

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2015 and 2016 HB5787

by Rep. Jeanne M Ives

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10	ILCS	5/1A-16.8				
10	ILCS	5/4-50				
10	ILCS	5/5-23	from Ch.	46,	par.	5-23
10	ILCS	5/5-50				
10	ILCS	5/6-53	from Ch.	46,	par.	6-53
10	ILCS	5/6-100				
10	ILCS	5/10-8	from Ch.	46,	par.	10-8
10	ILCS	5/19-8	from Ch.	46,	par.	19-8
10	ILCS	5/19A-10				
10	ILCS	5/20-8	from Ch.	46,	par.	20-8

Amends the Election Code. Makes changes to provisions concerning the processing of ballots, challenging petitions, election-day and grace period registration, provisional ballots, and municipal and township early voting. Creates a pilot program for DuPage County that allows the election authority to obtain driver's license pictures to help verify a voter's identity. Effective immediately.

LRB099 20541 MLM 45086 b

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

- Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Sections 1A-16.8, 4-50, 5-23, 5-50, 6-53, 6-100, 10-8, 19-8,
- 6 19A-10, and 20-8 as follows:

jurisdiction provided that:

7 (10 ILCS 5/1A-16.8)

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- Sec. 1A-16.8. Automatic transfer of registration based 8 9 upon information from the National Change of Address database. 10 The State Board of Elections shall cross-reference the statewide voter registration database against the United 11 States Postal Service's National Change of Address database 12 13 twice each calendar year, April 15 and October 1 14 odd-numbered years and April 15 and December 1 in even-numbered years, and shall share the findings with the election 15 16 authorities. An election authority shall register any voter who has moved into its jurisdiction from 17 another jurisdiction in Illinois or has moved within its 18
- 20 (1) the election authority whose jurisdiction includes
 21 the new registration address provides the voter an
 22 opportunity to reject the change in registration address
 23 through a mailing, sent by non-forwardable mail, to the new

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registration address, and

(2) when the election authority whose jurisdiction includes the previous registration address is a different election authority, then that election authority provides the same opportunity through a mailing, sent by forwardable mail, to the previous registration address.

change in registration shall trigger the inter-jurisdictional or intra-jurisdictional workflows as if the voter completed a new registration card, including the cancellation of the voter's previous registration. Should the registration of a voter be changed from one address to another within the State and should the voter appear at the polls and offer to vote from the prior registration address, attesting that the prior registration address is the true current address, the voter, if confirmed by the election authority as having been registered at the prior registration address and canceled only by the process authorized by this Section, shall be issued a regular ballot, and the change of registration address shall be canceled. If the election authority is unable to immediately confirm the registration, the voter shall be issued a provisional ballot upon confirming the voter's registration and the provisional ballot shall be counted.

- 23 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)
- 24 (10 ILCS 5/4-50)
- Sec. 4-50. Grace period. Notwithstanding any other

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provision of this Code to the contrary, each election authority shall establish procedures for the registration of voters and for change of address during the period from the close of registration for an election until and including the day of the election. During this grace period, an unregistered qualified elector may register to vote, and a registered voter may submit a change of address form, in person in the office of the election authority, at a permanent polling place established under Section 19A-10, at any other early voting site beginning 15 days prior to the election, at a permanent polling place on election day, or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority. The election authority shall register that individual, or change a registered voter's address, in the same manner as otherwise provided by this Article for registration and change of address.

If a voter who registers or changes address during this grace period wishes to vote at the election or primary occurring during the grace period, he or she must do so by grace period voting. The election authority shall offer in-person grace period voting at the authority's office, any permanent polling place established under Section 19A-10, and at any other early voting site beginning 15 days prior to the election, at a polling place on election day, where grace period registration is required by this Section; and may offer in-person grace period voting at additional hours and locations

specifically designated for the purpose of grace period voting by the election authority. The election authority may allow grace period voting by mail only if the election authority has no ballots prepared at the authority's office. Grace period voting shall be in a manner substantially similar to voting under Article 19A.

