

# 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY State of Illinois 2009 and 2010 SB2022

Introduced 2/20/2009, by Sen. Michael W. Frerichs

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/1	9-1	from	Ch.	46,	par.	19-1
10 ILCS 5/1	9-2	from	Ch.	46,	par.	19-2
10 ILCS 5/1	9-3	from	Ch.	46,	par.	19-3
10 ILCS 5/1	9-5	from	Ch.	46,	par.	19-5

Amends the Election Code. Permits a person to request and vote an absentee ballot without specifying a reason for the absence from the polling place on election day. Effective immediately.

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1 AN ACT concerning elections.

## Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Sections 19-1, 19-2, 19-3, and 19-5 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/19-1) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-1)

Sec. 19-1. Any qualified elector of the State of Illinois having duly registered where such registration is required who will be unable to enter his or her precinct polling place without violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or who expects to be absent from the county in which he is a qualified elector or who because of being appointed a judge of election in a precinct other than the precinct in which he resides or who because of physical incapacity or the tenets of his religion in the observance of a religious holiday or who because of election duties for the office of an Election Authority or the State Board of Elections or who because election duties for a law enforcement agency, including but not limited to the offices of the Attorney General, a State's Attorney, a United States Attorney, or a State, county, or municipal police department, or who, because he is temporarily abiding outside the precinct in which he is registered to vote due to the fact he is a student attending an institution of

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higher education or who is serving as a sequestered juror on a State or federal jury, or who because of his or her confinement or detention in a jail pending acquittal or conviction of a crime, will be unable to be present at the polls on the day of holding any special, general or primary election at which any presidential preference is indicated or any candidates are chosen or elected, for any congressional, State, district, county, town, city, village, precinct or judicial offices or at which questions of public policy are submitted, may vote at such election as hereinafter in this Article provided.

Each Election Authority, law enforcement agency, and the State Board of Elections shall compile and keep current a list of his or its officers or employees who are eligible to vote under this Article by reason of election duties.

For purposes of this Article 19, a physically incapacitated voter marks his or her ballot "personally" when the voter exercises his or her physical abilities to their reasonable limit in marking the ballot, and marking personally may include instructing the person assisting the incapacitated voter when giving such instruction represents the reasonable limit of the physical abilities.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-637, eff. 1-1-06; 95-440, eff. 8-27-07.)

23 (10 ILCS 5/19-2) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-2)

Sec. 19-2. Any elector as defined in Section 19-1 who will be unable to enter his or her precinct polling place without

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violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 1961 or who is expecting to be absent from the county of his residence or any such elector who because of being appointed a judge of election in a precinct other than the precinct in which he who because of physical incapacity or the tenets of his religion in the observance of a religious holiday or because of election duties for the office of an Election Authority, the State Board of Elections, or a law enforcement agency, or who because of his or her confinement or detention in a jail pending acquittal or conviction of a crime, will be unable to be present at the polls on the day of such election may by mail, not more than 40 nor less than 5 days prior to the date of such election, or by personal delivery not more than 40 nor less than one day prior to the date of such election, make application to the county clerk or to the Board of Election Commissioners for an official ballot for the voter's precinct to be voted at such election.

(Source: P.A. 94-637, eff. 1-1-06; 95-440, eff. 8-27-07.)

19 (10 ILCS 5/19-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-3)

Sec. 19-3. Application for such ballot shall be made on blanks to be furnished by the election authority and duplication of such application for ballot is prohibited, except by the election authority. The application for ballot shall be substantially in the following form:

APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

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#### BY ELECTOR WHO EXPECTS TO BE

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To be voted at the .... election in the County of .... and 3 State of Illinois, in the .... precinct of the (1) \*township of 4 5  $\dots$  (2) \*City of  $\dots$  or (3) \* $\dots$  ward in the City of  $\dots$ I state that I am a resident of the .... precinct of the 6 7 (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in 8 the city of .... residing at .... in such city or town in the 9 county of .... and State of Illinois; that I have lived at such address for .... month(s) last past; that I am lawfully 10 11 entitled to vote in such precinct at the .... election to be 12 held therein on ....; and that I with to vote by absentee ballot expect to be absent from the county of my residence 13 14 the date of holding such election, and that I will have no

I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots to be voted by me at such election if I am absent from the county of my residence, and I agree that I shall return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this application are true and correct.

