

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 681

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MAY.

Pre-filed December 1, 2019, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

3117S.01I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.277, 115.279, and 115.283, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to voting in elections.

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

Section A. Sections 115.277, 115.279, and 115.283, RSMo, are repealed
2 and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.274,
3 115.277, 115.279, and 115.283, to read as follows:

115.274. 1. Any registered voter of this state may vote in advance
2 **of election day, without having to state an excuse, in person or by mail**
3 **for any general election as follows:**

4 (1) Early voting shall be conducted from the sixth Tuesday
5 before the election until 7:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately before
6 the election. The hours for conducting early voting shall be the regular
7 business hours of each local election authority, provided that for the
8 twenty-one days immediately before election day, the hours shall also
9 include from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and
10 beginning on the Tuesday immediately before election day through the
11 Monday immediately before the election, the hours shall be from 8:00
12 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.;

13 (2) The local election authority shall establish early voting
14 locations as follows:

15 (a) There shall be one early voting location for every three
16 precincts within the jurisdiction of the local election authority,
17 provided that there shall be at least one early voting location within
18 the jurisdiction of each local election authority;

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

19 **(b) Early voting locations shall be as centrally located as is**
20 **practicable; and**

21 **(c) In choosing early voting locations, the local election authority**
22 **shall consider the following factors:**

23 **a. The geographic location and demographics of voters in the**
24 **previous federal general election;**

25 **b. Current United States census data;**

26 **c. The availability of suitable satellite early voting locations**
27 **within the local election authority; and**

28 **d. Any other factor deemed relevant by the local election**
29 **authority.**

30 **2. The local election authority shall provide adequate public**
31 **notice of the early voting locations by posting the hours and locations**
32 **for early voting at the local election authority's office, on the local**
33 **election authority's website, and by other reasonable methods selected**
34 **by the local election authority.**

35 **3. The local election authority shall appoint at least one election**
36 **judge from each major political party to serve at each early voting**
37 **location. Procedures for selecting election judges, designating election**
38 **challengers, casting ballots, and tabulating ballots shall be the same as**
39 **otherwise provided in this chapter.**

40 **4. Upon request by any person or entity, the election authority**
41 **or the secretary of state shall furnish media in an electronic format or,**
42 **if so requested, in a printed format, showing the names, addresses, and**
43 **voter identification numbers of voters within the jurisdiction of a**
44 **specific election authority who voted pursuant to this section.**

115.277. 1. Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this
2 section, any registered voter of this state may vote by absentee ballot for all
3 candidates and issues for which such voter [would be] is eligible to vote at the
4 polling place [if such voter expects to be prevented from going to the polls to vote
5 on election day due to:

6 **(1) Absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election authority**
7 **in which such voter is registered to vote;**

8 **(2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability,**
9 **including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person**
10 **who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;**

11 **(3) Religious belief or practice;**

12 (4) Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election
13 authority, or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling
14 place;

15 (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained;

16 (6) Certified participation in the address confidentiality program
17 established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns].

18 2. Any covered voter[, as defined in section 115.275,] who is eligible to
19 register and vote in this state may vote in any election for federal office,
20 statewide office, state legislative office, or statewide ballot initiatives by
21 submitting a federal postcard application to apply to vote by absentee ballot or
22 by submitting a federal postcard application at the polling place even though the
23 person is not registered. A federal postcard application submitted by a covered
24 voter pursuant to this subsection shall also serve as a voter registration
25 application under section 115.908 and the election authority shall, if satisfied
26 that the applicant is entitled to register, place the voter's name on the voter
27 registration file. Each covered voter may vote by absentee ballot or, upon
28 submitting an affidavit that the person is qualified to vote in the election, may
29 vote at the person's polling place.

30 3. Any interstate former resident[, as defined in section 115.275,] may
31 vote by absentee ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors.

32 4. Any intrastate new resident[, as defined in section 115.275,] may vote
33 by absentee ballot at the election for presidential and vice presidential electors,
34 United States senator, representative in Congress, statewide elected officials and
35 statewide questions, propositions and amendments from such resident's new
36 jurisdiction of residence after registering to vote in such resident's new
37 jurisdiction of residence.