Within one day after a voter casts a grace period ballot, or within one day after the ballot is received by the election authority if the election authority allows grace period voting by mail, the election authority shall transmit by electronic means pursuant to a process established by the State Board of Elections the voter's name, street address, e-mail address, and precinct, ward, township, and district numbers, as the case may be, to the State Board of Elections, which shall maintain those names and that information in an electronic format on its website, arranged by county and accessible to State and local political committees. The name of each person issued a grace period ballot shall also be placed on the appropriate precinct list of persons to whom vote by mail and early ballots have been issued, for use as provided in Sections 17-9 and 18-5.

A person who casts a grace period ballot shall not be permitted to revoke that ballot and vote another ballot with respect to that primary or election. Ballots cast by persons who register or change address during the grace period at a location other than their designated polling place on election day must be transmitted to and counted at the election

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authority's central ballot counting location and shall not be transmitted to and counted at precinct polling places. The grace period ballots determined to be valid shall be added to the vote totals for the precincts for which they were cast in the order in which the ballots were opened.

In counties with a population of less than 100,000 that do not have electronic poll books, the election authority may opt out of registration in the polling place if the election authority establishes grace period registration and voting at other sites on election day at the following sites: (i) the election authority's main office and (ii) a polling place in each municipality where 20% or more of the county's residents reside if the election authority's main office is not located in that municipality. The election authority may establish other grace period registration and voting sites on election day provided that the election authority has met the notice requirements of Section 19A-25 for permanent and temporary early voting sites.

19 (Source: P.A. 97-766, eff. 7-6-12; 98-115, eff. 7-29-13; 20 98-691, eff. 7-1-14; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)

(10 ILCS 5/5-23) (from Ch. 46, par. 5-23)

Sec. 5-23. Any registered voter who changes his residence from one address, number or place to another within the same county wherein this Article 5 is in effect, may have his registration transferred to his new address by making and

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signing an application for such change of residence upon a form to be provided by the county clerk. Such application must be made to the office of the county clerk. In case the person is unable to sign his name the county clerk shall require such person to execute the request in the presence of the county clerk or of his properly authorized representative, by his mark, and if satisfied of the identity of the person, the county clerk shall make the transfer.

Upon receipt of such application, the county clerk, or one of his employees deputized to take registrations shall cause the signature of the voter and the data appearing upon the application to be compared with the signature and data on the registration record, and if it appears that the applicant is the same person as the party previously registered under that name the transfer shall be made. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Board of Elections shall, by rule, create a pilot program for DuPage County that allows election authorities to obtain the photograph and signature from a voter's driver's license on file with the Secretary of State to compare with the voter's signature and to confirm that the person presenting themselves as the registered voter is the same person pictured on such license. The pictures obtained from the Secretary of State shall be affixed to the voter's poll book to aide in the visual identification of the voter. Registered voters shall, by rule, be allowed the option to opt-in to having their picture checked to ensure greater voter

- 1 <u>confidence and guarantee that no voter's vote is stolen. The</u>
- 2 Board of Elections shall establish this pilot program before
- 3 the 2016 general election.
- 4 Transfer of registration under the provisions of this
- 5 section may not be made within the period when the county
- 6 clerk's office is closed to registration prior to an election
- 7 at which such voter would be entitled to vote.
- 8 Any registered voter who changes his or her name by
- 9 marriage or otherwise, shall be required to register anew and
- 10 authorize the cancellation of the previous registration;
- 11 provided, however, that if the change of name takes place
- 12 within a period during which such new registration cannot be
- made, next preceding any election or primary, the elector may,
- 14 if otherwise qualified, vote upon making the following
- affidavit before the judges of election:
- I do solemnly swear that I am the same person now
- 17 registered in the precinct of the ward of the city of
- 18 or District Town of under the name of and
- 19 that I still reside in said precinct or district.
- 20 (Signed)
- If the voter whose name has changed still resides in the
- 22 same precinct, the voter may vote after making the affidavit at
- 23 the polling place regardless of when the change of name
- occurred. In that event, the affidavit shall not state that the
- voter is required to register; the affidavit shall be treated
- 26 by the election authority as authorization to cancel the

registration under the former name, and the election authority shall register the voter under his or her current name.