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\*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).

opportunity to vote in person on that day.

Post office address to which ballot is mailed:

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2	However, if application is made for a primary election
3	ballot, such application shall designate the name of the
4	political party with which the applicant is affiliated.
5	APPLICATION FOR BALLOT
6	BY ELECTOR WHO IS JUDGE OF ELECTION
7	IN A PRECINCT OTHER THAN THE PRECINCT
8	<del>IN WHICH HE RESIDES</del>
9	To be voted at the election in the County of and
10	State of Illinois, in the precinct of the (1) *township of
11	(2) *City of or (3) * ward in the City of
12	I state that I am affiliated with the party (to be
13	used in primary elections) and that I am a resident of the
14	precinct of the (1) *township of (2) *City of or (3)
15	* ward in the city of residing at in such city or
16	town in the county of and State of Illinois; that I have
17	lived at such address for month(s) last past; that I am
18	lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the election
19	to be held therein on; that I am a judge of election in
20	precinct or the (1) * ward in the city of or (2)
21	*township of or (3) *city, village or incorporated town of
22	in such county and that I will have no opportunity of
23	voting in person on that day:
24	I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots
25	to be voted by me at such election if I serve as a judge of

election in such last named precinct, and I agree that I shall

1	return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same
2	prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election.
3	Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section
4	29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the
5	statements set forth in this application are true and correct.
6	<del></del>
7	*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).
8	Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
9	••••
10	APPLICATION FOR BALLOT
11	BY PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED ELECTOR
12	To be voted at the election in the County of and
13	State of Illinois, in the precinct of the (1) *township of
14	(2) *City of or (3) * ward in the City of
15	I state that I am affiliated with the party (to be
16	used in primary elections) and that I am a resident of the
17	precinct of the (1) *township of (2) *City of or (3)
18	* ward in the city of residing at in such city or
19	town in the county of and State of Illinois; that I have
20	lived at such address for month(s) last past; that I am
21	lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the election
22	to be held therein on; that I shall be physically
23	incapable of being present at the polls of such precinct on the
24	date of holding such election for the following reasons:
25	I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots
26	to be voted by me at such election if I am so physically

1	incapacitated, and I agree that I shall return such ballot or
2	ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the closing
3	of the polls on the date of election.
4	Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section
5	29 10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the
6	statements set forth in this application are true and correct.
7	••••
8	*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).
9	Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
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11	APPLICATION FOR BALLOT
12	BY CHILD SEX OFFENDER ELECTOR
13	To be voted at the election in the County of and
14	State of Illinois, in the precinct of the (1) *township of
15	(2) *City of or (3) * ward in the City of
16	I state that I am affiliated with the party (to be
17	used in primary elections) and that I am a resident of the
18	precinct of the (1) *township of (2) *City of or (3)
19	* ward in the city of residing at in such city or
20	town in the county of and State of Illinois; that I have
21	lived at such address for month(s) last past; that I am
22	lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the election
23	to be held therein on; that my assigned precinct polling
24	place is in a school and I will be unable to enter the polling
25	place without violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of
26	<del>1961.</del>

1	I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots
2	to be voted by me at such election because my assigned precinct
3	polling place is in a school and I will be unable to enter the
4	polling place without violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal
5	Code of 1961, and I agree that I shall return such ballot or
6	ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the closing
7	of the polls on the date of election.
8	Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section
9	29 10 of the Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the
10	statements set forth in this application are true and correct.
11	• • • •
12	*fill in either (1), (2), or (3).
13	Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
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15	APPLICATION FOR BALLOT
16	BY ELECTOR OBSERVING RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY
17	To be voted at the election in the county of
18	State of Illinois, in the precinct (1) *township of
19	(2) *City of or (3) * ward in the City of
20	I state that I am affiliated with the party (to be
21	used in primary elections) and that I am a resident of the
22	precinct of the (1) *township of (2) *City of or (3)
23	* ward in the city of residing at in such city or
24	town in the county of and State of Illinois; that I have
25	lived at such address for month(s) past, that I am
26	lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the election

