

HB2718



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2718

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Facilitating Voting By All Eligible Citizens Act. Provides that all eligible citizens shall cast a ballot in every general election. Provides that an eligible citizen who casts a blank ballot in a general election shall satisfy the requirement. Provides that no fine, fee, or penalty shall be assessed if an eligible citizen does not cast a ballot in a general election.

LRB104 09444 SPS 19504 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

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

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Facilitating Voting By All Eligible Citizens Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds and
7 declares:

8 (1) Section 4 of Article III of the Illinois Constitution
9 provides that "The General Assembly by law shall define
10 permanent residence for voting purposes, insure secrecy of
11 voting and the integrity of the election process, and
12 facilitate registration and voting by all qualified persons.
13 Laws governing voter registration and conduct of elections
14 shall be general and uniform."

15 (2) While precise data does not exist, there are likely
16 fewer than 10,000,000 citizens who are eligible to vote in
17 Illinois. Of those eligible voters, approximately 8,100,000
18 are registered to vote and approximately 5,700,000 cast a
19 ballot in the 2024 general election.

20 (3) More than 24 countries, most notably Australia, treat
21 voting as a civic duty, similar to jury duty.

22 (4) Illinois can lead the nation in implementing an
23 American-style universal civic voting policy.

1 Section 10. Universal civic duty to cast a ballot.

2 (a) All eligible citizens shall cast a ballot in every
3 general election. An eligible citizen who casts a blank ballot
4 in a general election shall satisfy the requirement of this
5 subsection.

6 (b) No fine, fee, or penalty shall be assessed if an
7 eligible citizen does not cast a ballot in a general election.