

**Pending  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

**House Bill No. 177**

**BY: Committee**

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting  
in lieu thereof the following:**

19        **SECTION 1.** Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be known  
20 and may be cited as the "In-Person Early Voting Act."

21        **SECTION 2.** For purposes of this act, these words will have  
22 the following meanings, unless their context clearly suggests  
23 otherwise:

24            (a) "Election" means the period of time that is  
25 available for casting a final vote. References to the time of an  
26 election or the duration of the election shall encompass, unless  
27 the context clearly indicates otherwise, the fifteen-day period  
28 that has been designed for in-person early voting.



(b) "Polling place" or "voting precinct" means any place where a qualified elector votes during the in-person early voting period and on the actual election day.

**SECTION 3.** (1) The in-person early voting period shall begin fifteen (15) days before the date of each primary, general, runoff, special and municipal election for public office and continue until 12:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately preceding the election day. Any qualified elector may vote during the times established for in-person early voting in this chapter only in the office of the registrar in which the elector is registered to vote. No other or additional location for in-person early voting is permitted.

(2) In-person early voting shall be conducted in the office of the appropriate registrar during regular business hours. During the last full week preceding an election, the office of the appropriate registrar may extend the office hours to accommodate in-person early voters to allow voting during the lunch period and until 7:00 p.m. All registrar offices shall remain open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. for the two (2) Saturdays immediately preceding each election.

(3) Notice of the in-person early voting hours shall be given by the officials in charge of the election not less than eight (8) days before the in-person early voting period begins. Such notice shall be posted in three (3) public places within the county or municipality, with one (1) place being the county



courthouse in a county election or city hall in a municipal election.

**SECTION 4.** (1) A qualified elector who desires to vote during the in-person early voting period shall appear at the office of the appropriate registrar in the county or municipality in which the elector is a resident and registered to vote and shall present an acceptable form of photo identification. Upon verification of the proper location and identity, the elector shall be marked in the Statewide Elections Management System as "VOTED IPE," sign the appropriate receipt book and cast his or her vote in the same manner that such vote would be cast on the day of the election. Except as otherwise provided in Sections 1 through 5 of this act, the election laws that govern the procedures for a person who appears to vote on the day of an election shall apply when a person appears to vote during the in-person early voting period.

(2) All votes cast during the in-person early voting period shall be final.

(3) The votes cast during the in-person early voting period shall be tabulated and announced simultaneously with all other votes cast on election day after the polls close at 7:00 p.m., and not before that time.

**SECTION 5.** Each political party, candidate or any representative of a political party or candidate pursuant to Section 23-15-577 shall have the right to be present at the office



of the appropriate registrar when it is open for in-person early voting and to challenge the qualifications of any person offering to vote in the same manner as provided by law for challenging qualifications at the polling place on election day.

**SECTION 6.** (1) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to effectuate in-person early voting.

(2) The Secretary of State shall promulgate specific instructions for the security and integrity of the voting systems during the in-person early voting period. All voting systems used under this section shall be maintained and locked in a secure location at the registrar's office or building each day after the close of in-person early voting hours.

**SECTION 7.** Section 23-15-625, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-625. (1) The registrar shall be responsible for providing applications for absentee voting as provided in this section. At least sixty (60) days before any election in which absentee voting is provided for by law, the registrar shall provide a sufficient number of applications. In the event a special election is called and set at a date which makes it impractical or impossible to prepare applications for absent elector's ballot sixty (60) days before the election, the registrar shall provide applications as soon as practicable after the election is called. The registrar shall fill in the date of



the particular election on the application for which the application will be used. For voters appearing in person to cast an absentee vote, the application and elector certificate shall be printed on the absentee ballot envelope as provided in Section 23-15-659.