1	to be held therein on; that I shall be unable to be
2	present at the polls of such precinct on the date of holding
3	such election because of the tenets of my religion in the
4	observance of a religious holiday.
5	I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots
6	to be voted by me at such election if I am so unable to be
7	present at the polls of such precinct on the date of the
8	election because of the tenets of my religion in the observance
9	of a religious holiday, and I agree that I shall return the
10	ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the
11	closing of the polls on the date of the election.
12	Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section
13	29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the
14	statements set forth in this application are true and correct.
15	<del></del>
16	*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).
17	Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
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19	APPLICATION FOR BALLOT
20	BY ELECTOR WHO IS AN ELECTION EMPLOYEE
21	OF STATE'S ATTORNEY, COUNTY CLERK OR
22	BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS
23	To be voted at the election in the County of and
24	State of Illinois, in the precinct of the (1) *township of
25	(2) *City of or (3) * ward in the City of
26	I state that I am a resident of the precinct of the

(1) *township of (2) *City of or (3) * ward in
the city of residing at in such city or town in the
county of and State of Illinois; that I have lived at such
address for month(s) last past; that I am lawfully
entitled to vote in such precinct at the election to be
held therein on; that I am employed in the office of the
(State's Attorney of County) (County Clerk of County)
(Board of Election Commissioners of the (City) (County) of
and that because of election duties on the date of holding such
election I will have no opportunity to vote in person on that
<del>day.</del>
I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots
to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I shall
return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same
prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election.
Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section
29 10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the
statements set forth in this application are true and correct.
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*fill in either $(1)$ , $(2)$ or $(3)$ .
Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
Provided, that if application be made for a primary
election ballot, such application shall designate the name of
the political party with which the applicant is affiliated.

### TEMPORARILY ABSENT STUDENT BALLOT 1 To be voted at the .... election in the County of .... and 2 State of Illinois, in the .... precinct of the (1) \*township of 3 .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in the City of .... 4 I state that I am a resident of the .... precinct of the 5 (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in 6 7 the city of .... residing at .... in such city or town in the county of .... and State of Illinois; that I have lived at such 8 address for .... month(s) last past; that I am lawfully 9 10 entitled to vote in such precinct at the .... election to be 11 held therein on ....; that I am temporarily abiding outside 12 such precinct in the (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... in the county of .... and State of .... due to the fact I 13 student attending an institution of higher education, and for 14 15 that reason do not expect to have an opportunity to vote in 16 person on that day. 17 I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots to be voted by me at such election if I am absent from the 18 precinct of my residence, and I agree that I shall return such 19 20 ballot or ballots to the official issuing the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election. 21 22 Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that 23 statements set forth in this application are true and correct. 24 25 26 \*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).

1	Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
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3	However, if application is made for a primary election
4	ballot, such application shall designate the name of the
5	political party with which the applicant is affiliated.
6	In lieu of the separate application blanks heretofore
7	prescribed, the election authority may adopt a standard
8	application blank in substantially the following form for all
9	categories of absentee voters:
10	APPLICATION FOR
11	ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOT
12	To be voted at the election in the County of
13	and State of Illinois, in the precinct of the
14	(1) *township of (2) *City of or (3) * ward
15	in the City of
16	I state that I am a resident of the precinct of the
17	(1) *township of (2) *City of or (3) *
18	ward in the City of residing at in such city
19	or town in the county of and State of Illinois; that I
20	have lived at such address for months last past; that I
21	am lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at a
22	election to be held therein on; and that I will be
23	unable to vote in person at the polls of such precinct for the
24	following reasons:
25	(Check One)
26	I expect to be absent from my county of residence.

1	I expect to be temporarily absent from the country.
2	I shall be serving as a judge of election in the
3	precinct which is not my precinct of
4	<del>residence.</del>
5	I shall be observing a religious holiday in
6	accordance with the tenets of my religion.
7	I shall be performing official election duties
8	for an Election Authority
9	<del>(election authority)</del>
10	or the State Board of
11	Elections.
12	<del>(location)</del>
13	I shall be performing election law enforcement
14	duties in the employment of
15	<del>(law enforcement agency)</del>
16	<del></del>
17	<del>(location)</del>
18	I am temporarily abiding in the (1) *township of
19	(2) *city of in the county of and State of due to
20	the fact I am a student attending an institution of higher
21	education.
22	I am physically incapacitated.
23	Reason(s):
24	I have been called for jury duty on said day by
25	<del></del>
26	(court jurisdiction)

I hereby make application for an official ballot or ballots to be voted by me at such election and agree that I shall return the ballot or ballots to the election official issuing the same in sufficient time for such official to deliver the ballot or ballots to the proper polling place prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election.

