation shall not violate the secret vote provision of Article II, Section  
134 3 of the Constitution of Virginia or otherwise interfere with the orderly process of the election. Any  
135 representative who complains to the chief officer of election that he is unable to hear or see the process  
136 may accept the chief officer's decision or, if dissatisfied, he may immediately appeal the decision to the  
137 local electoral board or general registrar.

138 D. Authorized representatives shall be allowed, whether in a regular polling place or central  
139 absentee voter precinct, to use a handheld wireless communications device but shall not be allowed to  
140 use such a device to capture a digital image inside the polling place or central absentee voter precinct.  
141 The officers of election may prohibit the use of cellular telephones or other handheld wireless  
142 communications devices if such use will result in a violation of subsection A or C of § 24.2-604 or §  
143 24.2-607.

144 E. Authorized representatives shall not be allowed in any case to provide assistance to any voter as  
145 permitted under § 24.2-649 or to wear any indication that they are authorized to assist voters either  
146 inside the polling place or within 40 feet of any entrance to the polling place.

147 F. The officers of election may require any person who is found by a majority of the officers present  
148 to be in violation of this section to remain outside of the prohibited area.

149 **§ 24.2-604.5. Polling places; presence of additional persons authorized.**

150 A. A local electoral board or general registrar may authorize in writing the presence in the polling  
151 place of additional neutral observers as may be deemed appropriate, except as otherwise prohibited or  
152 limited by the provisions of § 24.2-604. Such observers shall comply with the restrictions in subsections  
153 A and C of § 24.2-604 and shall not be allowed in any case to provide assistance to any voter as  
154 permitted under § 24.2-649 or to wear any indication that they are authorized to assist voters either  
155 inside the polling place or within 40 feet of any entrance to the polling place. The officers of election  
156 may require any person who is found by a majority of the officers present to be in violation of this  
157 subsection to remain outside of the prohibited area.

158 B. The officers of election shall permit representatives of the news media to visit and film or  
159 photograph inside the polling place for a reasonable and limited period of time while the polls are  
160 open. However, the media (i) shall comply with the restrictions in subsections A and C of § 24.2-604;  
161 (ii) shall not film or photograph any person who specifically asks the media representative at that time  
162 that he not be filmed or photographed; (iii) shall not film or photograph the voter or the ballot in such  
163 a way that divulges how any individual voter is voting; and (iv) shall not film or photograph the voter  
164 list or any other voter record or material at the precinct in such a way that it divulges the name or  
165 other information concerning any individual voter. Any interviews with voters, candidates, or other  
166 persons; live broadcasts; or taping of reporters' remarks shall be conducted outside of the polling place  
167 and the prohibited area. The officers of election may require any person who is found by a majority of  
168 the officers present to be in violation of this subsection to leave the polling place and the prohibited  
169 area.

170 **§ 24.2-604.6. Polling places; simulated election activities.**

171 Minors may be permitted to enter a polling place on the day of the election to vote in a simulated  
172 election at that polling place, provided that the local electoral board or general registrar has  
173 determined that such polling place can accommodate simulated election activities without interference or  
174 substantial delay in the orderly conduct of the official voting process. Persons supervising or working in  
175 a simulated election in which minors vote may remain within such polling place. The local electoral  
176 board or general registrar and the chief officer for the polling place shall exercise authority over, but  
177 shall have no responsibility for the administration of, simulated election related activities at the polling  
178 place.

179 **§ 24.2-649. Assistance for certain voters; penalties.**

180 A. Any voter age 65 or older or physically disabled may request and then shall be handed a printed  
181 ballot by an officer of election outside the polling place but within 150 feet of the entrance to the

182 polling place. The voter shall mark the printed ballot in the officer's presence but in a secret manner  
183 and, obscuring his vote, return the ballot to the officer. The officer shall immediately return to the  
184 polling place and shall deposit a paper ballot in the ballot container in accordance with § 24.2-646 or a  
185 machine-readable ballot in the ballot scanner machine in accordance with the instructions of the State  
186 Board.

187 Any county or city that has acquired an electronic voting machine that is so constructed as to be  
188 easily portable may use the voting machine in lieu of a printed ballot for the voter requiring assistance  
189 pursuant to this subsection. However, the electronic voting machine may be used in lieu of a printed  
190 ballot only so long as: (i) the voting machine remains in the plain view of two officers of election  
191 representing two political parties, or in a primary election, two officers of election representing the party  
192 conducting the primary, provided that if the use of two officers for this purpose would result in too few  
193 officers remaining in the polling place to meet legal requirements, the voting machine shall remain in  
194 plain view of one officer who shall be either the chief officer or the assistant chief officer and (ii) the  
195 voter casts his ballot in a secret manner unless the voter requests assistance pursuant to this section.  
196 After the voter has completed voting his ballot, the officer or officers shall immediately return the  
197 voting machine to its assigned location inside the polling place. The machine number, the time that the  
198 machine was removed and the time that it was returned, the number on the machine's public counter  
199 before the machine was removed and the number on the same counter when it was returned, and the  
200 name or names of the officer or officers who accompanied the machine shall be recorded on the  
201 statement of results.

202 B. Any qualified voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of physical disability or inability to  
203 read or write may, if he so requests, be assisted in voting. If he is blind, he may designate an officer of  
204 election or any other person to assist him. If he is unable to read and write or disabled for any cause  
205 other than blindness, he may designate an officer of election or some other person to assist him other  
206 than the voter's employer or agent of that employer, or officer or agent of the voter's union.

