



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1698

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Rep. Maura Hirschauer

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/11-4.1

from Ch. 46, par. 11-4.1

Amends the Election Code. Provides that, upon receiving an election authority's request, if a school district demonstrates to the election authority that the use of a school as a polling place would interfere with scheduled programming or pose a threat to the safety of staff or students, the election authority and the school district shall work cooperatively to find an alternative location to serve as a polling place. Provides that, if the school district and the election authority are unable to identify a mutually agreeable alternative location, the school district and the election authority shall submit a report to the Board of County Commissioners that includes specified information. Provides that, after receiving the report, the Board of County Commissioners shall determine a location to be used as a polling place as soon as practicable to avoid further delay in determining a polling place.

LRB104 10021 SPS 20092 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 11-4.1 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/11-4.1) (from Ch. 46, par. 11-4.1)

7 Sec. 11-4.1. (a) In appointing polling places under this
8 Article, the county board or board of election commissioners
9 shall, insofar as they are convenient and available, use
10 schools and other public buildings as polling places.

11 (b) Upon request of the county board or board of election
12 commissioners, the proper agency of government (including
13 school districts and units of local government) shall make a
14 public building under its control available for use as a
15 polling place on an election day and for a reasonably
16 necessary time before and after election day, without charge.
17 If the county board or board of election commissioners chooses
18 a school to be a polling place, then the school district must
19 make the school available for use as a polling place. Upon
20 receiving the election authority's request, if a school
21 district demonstrates to the election authority that the use
22 of the school as a polling place would interfere with
23 scheduled programming or pose a threat to the safety of staff

1 or students, the election authority and the school district
2 shall work cooperatively to find an alternative location to
3 serve as a polling place. If the school district and the
4 election authority are unable to identify a mutually agreeable
5 alternative location, the school district and the election
6 authority shall submit a report to the Board of County
7 Commissioners that includes:

8 (1) previous voter turnout data at the proposed
9 polling place, including:

10 (A) the percentage of early voters;

11 (B) the percentage of vote-by-mail voters; and

12 (C) the percentage of voters on election day;

13 (2) a list of previous polling places within a
14 reasonable distance of the proposed polling place; and

15 (3) a list of early polling places within a reasonable
16 distance of the proposed polling place.

17 After receiving the report, the Board of County
18 Commissioners shall determine a location to be used as a
19 polling place as soon as practicable to avoid further delay in
20 determining a polling place.

21 However, for the day of the election, a school district is
22 encouraged to (i) close the school or (ii) hold a teachers
23 institute on that day with students not in attendance.

24 (c) A government agency which makes a public building
25 under its control available for use as a polling place shall
26 (i) ensure the portion of the building to be used as the

1 polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities and
2 elderly voters and (ii) allow the election authority to
3 administer the election as authorized under this Code.

4 (d) If a qualified elector's precinct polling place is a
5 school and the elector will be unable to enter that polling
6 place without violating Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of
7 2012 because the elector is a child sex offender as defined in
8 Section 11-9.3 of the Criminal Code of 2012, that elector may
9 vote by a vote by mail ballot in accordance with Article 19 of
10 this Code or may vote early in accordance with Article 19A of
11 this Code.

12 (Source: P.A. 98-773, eff. 7-18-14; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15;
13 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)