



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 Sections 20-2 and 20-8 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/20-2) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-2)

7 Sec. 20-2. Any member of the United States Service,  
8 otherwise qualified to vote, who expects in the course of his  
9 duties to be absent from the county in which he resides on the  
10 day of holding any election may make application for an  
11 absentee ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction  
12 over his precinct of residence on the official postcard or on a  
13 form furnished by the election authority as prescribed by  
14 Section 20-3 of this Article not less than 10 days before the  
15 election. A request pursuant to this Section shall entitle the  
16 applicant to an absentee ballot for every election in 2  
17 consecutive ~~one~~ calendar years ~~year~~. The original application  
18 for ballot shall be kept in the office of the election  
19 authority for one year as authorization to send a ballot to the  
20 voter for each election to be held within that calendar year. A  
21 certified copy of such application for ballot shall be sent  
22 each election with the absentee ballot to the polling place to  
23 be used in lieu of the original application for ballot. No  
24 registration shall be required in order to vote pursuant to  
25 this Section.

26 Ballots under this Section shall be mailed by the election  
27 authority in the manner prescribed by Section 20-5 of this  
28 Article and not otherwise. Ballots voted under this Section  
29 must be returned to the election authority in sufficient time  
30 for delivery to the proper precinct polling place before the  
31 closing of the polls on the day of the election.

32 (Source: P.A. 86-875.)

1 (10 ILCS 5/20-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-8)

2 Sec. 20-8. In case any such ballot is received by the  
3 election authority prior to the delivery of the official  
4 ballots to the judges of election of the precinct in which said  
5 elector resides, such ballot envelope and application, sealed  
6 in the carrier envelope, shall be enclosed in the same package  
7 with the other official ballots and therewith delivered to the  
8 judges of such precinct. In case the official ballots for such  
9 precinct have been delivered to the judges of election at the  
10 time of the receipt by the election authority of such absent  
11 voter's ballot, it shall immediately enclose said envelope  
12 containing the absent voter's ballot, together with his  
13 application therefor, in a larger or carrier envelope which  
14 shall be securely sealed and addressed on the face to the  
15 judges of election, giving the name or number of precinct,  
16 street and number of polling place, city or town in which such  
17 absent voter is a qualified elector, and the words, "This  
18 envelope contains an absent voter's ballot and must be opened  
19 only on election day at the polls immediately after the polls  
20 are closed," mailing the same, postage prepaid, to such judges  
21 of election, or if more convenient he or it may deliver such  
22 absent voter's ballot to the judges of election in person or by  
23 duly deputized agent and secure his receipt for delivery of  
24 such ballot or ballots. Absent voter's ballots postmarked after  
25 11:59 p.m. of the day immediately preceding the election  
26 returned to the election authority too late to be delivered to  
27 the proper polling place before the closing of the polls on the  
28 day of election shall be endorsed by the person receiving the  
29 same with the day and hour of receipt and shall be safely kept  
30 unopened by the election authority for the period of time  
31 required for the preservation of ballots used at such election,  
32 and shall then, without being opened, be destroyed in like  
33 manner as the used ballots of such election.

34 All absent voters' ballots received by the election  
35 authority after 12:00 noon on election day or too late for

1 delivery to the proper polling place before the closing of the  
2 polls on election day, except ballots returned by mail  
3 postmarked after midnight preceding the opening of the polls on  
4 election day, shall be counted in the office of the election  
5 authority on the day of the election after 7:00 p.m. All absent  
6 voters' ballots delivered in error to the wrong precinct  
7 polling place shall be returned to the election authority and  
8 counted under this provision. Absent voters' ballots  
9 postmarked or dated on or before 11:59 p.m. of the day  
10 immediately preceding the election but received by or delivered  
11 to the election authority within 14 calendar days after the  
12 election shall be eligible to be counted.

13 Such counting shall ~~commence no later than 8:00 p.m. and~~  
14 ~~shall~~ be conducted by a panel or panels of election judges  
15 appointed in the manner provided by law. Such counting shall  
16 continue until all absent voters' ballots received as aforesaid  
17 have been counted but in no case shall they be counted after  
18 the 14th day following the election.

19 The procedures set forth in Section 19-9 of this Act and  
20 Articles 17 and 18 of this Code, shall apply to all absent  
21 voters' ballots counted under this provision; except that votes  
22 shall be recorded without regard to precinct designation.

23 Where certain absent voters' ballots are counted in the  
24 office of the election authority as provided in this Section,  
25 each political party, candidate and qualified civic  
26 organization shall be entitled to have present one pollwatcher  
27 for each panel of election judges therein assigned.

28 (Source: P.A. 84-861.)

29 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
30 becoming law.