Suitable forms for this purpose shall be provided by the county clerk. The form in all cases shall be similar to the form furnished by the county clerk for county and state elections.

The precinct election officials shall report to the county clerk the names and addresses of all such persons who have changed their addresses and voted. The city, village, town and incorporated town clerks shall within five days after every election report to the county clerk the names and addresses of the persons reported to them as having voted by affidavit as in this Section provided.

The county clerk may obtain information from utility companies, city, village, town and incorporated town records, the post office or from other sources regarding the removal of registered voters and notify such voters that a transfer of registration may be made in the manner provided by this Section.

If any person be registered by error in a precinct other than that in which he resides the county clerk shall be empowered to transfer his registration to the proper precinct.

Where a revision or rearrangement of precincts is made by the board of county commissioners, the county clerk shall immediately transfer to the proper precinct the registration of any voter affected by such revision or rearrangement of the

- 1 precincts; make the proper notations on the registration cards
- of a voter affected by the revision of registration and shall
- 3 notify the registrant of such change.
- 4 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)
- 5 (10 ILCS 5/5-50)

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6 5-50. Grace period. Notwithstanding any other 7 provision of this Code to the contrary, each election authority 8 shall establish procedures for the registration of voters and 9 for change of address during the period from the close of 10 registration for an election until and including the day of the 11 election. During this grace period, an unregistered qualified 12 elector may register to vote, and a registered voter may submit a change of address form, in person in the office of the 1.3 14 election authority, at a permanent polling place established 15 under Section 19A-10, at any other early voting site beginning 16 15 days prior to the election, at a permanent polling place on election day, or at a voter registration location specifically 17 designated for this purpose by the election authority. The 18 19 election authority shall register that individual, or change a registered voter's address, in the same manner as otherwise 20 21 provided by this Article for registration and change of 22 address.

If a voter who registers or changes address during this grace period wishes to vote at the election or primary occurring during the grace period, he or she must do so by

grace period voting. The election authority shall offer in-person grace period voting at his or her office, any permanent polling place established under Section 19A-10, and at any other early voting site beginning 15 days prior to the election, at a polling place on election day, where grace period registration is required by this Section; and may offer in-person grace period voting at additional hours and locations specifically designated for the purpose of grace period voting by the election authority. The election authority may allow grace period voting by mail only if the election authority has no ballots prepared at the authority's office. Grace period voting shall be in a manner substantially similar to voting under Article 19A.

Within one day after a voter casts a grace period ballot, or within one day after the ballot is received by the election authority if the election authority allows grace period voting by mail, the election authority shall transmit by electronic means pursuant to a process established by the State Board of Elections the voter's name, street address, e-mail address, and precinct, ward, township, and district numbers, as the case may be, to the State Board of Elections, which shall maintain those names and that information in an electronic format on its website, arranged by county and accessible to State and local political committees. The name of each person issued a grace period ballot shall also be placed on the appropriate precinct list of persons to whom vote by mail and early ballots have

1 been issued, for use as provided in Sections 17-9 and 18-5.

A person who casts a grace period ballot shall not be permitted to revoke that ballot and vote another ballot with respect to that primary or election. Ballots cast by persons who register or change address during the grace period at a location other than their designated polling place on election day must be transmitted to and counted at the election authority's central ballot counting location and shall not be transmitted to and counted at precinct polling places. The grace period ballots determined to be valid shall be added to the vote totals for the precincts for which they were cast in the order in which the ballots were opened.

In counties with a population of less than 100,000 that do not have electronic poll books, the election authority may opt out of registration in the polling place if the election authority establishes grace period registration and voting at other sites on election day at the following sites: (i) the election authority's main office and (ii) a polling place in each municipality where 20% or more of the county's registered voters residents reside if the election authority's main office is not located in that municipality. The election authority may establish other grace period registration and voting sites on election day provided that the election authority has met the notice requirements of Section 19A-25 for permanent and temporary early voting sites.

