

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1711

By: Hill and Turner of the
House

3 and

4 Rosino of the Senate

5
6 [elections - allowing blind or visually impaired
7 persons to request certain ballot electronically -
8 providing for return of ballot - prohibiting return
9 of ballot electronically - providing for processing
10 of ballot - effective date]
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12

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-115.12 of Title 26, unless
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. 1. A registered voter who swears or affirms that the voter
18 is physically unable to vote in person at the voter's precinct on
19 the day of the election because the voter is blind or visually
20 impaired may request that an accessible absentee ballot be delivered
21 to the voter electronically in a manner prescribed by the Secretary
22 of the State Election Board.

23 2. An accessible absentee voting packet for blind or visually
24 impaired voters, which shall include all necessary materials except

1 the absentee ballot, shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the
2 State Election Board. The accessible absentee voting packet may be
3 delivered to the voter by United States mail or electronically.

4 B. 1. The electronic delivery system shall provide the voter
5 the opportunity to use the voter's personal computer to mark an
6 accessible absentee ballot privately and independently and then
7 print the marked ballot.

8 2. The absentee ballot shall be accompanied by an absentee
9 ballot affidavit, which shall be executed in the same manner as
10 provided for affidavits in Section 14-113.2 of Title 26 of the
11 Oklahoma Statutes.

12 3. The voter shall return the absentee ballot and executed
13 affidavit to the secretary of the county election board in the same
14 manner provided in Section 14-113.2 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma
15 Statutes. Nothing in this section shall allow for an absentee
16 ballot to be returned to the county election board electronically,
17 and no absentee ballot returned electronically shall be eligible to
18 be counted by a county election board.

19 C. A registered voter who is blind or visually impaired may
20 choose to request the assistance of another person to complete any
21 requirements of this section, as provided in Section 7-123.3 of
22 Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

23 D. Upon return of an absentee ballot described in this section,
24 the secretary of the county election board shall cause it to be

1 processed in the same manner as prescribed by law for other absentee
2 ballots.

3 E. Any person who is not blind or visually impaired according
4 to state law, but who applies for an absentee ballot described in
5 this section, shall be deemed guilty of a felony as provided in
6 Section 16-102.2 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

7 F. The Secretary of the State Election Board may promulgate
8 rules or procedures to implement the requirements of this section.

9 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

10 Passed the House of Representatives the 22nd day of February,
11 2021.

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13 _____
Presiding Officer of the House
14 of Representatives

15 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2021.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate
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