



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2803

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Tony M. McCombie

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/19-3	from Ch. 46, par. 19-3
10 ILCS 5/19-8	from Ch. 46, par. 19-8
10 ILCS 5/20-2	from Ch. 46, par. 20-2
10 ILCS 5/20-2.1	from Ch. 46, par. 20-2.1
10 ILCS 5/20-2.2	from Ch. 46, par. 20-2.2
10 ILCS 5/20-2.3	from Ch. 46, par. 20-2.3
10 ILCS 5/20-3	from Ch. 46, par. 20-3
10 ILCS 5/20-8	from Ch. 46, par. 20-8

Amends the Election Code. Provides that ballots must be received by the election authority before the closing of the polls on election day (rather than returned to the election authority postmarked no later than election day). Makes conforming changes. Effective immediately.

LRB104 11877 SPS 21968 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 19-3, 19-8, 20-2, 20-2.1, 20-2.2, 20-2.3, 20-3, and
6 20-8 as follows:

7 (10 ILCS 5/19-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-3)

8 Sec. 19-3. Application for a vote by mail ballot.

9 (a) The application for a vote by mail ballot for a single
10 election shall be substantially in the following form:

11 APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

12 To be voted at the election in the County of and
13 State of Illinois.

14 I state that I am a resident of in the municipality of
15 in the county of; that I have resided at such address
16 for at least 30 days; that I am lawfully entitled to vote at
17 the election to be held on; and that I wish to vote
18 by mail.

19 I hereby make application for an official ballot or
20 ballots to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I
21 shall return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing
22 the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the
23 election or, if returned by mail, received by the election

1 authority before the closing of the polls on ~~postmarked no~~
 2 ~~later than~~ election day, for counting no later than during the
 3 period for counting provisional ballots, the last day of which
 4 is the 14th day following election day.

5 I understand that this application is made for an official
 6 vote by mail ballot or ballots to be voted by me at the
 7 election specified in this application and that I must submit
 8 a separate application for an official vote by mail ballot or
 9 ballots to be voted by me at any subsequent election.

10 Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section
 11 29-10 of the Election Code, the undersigned certifies that the
 12 statements set forth in this application are true and correct.

13

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

15 Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
 16

17 (a-5) The application for a single vote by mail ballot
 18 transmitted electronically pursuant to Section 19-2.6 shall be
 19 substantively similar to the application for a vote by mail
 20 ballot for a single election and shall include:

21 I swear or affirm that I am a voter with a print
 22 disability, and, as a result of this disability, I am
 23 making a request to receive a vote by mail ballot
 24 electronically so that I may privately and independently
 25 mark, verify, and print my vote by mail ballot.

26 (b) The application for permanent vote by mail status

1 shall be substantially in the following form:

2 APPLICATION FOR PERMANENT VOTE BY MAIL STATUS

3 I am currently a registered voter and wish to apply for
4 permanent vote by mail status.

5 I state that I am a resident of in the municipality of
6 in the county of; that I have resided at such address
7 for at least 30 days; that I am lawfully entitled to vote at
8 the election to be held on; and that I wish to vote
9 by mail in:

10 all subsequent elections that do not require a party
11 designation.

12 all subsequent elections, and I wish to receive a
13 Party vote by mail ballot in
14 elections that require a party designation.

15 I hereby make application for an official ballot or
16 ballots to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I
17 shall return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing
18 the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the
19 election or, if returned by mail, received by the election
20 authority before the closing of the polls on ~~postmarked no~~
21 ~~later than~~ election day, for counting no later than during the
22 period for counting provisional ballots, the last day of which
23 is the 14th day following election day.

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

1 (e) Any person may produce, reproduce, distribute, or
2 return to an election authority an application under this
3 Section. If applications are sent to a post office box
4 controlled by any individual or organization that is not an
5 election authority, those applications shall (i) include a
6 valid and current phone number for the individual or
7 organization controlling the post office box and (ii) be
8 turned over to the appropriate election authority within 7
9 days of receipt or, if received within 2 weeks of the election
10 in which an applicant intends to vote, within 2 days of
11 receipt. Failure to turn over the applications in compliance
12 with this paragraph shall constitute a violation of this Code
13 and shall be punishable as a petty offense with a fine of \$100
14 per application. Removing, tampering with, or otherwise
15 knowingly making the postmark on the application unreadable by
16 the election authority shall establish a rebuttable
17 presumption of a violation of this paragraph. Upon receipt,
18 the appropriate election authority shall accept and promptly
19 process any application under this Section submitted in a form
20 substantially similar to that required by this Section,
21 including any substantially similar production or reproduction
22 generated by the applicant.

23 (f) An election authority may combine the applications in
24 subsections (a) and (b) onto one form, but the distinction
25 between the applications must be clear and the form must
26 provide check boxes for an applicant to indicate whether he or

1 she is applying for a single election vote by mail ballot or
2 for permanent vote by mail status.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-15, eff. 6-17-21; 102-819, eff. 5-13-22;
4 103-467, eff. 8-4-23.)

5 (10 ILCS 5/19-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-8)

6 Sec. 19-8. Time and place of counting ballots.

7 (a) (Blank.)