(2) The registrar shall be authorized to disburse applications for absentee ballots to any qualified elector within the county where he or she serves. Any person who presents to the registrar an oral or written request for an absentee ballot application for a voter entitled to vote absentee by mail, other than the elector who seeks to vote by absentee ballot, shall, in the presence of the registrar, sign the application and print on the application his or her name and address and the name of the elector for whom the application is being requested in the place provided for on the application for that purpose. However, if for any reason such person is unable to write the information required, then the registrar shall write the information on a printed form which has been prescribed by the Secretary of State. The form shall provide a place for such person to place his or her mark after the form has been filled out by the registrar.

(3) It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit absentee ballot applications or absentee ballots for persons staying in any skilled nursing facility as defined in Section 41-7-173 unless the person soliciting the absentee ballot applications or absentee ballots is:



(a) A family member of the person staying in the skilled nursing facility; or

(b) A person designated by the person for whom the absentee ballot application or absentee ballot is sought, the registrar or the deputy registrar.

As used in this subsection, "family member" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, adult child, grandchild or legal guardian.

(4) The registrar in the county wherein a voter is qualified to vote upon receiving by mail the envelope containing the absentee ballots shall keep an accurate list of all persons preparing such ballots. The list shall be kept in a conspicuous place accessible to the public near the entrance to the registrar's office. The registrar shall also furnish to each \* \* \* poll manager a list of the names of all persons in each respective precinct voting absentee by mail and during in-person early voting to be posted in a conspicuous place at the polling place for public notice. The application on file with the registrar and the envelopes containing the ballots that voters mailed to the registrar shall be kept by the registrar in his or her office in a secure location. At the time such boxes are delivered to the election commissioners or poll managers, the registrar shall also turn over a list of all such persons who have voted during in-person early voting and whose mailed ballots are in the registrar's office.



(5) The registrar shall also be authorized to mail one (1) application to any qualified elector of the county, who is eligible to vote by absentee ballot, for use in a particular election.

(6) The registrar shall process all applications for absentee ballots by using the Statewide Election Management System. The registrar shall account for all absentee ballots delivered to and received by mail as well as those who voted absentee in person from qualified voters by processing such ballots using the Statewide Election Management System.

**SECTION 8.** Section 23-15-627, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-627. (1) Any elector described in Section 23-15-713 may request an absentee ballot application and \* \* \* have the application and absentee ballot mailed to the elector. The registrar shall be responsible for furnishing an absentee ballot application form to any elector authorized to receive an absentee ballot. Such form shall be printed on the absentee ballot envelope as provided in Section 23-15-659. Except as otherwise provided in Section 23-15-625, absentee ballot applications shall be furnished to a person only upon the oral or written request of the elector who seeks to vote by absentee ballot; however, the parent, child, spouse, sibling, legal guardian, those empowered with a power of attorney for that elector's affairs or agent of the elector, who is designated in writing and witnessed by a



resident of this state who shall write his or her physical address on such designation, may orally request an absentee ballot application on behalf of the elector. The written designation shall be valid for one (1) year after the date of the designation. An absentee ballot application must have the seal of the circuit or municipal clerk affixed to it and be initialed by the registrar or his or her deputy in order to be used to obtain an absentee ballot. A reproduction of an absentee ballot application shall not be valid unless it is a reproduction provided by the office of the registrar of the jurisdiction in which the election is being held and which contains the seal and initials required by this section.

(2) Such application shall be substantially in the following form for applications mailed to absentee electors:

"OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ABSENT ELECTOR'S BALLOT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, duly qualified and registered in the \_\_\_\_ Precinct of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, and State of Mississippi, coming within the purview of the definition 'ABSENT ELECTOR' will be absent from the county of my residence on election day, or unable to vote in person because (check appropriate reason):

( ) (PRESIDENTIAL APPLICANT ONLY:) I am currently a resident of Mississippi or have moved therefrom within thirty (30) days of the coming presidential election.





( ) I am an enlisted or commissioned member, male or female, of any component of the United States Armed Forces and am a citizen of Mississippi, or spouse or dependent of such member.

