



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3543

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Amy L. Grant

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/19-6

from Ch. 46, par. 19-6

Amends the Election Code. Requires that the envelope of a vote by mail ballot is also endorsed by a resident of the voter's address of registration to verify the voter's identity and residence. Provides that alternatively, if no other person resides at the voter's address of registration or is available to endorse the envelope, a resident of the voter's precinct may endorse the envelope or the voter may provide with the ballot the voter's utility bill or lease to verify identity and residency.

LRB103 29848 BMS 56257 b

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 5. The Election Code is amended by changing
5 Section 19-6 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/19-6) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-6)

7 Sec. 19-6. Such vote by mail voter shall make and
8 subscribe to the certifications provided for in the
9 application and on the return envelope for the ballot, and
10 such ballot or ballots shall be folded by such voter in the
11 manner required to be folded before depositing the same in the
12 ballot box, and be deposited in such envelope and the envelope
13 securely sealed. The voter shall then endorse his certificate
14 upon the back of the envelope. A resident of the voter's
15 address of registration must also endorse the envelope to
16 verify the voter's identity and residency. Alternatively, if
17 no other person resides at the voter's address of registration
18 or is available to endorse the envelope, a resident of the
19 voter's precinct may endorse the envelope or the voter may
20 provide with the ballot the voter's utility bill or lease to
21 verify identity and residency. The ~~and the~~ envelope shall be
22 mailed in person by such voter, postage prepaid, to the
23 election authority issuing the ballot or, if more convenient,

1 it may be delivered in person, by either the voter or by any
2 person authorized by the voter, or by a company licensed as a
3 motor carrier of property by the Illinois Commerce Commission
4 under the Illinois Commercial Transportation Law, which is
5 engaged in the business of making deliveries.

6 Election authorities shall accept any vote by mail ballot
7 returned, including ballots returned with insufficient or no
8 postage. Election authorities may maintain one or more secure
9 collection sites for the postage-free return of vote by mail
10 ballots. Any election authority with collection sites shall
11 collect all ballots returned each day and process them as
12 required by this Code, including noting the day on which the
13 ballot was collected. Ballots returned to such collection
14 sites after close of business shall be dated as delivered the
15 next day, with the exception of ballots delivered on election
16 day, which shall be dated as received on election day.
17 Election authorities shall permit electors to return vote by
18 mail ballots at any collection site it has established through
19 the close of polls on election day. All collection sites shall
20 be secured by locks that may be opened only by election
21 authority personnel. The State Board of Elections shall
22 establish additional guidelines for the security of collection
23 sites.

24 It shall be unlawful for any person not the voter or a
25 person authorized by the voter to take the ballot and ballot
26 envelope of a voter for deposit into the mail unless the ballot

1 has been issued pursuant to application by a physically
 2 incapacitated elector under Section 3-3 or a hospitalized
 3 voter under Section 19-13, in which case any employee or
 4 person under the direction of the facility in which the
 5 elector or voter is located may deposit the ballot and ballot
 6 envelope into the mail. If the voter authorized a person to
 7 deliver the ballot to the election authority, the voter and
 8 the person authorized to deliver the ballot shall complete the
 9 authorization printed on the exterior envelope supplied by an
 10 election authority for the return of the vote by mail ballot.
 11 The exterior of the envelope supplied by an election authority
 12 for the return of the vote by mail ballot shall include an
 13 authorization in substantially the following form:

14 I (voter) authorize to take
 15 the necessary steps to have this ballot delivered promptly to
 16 the office of the election authority.

17
 18 Date Signature of voter

19
 20 Printed Name of Authorized Delivery Agent

21
 22 Signature of Authorized Delivery Agency

1
2

3 Date Delivered to the Election Authority

(Source: P.A. 102-1, eff. 4-2-21; 102-668, eff. 11-15-21.)