8 (b) Each vote by mail voter's ballot returned to an
9 election authority, by any means authorized by this Article,
10 and received by that election authority before the closing of
11 the polls on election day shall be endorsed by the receiving
12 election authority with the day and hour of receipt and may be
13 processed by the election authority beginning on the day it is
14 received by the election authority in the central ballot
15 counting location of the election authority, but the results
16 of the processing may not be counted until the day of the
17 election after 7:00 p.m., except as provided in subsections
18 (g) and (g-5).

19 (c) Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an
20 election authority ~~and postmarked no later than election day,~~
21 but that is received by the election authority after the polls
22 close on election day shall not be counted ~~and before the close~~
23 ~~of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that~~
24 ~~election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with~~
25 ~~the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central~~

1 ~~ballot counting location of the election authority during the~~
2 ~~period for counting provisional ballots.~~

3 ~~Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an~~
4 ~~election authority absent a postmark or a barcode usable with~~
5 ~~an intelligent mail barcode tracking system, but that is~~
6 ~~received by the election authority after the polls close on~~
7 ~~election day and before the close of the period for counting~~
8 ~~provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed~~
9 ~~by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt,~~
10 ~~opened to inspect the date inserted on the certification, and,~~
11 ~~if the certification date is election day or earlier and the~~
12 ~~ballot is otherwise found to be valid under the requirements~~
13 ~~of this Section, counted at the central ballot counting~~
14 ~~location of the election authority during the period for~~
15 ~~counting provisional ballots. Absent a date on the~~
16 ~~certification, the ballot shall not be counted.~~

17 If an election authority is using an intelligent mail
18 barcode tracking system, a ballot that is mailed to an
19 election authority absent a postmark may be counted if the
20 intelligent mail barcode tracking system verifies the envelope
21 was received by the election authority before the closing of
22 the polls on ~~mailed no later than~~ election day.

23 (d) Special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots
24 returned to an election authority, by any means authorized by
25 this Article, and received by the election authority at any
26 time before the closing of the polls on election day shall be

1 endorsed by the receiving election authority with the day and
2 hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot
3 counting location of the election authority during the same
4 period provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots
5 under subsections (b), (g), and (g-5). ~~Special write in vote
6 by mail voter's blank ballots that are mailed to an election
7 authority and postmarked no later than election day, but that
8 are received by the election authority after the polls close
9 on election day and before the closing of the period for
10 counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be
11 endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of
12 receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting
13 location of the election authority during the same periods
14 provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots under
15 subsection (c).~~

16 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, vote by
17 mail voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's
18 blank ballots received by the election authority after the
19 closing of the polls on an election day shall be endorsed by
20 the election authority receiving them with the day and hour of
21 receipt and shall be safely kept unopened by the election
22 authority for the period of time required for the preservation
23 of ballots used at the election, and shall then, without being
24 opened, be destroyed in like manner as the used ballots of that
25 election.

26 (f) Counting required under this Section to begin on

1 election day after the closing of the polls shall commence no
2 later than 8:00 p.m. and shall be conducted by a panel or
3 panels of election judges appointed in the manner provided by
4 law. The counting shall continue until all vote by mail
5 voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's
6 blank ballots required to be counted on election day have been
7 counted.

8 (g) The procedures set forth in Articles 17 and 18 of this
9 Code shall apply to all ballots counted under this Section. In
10 addition, within 2 days after a vote by mail ballot is
11 received, but in all cases before the close of the period for
12 counting provisional ballots, the election judge or official
13 shall compare the voter's signature on the certification
14 envelope of that vote by mail ballot with the voter's
15 signature on the application verified in accordance with
16 Section 19-4 or the signature of the voter on file in the
17 office of the election authority. If the election judge or
18 official determines that the 2 signatures match, and that the
19 vote by mail voter is otherwise qualified to cast a vote by
20 mail ballot, the election authority shall cast and count the
21 ballot on election day or the day the ballot is determined to
22 be valid, whichever is later, adding the results to the
23 precinct in which the voter is registered. If the election
24 judge or official determines that the signatures do not match,
25 or that the vote by mail voter is not qualified to cast a vote
26 by mail ballot, then without opening the certification

1 envelope, the judge or official shall mark across the face of
2 the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and shall not
3 cast or count the ballot.

4 In addition to the voter's signatures not matching, a vote
5 by mail ballot may be rejected by the election judge or
6 official:

7 (1) if the ballot envelope is open or has been opened
8 and resealed;

9 (2) if the voter has already cast an early or grace
10 period ballot;

11 (3) if the voter voted in person on election day or the
12 voter is not a duly registered voter in the precinct; or

13 (4) on any other basis set forth in this Code.

14 If the election judge or official determines that any of
15 these reasons apply, the judge or official shall mark across
16 the face of the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and
17 shall not cast or count the ballot.