( ) I am a member of the Merchant Marine or the American Red Cross and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of such member.

( ) I am a disabled war veteran who is a patient in any hospital and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of such veteran.

( ) I am a civilian attached to and serving outside of the United States with any branch of the Armed Forces or with the Merchant Marine or American Red Cross, and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of such civilian.

( ) I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia.

\* \* \*

( ) I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing outside of the county of my residence during the in-person early voting period or on election day.

( ) I am an emergency response provider, deployed due to a state of emergency declared by the President of the United States or the governor of any state within the United States during the time period provided by state law for in-person early voting and election day.



227     \* \* \*

228           ( ) I have a temporary or permanent physical disability.

229           ( ) I am sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

230           ( ) I am the parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a  
231 temporary or permanent physical disability who is hospitalized  
232 outside his or her county of residence or more than fifty (50)  
233 miles away from his or her residence, and I will be with such  
234 person on election day.

235           ( ) I am a member of the congressional delegation, or spouse  
236 or dependent of a member of the congressional delegation.

237     \* \* \*

238           ( ) I am incarcerated in prison or jail in the county where  
239 I am registered to vote and have not been convicted of a  
240 disenfranchising crime.

241           I hereby make application for an official ballot, or ballots,  
242 to be voted by me at the election to be held in \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.

243           Mail 'Absent Elector's Ballot' to me at the following address  
244 \_\_\_\_\_.

245           ( ) I wish to receive an absentee ballot for the runoff  
246 election \_\_\_\_\_.

247           Notify me of a problem with my 'Absent Elector's Ballot' at  
248 the following:

249                   Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

250                   Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

251                   Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_



252 I realize that I can be fined up to Five Thousand Dollars  
253 (\$5,000.00) and sentenced up to five (5) years in the Penitentiary  
254 for making a false statement in this application and for selling  
255 my vote and violating the Mississippi Absentee Voter Law. (This  
256 sentence is to be in bold print.)

257 If you are temporarily or permanently disabled, you are not  
258 required to have this application notarized or signed by an  
259 official authorized to administer oaths for absentee balloting.  
260 You are required to sign this application in the proper place and  
261 have a person eighteen (18) years of age or older witness your  
262 signature and sign this application in the proper place.

263 DO NOT SIGN WITHOUT READING. (This sentence is to be in bold  
264 print.)

265 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this  
266 the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_.

267 \_\_\_\_\_  
268 (Signature of absent elector)

269 SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
270 2\_\_\_\_.

271 \_\_\_\_\_  
272 (Official authorized to administer oaths  
273 for absentee balloting.)

274 TO BE SIGNED BY WITNESS FOR VOTERS TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY  
275 DISABLED:



276 I HEREBY CERTIFY that this application for an absent  
277 elector's ballot was signed by the above-named elector in my  
278 presence and that I am at least eighteen (18) years of age, this  
279 the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_.

280 \_\_\_\_\_  
281 (Signature of witness)

282 CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY

283 I hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ (print name of voter)  
284 has requested that I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name of person  
285 delivering application), deliver to the voter this absentee ballot  
286 application.

287 \_\_\_\_\_  
288 (Signature of person delivering application)  
289 \_\_\_\_\_  
290 (Address of person delivering application)"

291 (3) The application printed on the front of the absentee  
292 ballot envelope for absentee voters appearing before the registrar  
293 shall be substantially in the following form:

294 "OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR ABSENT ELECTOR'S BALLOT

295 I, \_\_\_\_\_, duly qualified and registered in the \_\_\_\_ Precinct  
296 of the County of \_\_\_\_\_, and State of Mississippi, coming within  
297 the purview of the definition 'ABSENT ELECTOR' will be absent from  
298 the county of my residence on election day, or unable to vote in  
299 person because (check appropriate reason):



300           ( )   (PRESIDENTIAL APPLICANT ONLY:) I am currently a  
301 resident of Mississippi or have moved therefrom within thirty (30)  
302 days of the coming presidential election.