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 29 10 of the Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this application are true and correct.

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\* fill in either (1), (2) or (3). Post office address to which

12 ballot is mailed:

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Provided, that if application is made for a primary election, such application shall designate the name of the political party with which applicant is affiliated.

17 (Source: P.A. 95-440, eff. 8-27-07.)

18 (10 ILCS 5/19-5) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-5)

Sec. 19-5. It shall be the duty of the election authority to fold the ballot or ballots in the manner specified by the statute for folding ballots prior to their deposit in the ballot box, and to enclose such ballot or ballots in an envelope unsealed to be furnished by him, which envelope shall bear upon the face thereof the name, official title and post office address of the election authority, and upon the other

- side if the ballot is to go to an elector who is to be out of the county on the day of the election a printed certification in substantially the following form:
- I state that I am a resident of the .... precinct of the 4 5 (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in the city of .... residing at .... in such city or town in the 6 county of .... and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such 7 8 address for .... months last past; and that I am lawfully 9 entitled to vote in such precinct at the .... election to be 10 held on ....; and I expect to be absent from the county of my 11 residence on the date of such election.
- \*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).
- I further state that I personally marked the enclosed ballot in secret.
- Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to
  Section 29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies
  that the statements set forth in this certification are true
  and correct.
- 19 .....
- 20 If the ballot is to go to an elector who is physically
  21 incapacitated the envelope shall bear upon the back thereof a
  22 certification in substantially the following form:
- 23 I state that I am a resident of the .... precinct of the
  24 (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in
  25 the city of .... residing at .... in such city or town in the
  26 county of .... and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such

1	address for months last past; that I am lawfully entitled
2	to vote in such precinct at the election to be held on
3	; that I shall be physically incapable of being present at
4	the polls of such precinct on the date of holding such
5	election.
6	*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).
7	I further state that I personally marked the enclosed
8	ballot in secret. If I received assistance in casting my
9	ballot, I further attest that, due to physical incapacity, I
10	marked the enclosed ballot in secret with the assistance of
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12	(Individual rendering assistance)
13	
14	(Residence Address)
15	Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to
16	Section 29 10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies
17	that the statements set forth in this certification are true
18	and correct.
19	
20	In the case of a voter who is voting absentee by reason of
21	physical incapacity, marking a ballot in secret includes
22	marking a ballot with the assistance of another individual,
23	other than a candidate whose name appears on the ballot (unless
24	the voter is the spouse or a parent, child, brother, or sister
25	of the candidate), the voter's employer, an agent of that
26	employer or an officer or agent of the voter's union, when the

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voter's physical incapacity necessitates such assistance.

If the ballot is to go to an elector who will be unable to enter his or her precinct polling place without violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 1961, the envelope shall bear upon the back thereof a certification in substantially the following form:

I state that I am a resident of the .... precinct of the (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in the city of .... residing at .... in said city or town in the county of .... and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such address for .... months last past; that I am lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the .... election to be held on ...; that my assigned precinct polling place is in a school and I will be unable to enter the polling place without violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 1961.

I further state that I personally marked the enclosed ballot in secret.

\*fill in either (1), (2), or (3).

Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of the Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this certification are true and correct.

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If the ballot is to go to an elector who is unable to be present at the polls on the date of the election because of the observance of a religious holiday, the envelope shall bear upon

1	the back thereof a certification in substantially the following
2	form:
3	I state that I am a resident of the precinct of the
4	(1) *township of (2) *City of or (3) * ward in
5	the city of residing at in said city or town in the
6	county of and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such
7	address for months last past; that I am lawfully entitled
8	to vote in such precinct at the election to be held on
9	; that I shall be unable to be present at the polls of such
10	precinct on the date of holding such election because of the
11	tenets of my religion in the observance of a religious holiday.
12	*fill in either $(1)$ , $(2)$ or $(3)$ .
13	I further state that I personally marked the enclosed
14	ballot in secret.
15	Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to
16	Section 29 10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies
17	that the statements set forth in this certification are true
18	and correct.
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20	If the ballot is to go to an elector who is unable to be
21	present at the polls on the date of the election because he or
22	she is confined or detained in jail pending acquittal or
23	conviction of a crime, the envelope shall bear upon the back
24	thereof a certification in substantially the following form:
25	I state that I am a resident of the precinct of the
26	(1) *township of (2) *City of or (3) * ward in the

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city of .... residing at .... in that city or town in the county of .... and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such address for .... months last past; that I am lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at the .... election to be held on ....; that I shall be unable to be present at the polls of such precinct on the date of holding such election because of my confinement or detention in jail pending acquittal or conviction of a crime.