(Source: P.A. 97-766, eff. 7-6-12; 98-115, eff. 7-29-13;

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1 98-691, eff. 7-1-14; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)

2 (10 ILCS 5/6-53) (from Ch. 46, par. 6-53)

Sec. 6-53. Any registered elector who changes his residence from one address number or place to another within the same precinct, city or village or incorporated town, may have his registration transferred to his new address by making and signing an application for such change of residence address upon a form to be provided by such board of election commissioners. Such application may be made to the office of such board or at any place designated in accordance with Section 6-51 of this Article.

Upon receipt of such application the board of election commissioners or officer, employee or deputy registrar designated by such board shall cause the signature of the voter and the data appearing upon the application to be compared with the signature and data on the registration record, and if it appears that the applicant is the same person as the party previously registered under that name, the transfer shall be made. In case the person is unable to sign his name the board of election commissioners shall require such person to execute the request in the presence of the board or of its properly authorized representative, by his mark, and if satisfied of the identity of the person, the board of election commissioners shall make the transfer. The person in charge of the registration shall draw a line through the last address, ward

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and precinct number on the original and duplicate and write the new address, ward and precinct number on the original and duplicate registration records. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Board of Elections shall, by rule, create a pilot program for DuPage County that allows election authorities to obtain the photograph and signature from a voter's driver's license on file with the Secretary of State to compare with the voter's signature and to confirm that the person presenting themselves as the registered voter is the same person pictured on such license. The pictures obtained from the Secretary of State shall be affixed to the voter's poll book to aide in the visual identification of the voter. Registered voters shall, by rule, be allowed the option to opt-in to having their picture checked to ensure greater voter confidence and quarantee that no voter's vote is stolen. The Board of Elections shall establish this pilot program before the 2016 general election.

Any registered elector may transfer his registration only at any such time as is provided by this Article for the registration of voters at the office of the board. When a removal of a registered voter takes place from one address to another within the same precinct within a period during which such transfer of registration cannot be made, before any election or primary, he shall be entitled to vote upon presenting to the judges of election an affidavit of a change and having said affidavit supported by the affidavit of a

- 1 qualified voter who is a householder in the same precinct.
- 2 Suitable forms for this purpose shall be provided by the board
- 3 of election commissioners whose duty it is to conduct the
- 4 election; and thereupon the precinct election officials shall
- 5 report to the board of election commissioners the names of all
- 6 such persons who have changed their address and voted.
- 7 The board of election commissioners may obtain information
- 8 from utility companies, city records, the post office or from
- 9 other sources regarding the removal of registered voters, and
- 10 notify such voters that a transfer of registration may be made
- in the manner provided by this section.
- 12 If any person be registered by error in a precinct other
- than that in which he resides, a transfer of registration to
- 14 the precinct in which he resides may be made in the manner
- 15 provided by this section.
- Where a revision or rearrangement of precincts is made by
- the board of election commissioners under the power conferred
- 18 by Section 11-3 of Article 11 of this Act, such board shall
- 19 immediately transfer to the proper precinct the registration of
- 20 any voter affected by such revision or rearrangement of
- 21 precincts; make the proper notations on the cards in the master
- 22 and precinct files; and shall notify the registrant of such
- change.
- 24 (Source: Laws 1967, p. 3449.)

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Sec. 6-100. Grace period. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code to the contrary, each election authority shall establish procedures for the registration of voters and for change of address during the period from the close of registration for an election until and including the day of the election. During this grace period, an unregistered qualified elector may register to vote, and a registered voter may submit a change of address form, in person in the office of the election authority, at a permanent polling place established under Section 19A-10, at any other early voting site beginning 15 days prior to the election, at a permanent polling place on election day, or at a voter registration location specifically designated for this purpose by the election authority. The election authority shall register that individual, or change a registered voter's address, in the same manner as otherwise provided by this Article for registration and change of address.

If a voter who registers or changes address during this grace period wishes to vote at the election or primary occurring during the grace period. The election authority shall offer in-person grace period voting at the authority's office, any permanent polling place established under Section 19A-10, and at any other early voting site beginning 15 days prior to the election, at a polling place on election day, where grace period registration is required by this Section; and may offer in-person grace period voting at additional hours and locations

specifically designated for the purpose of grace period voting by the election authority. The election authority may allow grace period voting by mail only if the election authority has no ballots prepared at the authority's office. Grace period voting shall be in a manner substantially similar to voting under Article 19A.