38 5. Any new resident[, as defined in section 115.275,] may vote by absentee
39 ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors after registering to vote in
40 such resident's new jurisdiction of residence.

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

6 2. Each application shall be made to the election authority of the
7 jurisdiction in which the person is or would be registered. Each application shall

8 be in writing and shall state the applicant's name, address at which he or she is
9 or would be registered, [his or her reason for voting an absentee ballot] **whether**
10 **the applicant is incapacitated or confined due to illness or physical**
11 **disability or is a person who is primarily responsible for the physical**
12 **care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or**
13 **physical disability**, the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing
14 is requested, and for absent uniformed services and overseas applicants, the
15 applicant's email address if electronic transmission is requested. If the [reason
16 for the applicant voting absentee is due to the reasons established under
17 subdivision (6) of subsection 1 of section 115.277] **applicant is a certified**
18 **participant in the address confidentiality program established under**
19 **sections 589.660 to 589.681**, the applicant shall state the voter's identification
20 information provided by the address confidentiality program in lieu of the
21 applicant's name, address at which he or she is or would be registered, and
22 address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is requested. Each
23 application to vote in a primary election shall also state which ballot the
24 applicant wishes to receive. If any application fails to designate a ballot, the
25 election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the application,
26 notify the applicant by mail that it will be unable to deliver an absentee ballot
27 until the applicant designates which political party ballot he or she wishes to
28 receive. If the applicant does not respond to the request for political party
29 designation, the election authority is authorized to provide the voter with that
30 part of the ballot for which no political party designation is required.

31 3. [Except as provided in subsection 3 of section 115.281,] All applications
32 for absentee ballots received prior to the sixth Tuesday before an election shall
33 be stored at the office of the election authority until such time as the applications
34 are processed in accordance with section 115.281. No application for an absentee
35 ballot received in the office of the election authority by mail, by facsimile
36 transmission, by electronic mail, or by a guardian or relative after 5:00 p.m. on
37 the second Wednesday immediately prior to the election shall be accepted by any
38 election authority. No application for an absentee ballot submitted by the
39 applicant in person after 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election shall be
40 accepted by any election authority, except as provided in subsections 6, 8 and 9
41 of this section.

42 4. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be signed by the applicant
43 or, if the application is made by a guardian or relative pursuant to this section,

44 the application shall be signed by the guardian or relative, who shall note on the
45 application his or her relationship to the applicant. If an applicant, guardian or
46 relative is blind, unable to read or write the English language or physically
47 incapable of signing the application, he or she shall sign by mark, witnessed by
48 the signature of an election official or person of his or her own choosing. Any
49 person who knowingly makes, delivers or mails a fraudulent absentee ballot
50 application shall be guilty of a class one election offense.

51 5. (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any resident of the state
52 of Missouri who resides outside the boundaries of the United States or who is on
53 active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or members of their
54 immediate family living with them may request an absentee ballot for both the
55 primary and subsequent general election with one application.

56 (2) The election authority shall provide each absent uniformed services
57 voter and each overseas voter who submits a voter registration application or an
58 absentee ballot request, if the election authority rejects the application or request,
59 with the reasons for the rejection.

60 (3) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if a standard oath
61 regarding material misstatements of fact is adopted for uniformed and overseas
62 voters pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the election authority shall
63 accept such oath for voter registration, absentee ballot, or other election-related
64 materials.

65 (4) Not later than sixty days after the date of each regularly scheduled
66 general election for federal office, each election authority which administered the
67 election shall submit to the secretary of state in a format prescribed by the
68 secretary a report on the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to,
69 and returned by, absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the
70 election. The secretary shall submit to the Election Assistance Commission a
71 combined report of such information not later than ninety days after the date of
72 each regularly scheduled general election for federal office and in a standardized
73 format developed by the commission pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of
74 2002. The secretary shall make the report available to the general public.

75 (5) As used in this section, the terms "absent uniformed services voter"
76 and "overseas voter" shall have the meaning prescribed in 52 U.S.C. Section
77 20310.