303           ( ) I am an enlisted or commissioned member, male or female,  
304 of any component of the United States Armed Forces and am a  
305 citizen of Mississippi, or spouse or dependent of such member.

306           ( ) I am a member of the Merchant Marine or the American Red  
307 Cross and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of  
308 such member.

309           ( ) I am a disabled war veteran who is a patient in any  
310 hospital and am a citizen of Mississippi or spouse or dependent of  
311 such veteran.

312           ( ) I am a civilian attached to and serving outside of the  
313 United States with any branch of the Armed Forces or with the  
314 Merchant Marine or American Red Cross, and am a citizen of  
315 Mississippi or spouse or dependent of such civilian.

316           ( ) I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing  
317 outside the territorial limits of the United States and the  
318 District of Columbia.

319       \* \* \*

320           ( ) I am a citizen of Mississippi temporarily residing  
321 outside of the county of my residence during the in-person early  
322 voting period or on election day.

323           ( ) I am an emergency first response provider, deployed due  
324 to a state of emergency declared by the President of the United



325 States or the Governor of any state within the United States  
326 during the time period provided by law for in-person early voting  
327 and election day.

328 \* \* \*

329 ( ) I have a temporary or permanent physical disability.

330 ( ) I am sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

331 ( ) I am the parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a  
332 temporary or permanent physical disability who is hospitalized  
333 outside his or her county of residence or more than fifty (50)  
334 miles away from his or her residence, and I will be with such  
335 person on election day.

336 ( ) I am a member of the congressional delegation, or spouse  
337 or dependent of a member of the congressional delegation.

338 \* \* \*

339 ( ) I am incarcerated in prison or jail in the county where  
340 I am registered to vote and have not been convicted of a  
341 disenfranchising crime.

342 I hereby make application for an official ballot, or ballots,  
343 to be voted by me at the election to be held in \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_.

344 Notify me of a problem with my 'Absent Elector's Ballot' at  
345 the following:

346 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

347 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

348 Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_



I realize that I can be fined up to Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) and sentenced up to five (5) years in the Penitentiary for making a false statement in this application and for selling my vote and violating the Mississippi Absentee Voter Law. (This sentence is to be in bold print.)"

**SECTION 9.** Section 23-15-631, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-631. (1) The registrar shall enclose with each ballot mailed to an absent elector separate printed instructions furnished by the registrar containing the following:

\* \* \*

( \* \* \*a) Upon receipt of the enclosed ballot, you will not mark the ballot except in view or sight of the attesting witness. In the sight or view of the attesting witness, mark the ballot according to instructions.

( \* \* \*b) After marking the ballot, fill out and sign the "ELECTOR'S CERTIFICATE" in the box on the back of the envelope so that the signature is across the flap of the envelope to ensure the integrity of the ballot. All absent electors shall have the attesting witness sign the "ATTESTING WITNESS CERTIFICATE" in the box across the flap on the back of the envelope. A portion of the elector's signature extending outside of the box shall not be grounds for rejecting that elector's ballot. Place the necessary postage on the envelope and deposit it in the post office or some government receptacle provided for the deposit of mail so that the



absent elector's ballot will be postmarked on or before the date of the election and received by the registrar no more than five (5) business days after the election. The ballot may only be transmitted by the United States Postal Service or other common carriers, including, but not limited to, United Parcel Service or FedEx Corporation.

Any notary public, United States postmaster, assistant United States postmaster, United States postal supervisor, clerk in charge of a contract postal station, or other officer having authority to administer an oath or take an acknowledgment may be an attesting witness; provided, however, that in the case of an absent elector who is temporarily or permanently physically disabled, the attesting witness may be any person eighteen (18) years of age or older and such person is not required to have the authority to administer an oath. If a postmaster, assistant postmaster, postal supervisor, or clerk in charge of a contract postal station acts as an attesting witness, his or her signature in a box on the elector's certificate must be authenticated by the cancellation stamp of their respective post offices. If an officer having authority to administer an oath or take an acknowledgment acts as an attesting witness, his or her signature in a box on the elector's certificate, together with his or her title and address, but no seal, shall be required. A portion of the elector's signature extending outside of the box shall not be grounds for rejecting that elector's ballot. Any affidavits made





by an absent elector who is in the Armed Forces may be executed before a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or noncommissioned officer not lower in grade than sergeant rating or any person authorized to administer oaths.