\*fill in either (1), (2) or (3).

I further state that I personally marked the enclosed ballot in secret.

Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this certification are true and correct.

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If the ballot is to go to an elector who is temporarily abiding outside the precinct in which he is registered to vote due to the fact he is a student attending an institution of higher education the envelope shall bear upon the back thereof a certification in substantially the following form:

I state that I am a resident of the .... precinct of the (1) \*township of .... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in the city of .... residing at .... in such city or town in the county of .... and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such address for .... months last past; that I am lawfully entitled

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to vote in such precinct at the .... election to be held on ...; and I expect to be absent from the precinct of my residence on the date of such election because I am temporarily abiding outside such precinct in the (1) \*township of .... (2) \*city of .... in the county of .... and State of .... due to the fact I am a student attending an institution of higher education. \*fill in either (1), (2) or (3). I further state that I personally marked the enclosed ballot in secret. Under penalties of perjury as provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of The Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this certification and correct. If the election authority adopts the standard absentee ballot application blank provided in Section 19 3, the printed certification on the absentee ballot envelope shall be in substantially the following form: I state that I am a resident of the ..... precinct of the (1) \*township of.... (2) \*City of .... or (3) \*.... ward in the city of ..... residing at .... in said city or town in the county of ..... and State of Illinois, that I have lived at such address for .... months last past; that I shall be unable to be present at the polls of such precinct on the

date of holding such election for the reason indicated on the

application for ballot enclosed herein.

 $^{*}$  fill in either (1), (2) or (3).

I further state that I personally marked the enclosed ballot in secret. If I received assistance in casting my ballot, I further attest that, due to physical incapacity, I marked the enclosed ballot in secret with the assistance of

8 <del>(Individual rendering assistance)</del>

10 <del>(Residence Address)</del>

Under penalties of perjury provided by law pursuant to Section 29-10 of the Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this certification are true and correct.

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In the case of a physically incapacitated voter voter who is voting absentee by reason of physical incapacity, marking a ballot in secret includes marking a ballot with the assistance of another individual, other than a candidate whose name appears on the ballot (unless the voter is the spouse or a parent, child, brother, or sister of the candidate), the voter's employer, an agent of that employer, or an officer or agent of the voter's union, when the voter's physical incapacity necessitates such assistance.

Provided, that if the ballot enclosed is to be voted at a primary election, the certification shall designate the name of

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the political party with which the voter is affiliated.

In addition to the above, the election authority shall provide printed slips giving full instructions regarding the manner of marking and returning the ballot in order that the same may be counted, and shall furnish one of such printed slips to each of such applicants at the same time the ballot is delivered to him. Such instructions shall include the following statement: "In signing the certification on the absentee ballot envelope, you are attesting that you personally marked this absentee ballot in secret. If you are physically unable to mark the ballot, a friend or relative may assist you after completing the enclosed affidavit. Federal and State laws prohibit a candidate whose name appears on the ballot (unless you are the spouse or a parent, child, brother, or sister of the candidate), your employer, your employer's agent or an officer or agent of your union from assisting physically disabled voters."

In addition to the above, if a ballot to be provided to an elector pursuant to this Section contains a public question described in subsection (b) of Section 28-6 and the territory concerning which the question is to be submitted is not described on the ballot due to the space limitations of such ballot, the election authority shall provide a printed copy of a notice of the public question, which shall include a description of the territory in the manner required by Section 16-7. The notice shall be furnished to the elector at the same

- 1 time the ballot is delivered to the elector.
- 2 (Source: P.A. 94-637, eff. 1-1-06; 95-440, eff. 8-27-07.)
- 3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
- 4 becoming law.