

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 478

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR STOLL.

Read 1st time February 13, 2001, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1924S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 115.279, RSMo 2000, relating to applications for absentee ballots, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 115.279, RSMo 2000, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 115.279, to read as follows:

115.279. 1. Application for an absentee ballot may be made by the applicant in person, or by mail, or for the applicant, in person, by his or her guardian or a relative within the second degree by consanguinity or affinity. The election authority [may] **shall** accept applications by facsimile transmission [at its discretion and] within the limits of its telecommunications capacity.

2. Each application shall be made to the election authority of the jurisdiction in which the person is or would be registered. Each application shall be in writing and shall state the applicant's name, address at which he or she is or would be registered, his or her reason for voting an absentee ballot and the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is requested. Each application to vote in a primary election shall also state which ballot the applicant wishes to receive. If any application fails to designate a ballot, the election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the application, notify the applicant by mail that it will be unable to deliver an absentee ballot until the applicant designates which political party ballot he or she wishes to receive. If the applicant does not respond to the request for political party designation, the election authority is authorized to provide the voter with that part of the ballot for which no political party designation is required.

3. All applications for absentee ballots received prior to the sixth Tuesday before an election shall be stored at the office of the election authority until such time as the applications are processed in accordance with section 115.281. No application for an absentee ballot received in the

office of the election authority by mail, by facsimile transmission or by a guardian or relative after 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately prior to the election shall be accepted by any election authority. No application for an absentee ballot submitted by the applicant in person after 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election shall be accepted by any election authority, except as provided in subsections 6, 8 and 9 of this section.

4. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be signed by the applicant or, if the application is made by a guardian or relative pursuant to the provisions of this section, the application shall be signed by the guardian or relative, who shall note on the application his or her relationship to the applicant. If an applicant, guardian or relative is blind, unable to read or write the English language or physically incapable of signing the application, he or she shall sign by mark, witnessed by the signature of an election official or person of his or her own choosing. Any person who knowingly makes, delivers or mails a fraudulent absentee ballot application shall be guilty of a class one election offense.

5. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any resident of the state of Missouri who resides outside the boundaries of the United States or who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States or members of their immediate family living with them may request an absentee ballot for both the primary and subsequent general election with one application.

6. An application for an absentee ballot by a new resident, as defined in section 115.275, shall be submitted in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in the election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides. The application shall be received by the election authority no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. Such application shall be in the form of an affidavit, executed in duplicate in the presence of the election authority or any authorized officer of the election authority, and in substantially the following form:

"STATE OF

COUNTY OF, ss.

I,, do solemnly swear that:

(1) Before becoming a resident of this state, I resided at (residence address) in (town, township, village or city) of County in the state of

(2) I moved to this state after the last day to register to vote in such general presidential election and I am now residing in the county of, state of Missouri;

(3) I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in the presidential election to be held November, (year);

(4) I hereby make application for a presidential and vice presidential ballot. I have not voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot at such election.

Signed

(Applicant)

.....

(Residence Address)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,

Signed

(Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"

7. The election authority in whose office an application is filed pursuant to subsection 6 of this section shall immediately send a duplicate of such application to the appropriate official of the state in which the new resident applicant last resided and shall file the original of such application in its office.

8. An application for an absentee ballot by an intrastate new resident, as defined in section 115.275, shall be made in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in the election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides. The application shall be received by the election authority no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. Such application shall be in the form of an affidavit, executed in duplicate in the presence of the election authority or an authorized officer of the election authority, and in substantially the following form:

"STATE OF

COUNTY OF, ss.

I,, do solemnly swear that:

(1) Before becoming a resident of this election jurisdiction, I resided at (residence address) in (town, township, village or city) of county in the state of

(2) I moved to this election jurisdiction after the last day to register to vote in such election;

(3) I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in the election to be held (date);

(4) I hereby make application for an absentee ballot for candidates and issues on which I am entitled to vote pursuant to the laws of this state. I have not voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot at such election.

Signed

(Applicant)

.....

(Residence Address)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,

Signed

(Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"

9. An application for an absentee ballot by an interstate former resident, as defined in section 115.275, shall be received in the office of the election authority where the applicant was formerly registered by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately prior to the election, unless the application is made in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority, in which case,

such application shall be made no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

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