Within one day after a voter casts a grace period ballot, or within one day after the ballot is received by the election authority if the election authority allows grace period voting by mail, the election authority shall transmit by electronic means pursuant to a process established by the State Board of Elections the voter's name, street address, e-mail address, and precinct, ward, township, and district numbers, as the case may be, to the State Board of Elections, which shall maintain those names and that information in an electronic format on its website, arranged by county and accessible to State and local political committees. The name of each person issued a grace period ballot shall also be placed on the appropriate precinct list of persons to whom vote by mail and early ballots have been issued, for use as provided in Sections 17-9 and 18-5.

A person who casts a grace period ballot shall not be permitted to revoke that ballot and vote another ballot with respect to that primary or election. Ballots cast by persons who register or change address during the grace period at a location other than their designated polling place on election day must be transmitted to and counted at the election

authority's central ballot counting location and shall not be transmitted to and counted at precinct polling places. The grace period ballots determined to be valid shall be added to the vote totals for the precincts for which they were cast in the order in which the ballots were opened.

In counties with a population of less than 100,000 that do not have electronic poll books, the election authority may opt out of registration in the polling place if the election authority establishes grace period registration and voting at other sites on election day at the following sites: (i) the election authority's main office and (ii) a polling place in each municipality where 20% or more of the county's registered voters residents reside if the election authority's main office is not located in that municipality. The election authority may establish other grace period registration and voting sites on election day provided that the election authority has met the notice requirements of Section 19A-25 for permanent and temporary early voting sites.

- 19 (Source: P.A. 97-766, eff. 7-6-12; 98-115, eff. 7-29-13; 20 98-691, eff. 7-1-14; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)
- 21 (10 ILCS 5/10-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 10-8)

Sec. 10-8. Certificates of nomination and nomination papers, and petitions to submit public questions to a referendum, being filed as required by this Code, and being in apparent conformity with the provisions of this Act, shall be

deemed to be valid unless objection thereto is duly made in writing within 5 business days after the last day for filing the certificate of nomination or nomination papers or petition for a public question, with the following exceptions:

A. In the case of petitions to amend Article IV of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, there shall be a period of 35 business days after the last day for the filing of such petitions in which objections can be filed.

B. In the case of petitions for advisory questions of public policy to be submitted to the voters of the entire State, there shall be a period of 35 business days after the last day for the filing of such petitions in which objections can be filed.

Any legal voter of the political subdivision or district in which the candidate or public question is to be voted on, or any legal voter in the State in the case of a proposed amendment to Article IV of the Constitution or an advisory public question to be submitted to the voters of the entire State, having objections to any certificate of nomination or nomination papers or petitions filed, shall file an objector's petition together with 2 copies thereof in the principal office or the permanent branch office of the State Board of Elections, or in the office of the election authority or local election official with whom the certificate of nomination, nomination papers or petitions are on file. Objection petitions that do not include 2 copies thereof, shall not be accepted. In the

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case of nomination papers or certificates of nomination, the State Board of Elections, election authority or local election official shall note the day and hour upon which such objector's petition is filed, and shall, not later than 12:00 noon on the second business day after receipt of the petition, transmit by registered mail or receipted personal delivery the certificate of nomination or nomination papers and the original objector's petition to the chairman of the proper electoral board designated in Section 10-9 hereof, or his authorized agent, and shall transmit a copy by registered mail or receipted personal delivery of the objector's petition, to the candidate whose certificate of nomination or nomination papers are objected to, addressed to the place of residence designated in said certificate of nomination or nomination papers. In the case of objections to a petition for a proposed amendment to Article IV of the Constitution or for an advisory public question to be submitted to the voters of the entire State, the State Board of Elections shall note the day and hour upon which such objector's petition is filed and shall transmit a copy of the objector's petition by registered mail or receipted personal delivery to the person designated on a certificate attached to the petition as the principal proponent of such proposed amendment or public question, or as the proponents' attorney, for the purpose of receiving notice of objections. In the case of objections to a petition for a public question, to be submitted to the voters of a political subdivision, or district

thereof, the election authority or local election official with whom such petition is filed shall note the day and hour upon which such objector's petition was filed, and shall, not later than 12:00 noon on the second business day after receipt of the petition, transmit by registered mail or receipted personal delivery the petition for the public question and the original objector's petition to the chairman of the proper electoral board designated in Section 10-9 hereof, or his authorized agent, and shall transmit a copy by registered mail or receipted personal delivery, of the objector's petition to the person designated on a certificate attached to the petition as the principal proponent of the public question, or as the proponent's attorney, for the purposes of receiving notice of objections.