( \* \* \* c) When the application accompanies the ballot it shall not be returned in the same envelope as the ballot but shall be returned in a separate pre-addressed envelope provided by the registrar.

( \* \* \* d) A candidate for public office, or the spouse, parent or child of a candidate for public office, may not be an attesting witness for any absentee ballot upon which the candidate's name appears, unless the voter is related within the first degree to the candidate or the spouse, parent or child of the candidate.

( \* \* \* e) Any voter casting an absentee ballot who declares that he or she requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, temporary or permanent physical disability or inability to read or write, shall be entitled to receive assistance in the marking of his or her absentee ballot and in completing the affidavit on the absentee ballot envelope. The voter may be given assistance by anyone of the voter's choice other than a candidate whose name appears on the absentee ballot being marked, the spouse, parent or child of a candidate whose name appears on the absentee ballot being marked or the voter's employer, an agent of that employer or a union representative; however, a candidate



whose name is on the ballot or the spouse, parent or child of such candidate may provide assistance upon request to any voter who is related within the first degree. In order to ensure the integrity of the ballot, any person who provides assistance to an absentee voter shall be required to sign and complete the "Certificate of Person Providing Voter Assistance" on the absentee ballot envelope.

(2) The foregoing instructions required to be provided by the registrar to the elector shall also constitute the substantive law pertaining to the handling of absentee ballots by the elector and registrar.

(3) The Secretary of State shall prepare instructions on how absent voters may comply with the identification requirements of Section 23-15-563.

**SECTION 10.** Section 23-15-637, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-637. (1) \* \* \* Absentee ballots and applications received by mail, except for fax or electronically transmitted ballots as otherwise provided by Section 23-15-699 for UOCAVA ballots, or common carrier, such as United Parcel Service or FedEx Corporation, must be \* \* \* received by the registrar no more than five (5) business days after the election; any received after such time shall be handled as provided in Section 23-15-647 and shall not be counted.

\* \* \*



449           (2) The registrar shall deposit all absentee ballots which  
450 have been timely cast and received by mail in a secured and sealed  
451 box in a designated location in the registrar's office upon  
452 receipt. The registrar shall not send any absentee ballots to the  
453 precinct polling locations.

454           (3) The Secretary of State shall promulgate rules and  
455 regulations necessary to ensure that when a qualified elector who  
456 is qualified to vote absentee votes by absentee mail-in  
457 ballot, \* \* \* that person's absentee vote is final and he or she  
458 may not vote at the polling place on election day.

459 Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, the  
460 Secretary of State shall promulgate rules and regulations  
461 necessary to ensure that absentee ballots shall remain in the  
462 registrar's office for counting and not be taken to the precincts  
463 on election day.

464           **SECTION 11.** Section 23-15-713, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
465 amended as follows:

466           23-15-713. For the purpose of this subarticle, any duly  
467 qualified elector may vote as provided in this subarticle if the  
468 elector falls within at least one (1) of the following categories:

469       \* \* \*

470           ( \* \* \* a) Any qualified elector who is required to be  
471 away from his or her place of residence on any election day due to  
472 his or her employment as an employee of a member of the  
473 Mississippi congressional delegation and the spouse and dependents



of such person if he or she shall be residing with such absentee voter away from the county of the spouse's voting residence.

\* \* \*

( \* \* \*b) Any person who has a temporary or permanent physical disability and who, because of such disability, is unable to vote in person without substantial hardship to himself, herself or others, or whose attendance at the voting place could reasonably cause danger to himself, herself or others.

