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HOUSE BILL NO. 1869

Offered January 13, 2021

Prefiled January 8, 2021

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-714, relating to absentee voting; unsolicited absentee ballot applications; required information.

Patrons—Batten and Cole, M.L.

Referred to Committee on Privileges and Elections

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 7 of Title 24.2 a section numbered 24.2-714 as follows:

§ 24.2-714. Unsolicited absentee ballot applications; required information.

A. Any individual or organization sending an application for an absentee ballot to a registered voter that was not solicited or requested by the registered voter shall include with the application instructions on completing the application and submitting it to the appropriate general registrar. On the envelope containing the application, or on the first page of any enclosed materials, there shall be a statement, in font size no smaller than 18 point, that the absentee ballot application is not being sent to the voter by any state or local government official or agency.

B. Any individual or organization sending an application for an absentee ballot to a registered voter that was not solicited or requested by the registered voter shall use the information provided in the list of registered voters acquired by such individual or organization pursuant to § 24.2-405, and a violation of such requirement is a Class 4 misdemeanor. The Department of Elections shall, in providing the list of registered voters to such individual or organization for purposes of this subsection, ensure that no voter is included on the list provided if such voter has applied for an absentee ballot on or before the date the list is requested.

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