The objector's petition shall give the objector's name and residence address, and shall state fully the nature of the objections to the certificate of nomination or nomination papers or petitions in question, and shall state the interest of the objector and shall state what relief is requested of the electoral board.

The provisions of this Section and of Sections 10-9, 10-10 and 10-10.1 shall also apply to and govern objections to petitions for nomination filed under Article 7 or Article 8, except as otherwise provided in Section 7-13 for cases to which it is applicable, and also apply to and govern petitions for the submission of public questions under Article 28.

- Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
 any individual challenging the validity of petitions shall
 notify the applicable election authority when that individual
- 4 <u>files a challenge in court contesting the decision of that</u>
- 5 election authority.
- 6 (Source: P.A. 98-691, eff. 7-1-14.)
- 7 (10 ILCS 5/19-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-8)
- 8 Sec. 19-8. Time and place of counting ballots.
- 9 (a) (Blank.)

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- (b) Each vote by mail voter's ballot returned to an election authority, by any means authorized by this Article, and received by that election authority before the closing of the polls on election day shall be endorsed by the receiving election authority with the day and hour of receipt and may be processed by the election authority beginning on the 15th day before election day in the central ballot counting location of the election authority, but the results of the processing may not be counted until the day of the election after 7:00 p.m., except as provided in subsections (g) and (g-5).
 - (c) Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an election authority and postmarked no later than election day, but that is received by the election authority after the polls close on election day and before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of

receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the period for counting provisional ballots.

Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an election authority absent a postmark, but that is received by the election authority after the polls close on election day and before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt, opened to inspect the date inserted on the certification, and, if the certification date is a date preceding the election day and the ballot is otherwise found to be valid under the requirements of this Section, counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the period for counting provisional ballots. Absent a date on the certification, the ballot shall not be counted.

(d) Special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots returned to an election authority, by any means authorized by this Article, and received by the election authority at any time before the closing of the polls on election day shall be endorsed by the receiving election authority with the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the same period provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots under subsections (b), (g), and (g-5). Special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots that are mailed to an election authority

and postmarked no later than election day, but that are received by the election authority after the polls close on election day and before the closing of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the same periods provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots under subsection (c).

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, votes by mail ballots may be processed as they arrive in the mail. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, election authorities shall have more than 15 days to process vote by mail ballots.

- (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, vote by mail voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots received by the election authority after the closing of the polls on an election day shall be endorsed by the election authority receiving them with the day and hour of receipt and shall be safely kept unopened by the election authority for the period of time required for the preservation of ballots used at the election, and shall then, without being opened, be destroyed in like manner as the used ballots of that election.
- (f) Counting required under this Section to begin on election day after the closing of the polls shall commence no later than 8:00 p.m. and shall be conducted by a panel or

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- panels of election judges appointed in the manner provided by law. The counting shall continue until all vote by mail voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots required to be counted on election day have been counted.
 - (q) The procedures set forth in Articles 17 and 18 of this Code shall apply to all ballots counted under this Section. In addition, within 2 days after a vote by mail ballot is received, but in all cases before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots, the election judge or official shall compare the voter's signature on the certification envelope of that vote by mail ballot with the signature of the voter on file in the office of the election authority. If the election judge or official determines that the 2 signatures match, and that the vote by mail voter is otherwise qualified to cast a vote by mail ballot, the election authority shall cast and count the ballot on election day or the day the ballot is determined to be valid, whichever is later, adding the results to the precinct in which the voter is registered. If the election judge or official determines that the signatures do not match, or that the vote by mail voter is not qualified to cast a vote by mail ballot, then without opening the certification envelope, the judge or official shall mark across the face of the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and shall not cast or count the ballot.