( \* \* \*c) The parent, spouse or dependent of a person with a temporary or permanent physical disability who is hospitalized outside of his or her county of residence or more than fifty (50) miles distant from his or her residence, if the parent, spouse or dependent will be with such person on election day.

( \* \* \*d) Any person who is sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

( \* \* \*e) Any member of the Mississippi congressional delegation absent from Mississippi on election day, and the spouse and dependents of such member of the congressional delegation.

( \* \* \*f) Any qualified elector who \* \* \* is temporarily residing outside of their county of residence during the in-person early voting period and on election day during the times when the polls will be open.

(g) I am an emergency response provider, deployed due to a state of emergency declared by the President of the United



States or the governor of any state within the United States  
during the time period provided by state law for in-person early  
voting and election day.

( \* \* \* h) Any qualified elector who is incarcerated in  
prison or jail in the county where he or she is registered to vote  
and has not been convicted of a disenfranchising crime.

**SECTION 12.** Section 23-15-715, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
amended as follows:

23-15-715. Any elector described in Section 23-15-713 and  
desiring an absentee ballot as provided in this subarticle may  
secure same if \* \* \* within forty-five (45) days \* \* \* before any  
election, but not less than seven (7) days before the election,  
such elector applies for an absentee ballot as provided in the  
provisions of this act. \* \* \* All applications, other than those  
of persons having a temporary or permanent physical disability,  
shall \* \* \* be sworn to and subscribed before an official who is  
authorized to administer oaths or another official authorized to  
witness absentee balloting as provided in this chapter. The  
applications of persons having a temporary or permanent physical  
disability are not required to be accompanied by an affidavit but  
shall be witnessed and signed by a person eighteen (18) years of  
age or older. The registrar shall send to such absent voter a  
proper absentee voter ballot within twenty-four (24) hours, or as  
soon thereafter as the ballots are available, containing the names  
of all candidates who qualify or the proposition to be voted on in



such election, and with such ballot there shall be sent an official envelope containing upon it in printed form the recitals and data hereinafter required.

\* \* \* Except when the voter has requested a runoff ballot on the initial absentee ballot application, upon request for a runoff ballot pursuant to Section 23-15-719, the registrar shall mail together the absentee ballot application and the absentee ballot to the absent voter for the runoff election.

**SECTION 13.** Section 23-15-719, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

23-15-719. (1) Except where the registrar has already mailed a ballot with an application, upon receipt of a properly completed application form by an elector qualified to vote absentee as provided in this article, the registrar shall mail the absent voter an absentee ballot within one (1) business day, or as soon as the absentee ballot is prepared and available, containing the names of all the candidates and propositions, if any, to be voted on in the election. The registrar shall include with the absentee ballot an official envelope that complies with the provisions of Section 23-15-635, as well as information to comply with Section 23-15-641(3) related to the status of the elector's ballot.

(2) When an absentee voter appears before the registrar to vote, the registrar shall identify the applicant by requiring him or her to present identification as required by Section 23-15-563,



549 and shall then deliver the ballot to the applicant in the  
550 registrar's office. After the applicant has properly marked the  
551 ballot and properly folded it, he or she shall deposit it in the  
552 envelope furnished to him or her by the registrar.

553 After the absentee voter has sealed the envelope as provided  
554 in Section 23-15-635, he or she shall ensure the absentee  
555 application on the front of the envelope is complete and shall  
556 subscribe and swear to an affidavit. The affidavit shall be in  
557 the following form, which shall be printed on the back of the  
558 envelope containing the applicant's ballot:

559 "STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

560 COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_

561 I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that this envelope contains  
562 the ballot marked by me indicating my choice of the candidates or  
563 propositions to be submitted at the election to be held on the \_\_\_\_  
564 day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_, and I hereby authorize the registrar to  
565 place this envelope in the ballot box on my behalf, and I further  
566 authorize the resolution board to open this envelope and place my  
567 ballot among the other ballots cast before such ballots are  
568 counted, and record my name on the poll list as if I were present  
569 in person and voted.