78 6. An application for an absentee ballot by a new resident shall be
79 submitted in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in the

80 election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides. The application shall be
81 received by the election authority no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the
82 election. Such application shall be in the form of an affidavit, executed in
83 duplicate in the presence of the election authority or any authorized officer of the
84 election authority, and in substantially the following form:

85 "STATE OF _____

86 COUNTY OF _____, ss.

87 I, _____, do solemnly swear that:

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

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

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

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

99 Signed _____

100 (Applicant)

101 _____

102 (Residence Address)

103 Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, _____

104 Signed _____

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

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

110 8. An application for an absentee ballot by an intrastate new resident
111 shall be made in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in
112 the election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides. The application shall
113 be received by the election authority no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the
114 election. Such application shall be in the form of an affidavit, executed in
115 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 shall be received in the office of the election authority where the applicant was formerly registered by 5:00 p.m. on the second 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.

115.283. 1. Each ballot envelope shall bear a statement on which the voter shall state the voter's name, the voter's voting address, **and** the voter's mailing address [and the voter's reason for voting an absentee ballot]. If the [reason for the voter voting absentee is due to the reasons established under subdivision (6) of subsection 1 of section 115.277,] **applicant is a certified participant in the address confidentiality program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681** the voter shall state the voter's identification information provided by the address confidentiality program in lieu of the

9 applicant's name, voting address, and mailing address. On the form, the voter
10 shall also state under penalties of perjury that the voter is qualified to vote in the
11 election, that the voter has not previously voted and will not vote again in the
12 election, that the voter has personally marked the voter's ballot in secret or
13 supervised the marking of the voter's ballot if the voter is unable to mark it, that
14 the ballot has been placed in the ballot envelope and sealed by the voter or under
15 the voter's supervision if the voter is unable to seal it, and that all information
16 contained in the statement is true. In addition, any person providing assistance
17 to the absentee voter shall include a statement on the envelope identifying the
18 person providing assistance under penalties of perjury. Persons authorized to
19 vote only for federal and statewide officers shall also state their former Missouri
20 residence.

21 2. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots who are registered
22 voters shall be in substantially the following form:

23 State of Missouri

24 County (City) of _____

25 I, _____ (print name), a registered voter of _____ County (City of St.
26 Louis, Kansas City), declare under the penalties of perjury [that I expect
27 to be prevented from going to the polls on election day due to (check one):

28 _____ absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election
29 authority in which I am registered;

30 _____ incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical
31 disability, including caring for a person who is incapacitated
32 or confined due to illness or disability;

33 _____ religious belief or practice;

34 _____ employment as an election authority or by an election
35 authority at a location other than my polling place;

36 _____ incarceration, although I have retained all the necessary
37 qualifications for voting;

38 _____ certified participation in the address confidentiality
39 program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681
40 because of safety concerns.

41 I hereby state under penalties of perjury] that I am qualified to vote at
42 this election; I have not voted and will not vote other than by this ballot
43 at this election. I further state that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret
44 or that I am blind, unable to read or write English, or physically incapable

of marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated below marked the ballot at my direction; all of the information on this statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true.

Signature of Voter

Signature of Person

Assisting Voter

(if applicable)

Signed _____

Subscribed and sworn

Signed _____

to before me this

_____ day of _____,

Address of Voter _____

Mailing addresses

Signature of notary or

(if different)

other officer

authorized to

administer oaths

3. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2, 3, 4, or 5 of section 115.277 without being registered shall be in substantially the following form:

State of Missouri

County (City) of _____

I, _____ (print name), declare under the penalties of perjury that I am a citizen of the United States and eighteen years of age or older. I am not adjudged incapacitated by any court of law, and if I have been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage, I have had the voting disabilities resulting from such conviction removed pursuant to law. I hereby state under penalties of perjury that I am qualified to vote at this election.

I am (check one):

_____ a resident of the state of Missouri and a registered voter in _____ County and moved from that county to _____ County, Missouri, after the last day to register to vote in this election.