In addition to the voter's signatures not matching, a vote by mail ballot may be rejected by the election judge or

1 official:

- 2 (1) if the ballot envelope is open or has been opened 3 and resealed;
 - (2) if the voter has already cast an early or grace period ballot;
 - (3) if the voter voted in person on election day or the voter is not a duly registered voter in the precinct; or
 - (4) on any other basis set forth in this Code.

If the election judge or official determines that any of these reasons apply, the judge or official shall mark across the face of the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and shall not cast or count the ballot.

(g-5) If a vote by mail ballot is rejected by the election judge or official for any reason, the election authority shall, within 2 days after the rejection but in all cases before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots, notify the vote by mail voter that his or her ballot was rejected. The notice shall inform the voter of the reason or reasons the ballot was rejected and shall state that the voter may appear before the election authority, on or before the 14th day after the election, to show cause as to why the ballot should not be rejected. The voter may present evidence to the election authority supporting his or her contention that the ballot should be counted. The election authority shall appoint a panel of 3 election judges to review the contested ballot, application, and certification envelope, as well as any

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evidence submitted by the vote by mail voter. No more than 2 election judges on the reviewing panel shall be of the same political party. The reviewing panel of election judges shall make a final determination as to the validity of the contested vote by mail ballot. The judges' determination shall not be reviewable either administratively or judicially.

A vote by mail ballot subject to this subsection that is determined to be valid shall be counted before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots.

- (g-10) All vote by mail ballots determined to be valid shall be added to the vote totals for the precincts for which they were cast in the order in which the ballots were opened.
- 13 (h) Each political party, candidate, and qualified civic 14 organization shall be entitled to have present one pollwatcher 15 for each panel of election judges therein assigned.
- 16 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)
- 17 (10 ILCS 5/19A-10)
- 18 Sec. 19A-10. Permanent polling places for early voting.
- 19 (a) An election authority may establish permanent polling
 20 places for early voting by personal appearance at locations
 21 throughout the election authority's jurisdiction, including
 22 but not limited to a municipal clerk's office, a township
 23 clerk's office, a road district clerk's office, or a county or
 24 local public agency office. Any person entitled to vote early
 25 by personal appearance may do so at any polling place

established for early voting.

- (b) (Blank).
- (c) During each general primary and general election, each election authority in a county with a population over 250,000 shall establish at least one permanent polling place for early voting by personal appearance at a location within each of the 3 largest municipalities within its jurisdiction. If any of the 3 largest municipalities is over 80,000, the election authority shall establish at least 2 permanent polling places within the municipality. All population figures shall be determined by the federal census.
- (d) During each general primary and general election, each board of election commissioners established under Article 6 of this Code in any city, village, or incorporated town with a population over 100,000 shall establish at least 2 permanent polling places for early voting by personal appearance. All population figures shall be determined by the federal census.
- (e) During each general primary and general election, each election authority in a county with a population of over 100,000 but under 250,000 persons shall establish at least one permanent polling place for early voting by personal appearance. The location for early voting may be the election authority's main office or another location designated by the election authority. The election authority may designate additional sites for early voting by personal appearance. All population figures shall be determined by the federal census.

- 1 (f) No permanent polling place required by this Section 2 shall be located within 1.5 miles from another permanent 3 polling place required by this Section, unless such permanent 4 polling place is within a municipality with a population of
- 5 500,000 or more.
- 6 (Source: P.A. 98-691, eff. 7-1-14; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)
- 7 (10 ILCS 5/20-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-8)
- 8 Sec. 20-8. Time and place of counting ballots.
- 9 (a) (Blank.)

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- (b) Each vote by mail voter's ballot returned to an election authority, by any means authorized by this Article, and received by that election authority may be processed by the election authority beginning on the 15th day before election day in the central ballot counting location of the election authority, but the results of the processing may not be counted until the day of the election after 7:00 p.m., except as provided in subsections (g) and (g-5).
 - (c) Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an election authority and postmarked no later than election day, but that is received by the election authority after the polls close on election day and before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the period for

counting provisional ballots.

Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an election authority absent a postmark, but that is received by the election authority after the polls close on election day and before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt, opened to inspect the date inserted on the certification, and, if the certification date is a date preceding the election day and the ballot is otherwise found to be valid under the requirements of this Section, counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the period for counting provisional ballots. Absent a date on the certification, the ballot shall not be counted.

(d) Special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots returned to an election authority, by any means authorized by this Article, and received by the election authority at any time before the closing of the polls on election day shall be endorsed by the receiving election authority with the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the same period provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots under subsections (b), (g), and (g-5). Special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballot that are mailed to an election authority and postmarked by midnight preceding the opening of the polls on election day, but that are received by the election

authority after the polls close on election day and before the closing of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting location of the election authority during the same periods provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots under subsection (c).

Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, votes by mail ballots may be processed as they arrive in the mail. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, election authorities shall have more than 15 days to process vote by mail ballots.

- (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, vote by mail voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots received by the election authority after the closing of the polls on the day of election shall be endorsed by the person receiving the ballots with the day and hour of receipt and shall be safely kept unopened by the election authority for the period of time required for the preservation of ballots used at the election, and shall then, without being opened, be destroyed in like manner as the used ballots of that election.
- (f) Counting required under this Section to begin on election day after the closing of the polls shall commence no later than 8:00 p.m. and shall be conducted by a panel or panels of election judges appointed in the manner provided by

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- law. The counting shall continue until all vote by mail voters'
 ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots
 required to be counted on election day have been counted.
 - (q) The procedures set forth in Articles 17 and 18 of this Code shall apply to all ballots counted under this Section. In addition, within 2 days after a ballot subject to this Article is received, but in all cases before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots, the election judge or compare official shall the voter's signature on certification envelope of that ballot with the signature of the voter on file in the office of the election authority. If the election judge or official determines that the 2 signatures match, and that the voter is otherwise qualified to cast a ballot under this Article, the election authority shall cast and count the ballot on election day or the day the ballot is determined to be valid, whichever is later, adding the results to the precinct in which the voter is registered. If the election judge or official determines that the signatures do not match, or that the voter is not qualified to cast a ballot under this Article, then without opening the certification envelope, the judge or official shall mark across the face of the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and shall not cast or count the ballot.

In addition to the voter's signatures not matching, a ballot subject to this Article may be rejected by the election judge or official:

- 1 (1) if the ballot envelope is open or has been opened 2 and resealed;
 - (2) if the voter has already cast an early or grace period ballot;
 - (3) if the voter voted in person on election day or the voter is not a duly registered voter in the precinct; or
 - (4) on any other basis set forth in this Code.

If the election judge or official determines that any of these reasons apply, the judge or official shall mark across the face of the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and shall not cast or count the ballot.

(g-5) If a ballot subject to this Article is rejected by the election judge or official for any reason, the election authority shall, within 2 days after the rejection but in all cases before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots, notify the voter that his or her ballot was rejected. The notice shall inform the voter of the reason or reasons the ballot was rejected and shall state that the voter may appear before the election authority, on or before the 14th day after the election, to show cause as to why the ballot should not be rejected. The voter may present evidence to the election authority supporting his or her contention that the ballot should be counted. The election authority shall appoint a panel of 3 election judges to review the contested ballot, application, and certification envelope, as well as any evidence submitted by the vote by mail voter. No more than 2

- 1 election judges on the reviewing panel shall be of the same
- 2 political party. The reviewing panel of election judges shall
- 3 make a final determination as to the validity of the contested
- 4 ballot. The judges' determination shall not be reviewable
- 5 either administratively or judicially.
- A ballot subject to this subsection that is determined to
- 7 be valid shall be counted before the close of the period for
- 8 counting provisional ballots.
- 9 (g-10) All ballots determined to be valid shall be added to
- 10 the vote totals for the precincts for which they were cast in
- 11 the order in which the ballots were opened.
- 12 (h) Each political party, candidate, and qualified civic
- organization shall be entitled to have present one pollwatcher
- 14 for each panel of election judges therein assigned.
- 15 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)
- 16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 17 becoming law.