207 The officer of election or other person so designated shall not enter the booth with the voter unless  
208 (i) the voter signs a request stating that he requires assistance by reason of physical disability or  
209 inability to read or write and (ii) the officer of election or other person signs a statement that he is not  
210 the voter's employer or an agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, and that he  
211 will act in accordance with the requirements of this section. The request and statement shall be on a  
212 single form furnished by the State Board. If the voter is unable to sign the request, his own mark  
213 acknowledged by him before an officer of election shall be sufficient signature, provided no mark shall  
214 be required of a voter who is blind. An officer of election shall advise the voter and person assisting the  
215 voter of the requirements of this section and record the name of the voter and the name and address of  
216 the person assisting him.

217 The officer of election or other person so designated shall assist the qualified voter in the preparation  
218 of his ballot in accordance with his instructions and without soliciting his vote or in any manner  
219 attempting to influence his vote and shall not in any manner divulge or indicate, by signs or otherwise,  
220 how the voter voted on any office or question. If a printed ballot is used, the officer or other person so  
221 designated shall deposit the ballot in the ballot container in accordance with § 24.2-646 or in the ballot  
222 scanner machine in accordance with the instructions of the State Board.

223 C. If the voter requires assistance in a language other than English and has not designated a person  
224 to assist him, an officer of election, before he assists as interpreter, shall inquire of the representatives  
225 authorized to be present pursuant to ~~§ 24.2-604~~ § 24.2-604.4 whether they have a volunteer available  
226 who can interpret for the voter. One representative interpreter for each party or candidate, insofar as  
227 available, shall be permitted to observe the officer of election communicate with the voter. The voter  
228 may designate one of the volunteer party or candidate interpreters to provide assistance. A person so  
229 designated by the voter shall meet all the requirements of this section for a person providing assistance.

230 D. A person who willfully violates subsection B or C is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. In  
231 addition, the provisions of § 24.2-1016 and its felony penalties for false statements shall be applicable to  
232 any request or statement signed pursuant to this section, and the provisions of §§ 24.2-704 and  
233 24.2-1012 and the felony penalties for violations of the law related to providing assistance to absentee  
234 voters shall be applicable in such cases.

235 E. In any precinct in which an electronic voting machine is available that provides an audio ballot,  
236 the officers of election shall notify a voter requiring assistance pursuant to this section that such  
237 machine is available for him to use to vote in privacy without assistance and the officers of election  
238 shall instruct the voter on the use of the voting machine. Nothing in this section shall be construed to  
239 require a voter to use the machine unassisted.

240 **§ 24.2-700. Persons entitled to vote by absentee ballot.**

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

243 1. Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation or

244 while on personal business or vacation, will be absent from the county or city in which he is entitled to  
245 vote;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

269 10. Any person who is a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 18.2-51.1; firefighter, as defined in  
270 § 65.2-102; volunteer firefighter, as defined in § 27-42; search and rescue personnel, as defined in  
271 § 18.2-51.1; or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in § 32.1-111.1;

272 11. Any person who has been designated by a political party, independent candidate, or candidate in  
273 a primary election to be a representative of the party or candidate inside a polling place on the day of  
274 the election pursuant to ~~subsection C of § 24.2-604 and § 24.2-639~~ §§ 24.2-604.4 and 24.2-639; or

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

277 B. Any registered voter may vote by absentee ballot in person beginning on the second Saturday  
278 immediately preceding any election in which he is qualified to vote.

279 **§ 24.2-701. Application for absentee ballot.**

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

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

285 Except as provided in § 24.2-703, a separate application shall be completed for each election in  
286 which the applicant offers to vote. An application for an absentee ballot may be accepted the later of (i)  
287 12 months before an election or (ii) the day following any election held in the twelfth month prior to  
288 the election in which the applicant is applying to vote.

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

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

295 For the purposes of this chapter, the general registrar's office shall be open a minimum of eight  
296 hours between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the first and second Saturday immediately  
297 preceding all elections.

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

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

305 1. An application completed in person shall be completed only in the office of the general registrar  
306 and signed by the applicant in the presence of a registrar. The applicant shall provide one of the forms  
307 of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643. Any applicant who does not show one of the  
308 forms of identification specified in subsection B of § 24.2-643 shall be offered a provisional ballot  
309 under the provisions of § 24.2-653. The State Board of Elections shall provide instructions to the  
310 general registrar for the handling and counting of such provisional ballots pursuant to subsection B of  
311 § 24.2-653 and this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

357 12. In the case of a person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or  
358 occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for  
359 11 or more hours of the 13 hours that the polls are open pursuant to § 24.2-603, the name of his  
360 business or employer and hours he will be at the workplace and commuting on election day; or

361 13. In the case of a law-enforcement officer, as defined in § 18.2-51.1; firefighter, as defined in  
362 § 65.2-102; volunteer firefighter, as defined in § 27-42; search and rescue personnel, as defined in  
363 § 18.2-51.1; or emergency medical services personnel, as defined in § 32.1-111.1, that he is a first  
364 responder; or

365 14. In the case of a person who has been designated by a political party, independent candidate, or  
366 candidate in a primary election to be a representative of the party or candidate inside a polling place on

367 the day of the election pursuant to ~~subsection C of § 24.2-604 and § 24.2-639~~ §§ 24.2-604.4 and  
368 24.2-639, the fact that he is so designated; or

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

372 D. An application shall not be required for any registered voter appearing in person to cast an  
373 absentee ballot during the period beginning on the second Saturday immediately preceding the election  
374 in which he is offering to vote.

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