570 I further swear that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret.

571 \_\_\_\_\_  
572 (Signature of voter)



573 SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me, \_\_\_\_\_, this the \_\_\_\_  
574 day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_.

575 (Registrar) \_\_\_\_\_

576 (Registrar)"

577 After the completion of the requirements of this section, the  
578 elector shall deliver the envelope containing the ballot to the  
579 registrar.

580 (3) If the voter has received assistance in marking his or  
581 her ballot, the person providing the assistance shall complete the  
582 following form which shall be printed on the back of the envelope  
583 containing the applicant's ballot:

584 "CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PROVIDING VOTER ASSISTANCE

585 (To be completed only if the voter has received assistance in  
586 marking the enclosed ballot.) I hereby certify that the  
587 above-named voter declared to me that he or she is blind,  
588 temporarily or permanently physically disabled, or cannot read or  
589 write, and that the voter requested that I assist the voter in  
590 marking the enclosed absentee ballot. I hereby certify that the  
591 ballot preferences on the enclosed ballot are those communicated  
592 by the voter to me, and that I have marked the enclosed ballot in  
593 accordance with the voter's instructions.

594 \_\_\_\_\_

595 Signature of person providing assistance

596 \_\_\_\_\_

597 Printed name of person providing assistance





598

599

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of person providing assistance

600

601

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date and time assistance provided

602

603

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family relationship to voter (if any)"

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(4) The envelope used pursuant to this section shall not contain the form prescribed by Section 23-15-635 and shall have printed on the flap on the back of the envelope in bold print and in a distinguishing color, the following: **"YOUR VOTE WILL BE REJECTED AND NOT COUNTED IF THIS ENVELOPE IS NOT SIGNED BY YOU AND AN ATTESTING WITNESS IN THE BOXES ACROSS THE FLAP OF THIS ENVELOPE."**

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A portion of the voter's signature extending outside of the box shall not be grounds for rejecting that voter's ballot.

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(5) The registrar shall not personally hand deliver ballots to voters, except to those who personally appear in the registrar's office to absentee vote.

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(6) Ballots requested under Section 23-15-713(f) shall be mailed to the voter's address outside of the county in which he or she is registered.

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**SECTION 14.** This act shall take effect and be in force from and after January 1, 2026, and shall stand repealed on December 31, 2025.



**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and  
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1       AN ACT TO CREATE THE "IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING ACT"; TO PROVIDE  
2       DEFINITIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING PERIOD  
3       SHALL BEGIN 15 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION AND CONTINUE UNTIL 12:00  
4       P.M. ON THE SATURDAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION; TO  
5       PROVIDE THAT IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING SHALL BE FOR EACH PRIMARY,  
6       GENERAL, RUNOFF, SPECIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTION FOR PUBLIC OFFICE;  
7       TO PROVIDE THE HOURS FOR IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING IN THE REGISTRAR'S  
8       OFFICE DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS; TO PROVIDE EXTENDED HOURS TO  
9       VOTE DURING THE LAST FULL WEEK PRECEDING AN ELECTION; TO PROVIDE  
10      THAT NOTICE OF IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THREE  
11      PUBLIC PLACES EIGHT DAYS BEFORE THE VOTING BEGINS; TO PROVIDE THE  
12      PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW WHEN CASTING A BALLOT DURING THE IN-PERSON  
13      EARLY VOTING PERIOD; TO PROVIDE THE MANNER FOR CHALLENGING THE  
14      QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER DURING THE IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING  
15      PERIOD; TO AMEND SECTIONS 23-15-625, 23-15-627, 23-15-631,  
16      23-15-637, 23-15-713, 23-15-715 AND 23-15-719, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
17      1972, TO CONFORM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