_____ an interstate former resident of Missouri and authorized to vote for presidential and vice presidential electors.

81 I further state under penalties of perjury that I have not voted and will
 82 not vote other than by this ballot at this election; I marked the enclosed
 83 ballot in secret or am blind, unable to read or write English, or physically
 84 incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated
 85 below marked the ballot at my direction; all of the information on this
 86 statement is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true.

87	_____	Subscribed to and
88		sworn before me this
89	Signature of Voter	_____ day of
90		_____, _____
91	_____	
92	_____	_____
93	Address of Voter	Signature of notary or
94		other officer authorized
95		to administer oaths
96	_____	_____
97	Mailing Address (if different)	_____
98	_____	_____
99	Signature of Person	Address of Last
100	Assisting Voter	Missouri Residence
101		(if applicable)

102 4. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots who are entitled to
 103 vote at the election pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 of section 115.137
 104 shall be in substantially the following form:

105 State of Missouri

106 County (City) of _____

107 I, _____ (print name), declare under the penalties of perjury [that I
 108 expect to be prevented from going to the polls on election day due to (check
 109 one):

110 _____ absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election
 111 authority in which I am directed to vote;

112 _____ incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability,
 113 including caring for a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or
 114 disability;

115 _____ religious belief or practice;

116 _____ employment as an election authority or by an

117 election authority at a location other than my
 118 polling place;
 119 _____ incarceration, although I have retained all the necessary
 120 qualifications of voting;
 121 _____ certified participation in the address confidentiality
 122 program established under sections 589.660 to 589.681
 123 because of safety concerns.

124 I hereby state under penalties of perjury] that I own property in the
 125 _____ district and am qualified to vote at this election; I have not voted
 126 and will not vote other than by this ballot at this election. I further state
 127 that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret or that I am blind, unable to
 128 read and write English, or physically incapable of marking the ballot, and
 129 the person of my choosing indicated below marked the ballot at my
 130 direction; all of the information on this statement is, to the best of my
 131 knowledge and belief, true.

132 _____ Subscribed and sworn
 133 to before me this
 134 Signature of Voter _____ day of
 135 _____, _____

136 _____
 137 _____
 138 Address Signature of notary or
 139 other officer
 140 authorized to
 141 administer oaths

142 _____
 143 Signature of Person
 144 Assisting Voter
 145 (if applicable)

146 5. The statement for persons providing assistance to absentee voters shall
 147 be in substantially the following form:

148 The voter needed assistance in marking the ballot and signing above,
 149 because of blindness, other physical disability, or inability to read or to
 150 read English. I marked the ballot enclosed in this envelope at the voter's
 151 direction, when I was alone with the voter, and I had no other
 152 communication with the voter as to how he or she was to vote. The voter

153 swore or affirmed the voter affidavit above and I then signed the voter's
154 name and completed the other voter information above. Signed under the
155 penalties of perjury.

156 Reason why voter needed assistance: _____

157 ASSISTING PERSON SIGN HERE

158 1. _____ (signature of assisting person)

159 2. _____ (assisting person's name printed)

160 3. _____ (assisting person's residence)

161 4. _____ (assisting person's home city or town).

162 6. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any covered voter
163 as defined in section 115.902 or persons who have declared themselves to be
164 permanently disabled pursuant to section 115.284, otherwise entitled to vote,
165 shall not be required to obtain a notary seal or signature on his or her absentee
166 ballot.

167 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or section 115.291
168 to the contrary, the subscription, signature and seal of a notary or other officer
169 authorized to administer oaths shall not be required on any ballot, ballot
170 envelope, or statement required by this section if the [reason for the] voter voting
171 absentee is [due to the reasons established pursuant to subdivision (2) of
172 subsection 1 of section 115.277] **incapacitated or confined due to illness or**
173 **physical disability, including a person who is primarily responsible for**
174 **the physical care of a person who is incapacitated or confined due to**
175 **illness or physical disability.**

176 8. No notary shall charge or collect a fee for notarizing the signature on
177 any absentee ballot or absentee voter registration.

178 9. A notary public who charges more than the maximum fee specified or
179 who charges or collects a fee for notarizing the signature on any absentee ballot
180 or absentee voter registration is guilty of official misconduct.

✓