18 (g-5) If a vote by mail ballot is rejected by the election
19 judge or official for any reason, the election authority
20 shall, within 2 days after the rejection but in all cases
21 before the close of the period for counting provisional
22 ballots, notify the vote by mail voter that his or her ballot
23 was rejected. The notice shall inform the voter of the reason
24 or reasons the ballot was rejected and shall state that the
25 voter may appear before the election authority, on or before
26 the 14th day after the election, to show cause as to why the

1 ballot should not be rejected. The voter may present evidence
2 to the election authority supporting his or her contention
3 that the ballot should be counted. The election authority
4 shall appoint a panel of 3 election judges to review the
5 contested ballot, application, and certification envelope, as
6 well as any evidence submitted by the vote by mail voter. No
7 more than 2 election judges on the reviewing panel shall be of
8 the same political party. The reviewing panel of election
9 judges shall make a final determination as to the validity of
10 the contested vote by mail ballot. The judges' determination
11 shall not be reviewable either administratively or judicially.

12 A vote by mail ballot subject to this subsection that is
13 determined to be valid shall be counted before the close of the
14 period for counting provisional ballots.

15 If a vote by mail ballot is rejected for any reason, the
16 election authority shall, within one day after the rejection,
17 transmit to the State Board of Elections by electronic means
18 the voter's name, street address, email address and precinct,
19 ward, township, and district numbers, as the case may be. If a
20 rejected vote by mail ballot is determined to be valid, the
21 election authority shall, within one day after the
22 determination, remove the name of the voter from the list
23 transmitted to the State Board of Elections. The State Board
24 of Elections shall maintain the names and information in an
25 electronic format on its website accessible to State and local
26 political committees.

1 Upon request by the State or local political committee,
2 each election authority shall, within one day after the
3 request, provide the following information about all rejected
4 vote by mail ballots: voter's name, street address, email
5 address and precinct, ward, township, and district numbers, as
6 the case may be.

7 (g-10) All vote by mail ballots determined to be valid
8 shall be added to the vote totals for the precincts for which
9 they were cast in the order in which the ballots were opened.

10 (h) Each political party, candidate, and qualified civic
11 organization shall be entitled to have present one pollwatcher
12 for each panel of election judges therein assigned.

13 (Source: P.A. 102-1126, eff. 2-10-23; 103-467, eff. 8-4-23.)

14 (10 ILCS 5/20-2) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-2)

15 Sec. 20-2. Any member of the United States Service,
16 otherwise qualified to vote, who expects in the course of his
17 duties to be absent from the county in which he resides on the
18 day of holding any election may make application for a vote by
19 mail ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over
20 his precinct of residence on the official postcard or on a form
21 furnished by the election authority as prescribed by Section
22 20-3 of this Article not less than 10 days before the election.
23 A request pursuant to this Section shall entitle the applicant
24 to a vote by mail ballot for every election in one calendar
25 year. The original application for ballot shall be kept in the

1 office of the election authority for one year as authorization
2 to send a ballot to the voter for each election to be held
3 within that calendar year. A certified copy of such
4 application for ballot shall be sent each election with the
5 vote by mail ballot to the election authority's central ballot
6 counting location to be used in lieu of the original
7 application for ballot. No registration shall be required in
8 order to vote pursuant to this Section.

9 Ballots under this Section shall be mailed by the election
10 authority in the manner prescribed by Section 20-5 of this
11 Article and not otherwise. Ballots voted under this Section
12 must be received by the election authority before the closing
13 of the polls on ~~returned postmarked no later than~~ election day
14 and received for counting at the central ballot counting
15 location of the election authority during the period for
16 counting provisional ballots, the last day of which is the
17 14th day following election day.

18 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15; 99-522, eff. 6-30-16.)

19 (10 ILCS 5/20-2.1) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-2.1)

20 Sec. 20-2.1. Citizens of the United States temporarily
21 residing outside the territorial limits of the United States
22 who are not registered but otherwise qualified to vote and who
23 expect to be absent from their county of residence during the
24 periods of voter registration provided for in Articles 4, 5 or
25 6 of this Code and on the day of holding any election, may make

1 simultaneous application to the election authority having
2 jurisdiction over their precinct of residence for registration
3 by mail and vote by mail ballot not less than 30 days before
4 the election. Such application may be made on the official
5 postcard or on a form furnished by the election authority as
6 prescribed by Section 20-3 of this Article or by facsimile or
7 electronic transmission. A request pursuant to this Section
8 shall entitle the applicant to a vote by mail ballot for every
9 election in one calendar year. The original application for
10 ballot shall be kept in the office of the election authority
11 for one year as authorization to send a ballot to the voter for
12 each election to be held within that calendar year. A
13 certified copy of such application for ballot shall be sent
14 each election with the vote by mail ballot to the election
15 authority's central ballot counting location to be used in
16 lieu of the original application for ballot.

17 Registration shall be required in order to vote pursuant
18 to this Section. However, if the election authority receives
19 one of such applications after 30 days but not less than 10
20 days before a Federal election, said applicant shall be sent a
21 ballot containing the Federal offices only and registration
22 for that election shall be waived.

23 Ballots under this Section shall be delivered by the
24 election authority in the manner prescribed by Section 20-5 of
25 this Article in person, by mail, or, if requested by the
26 applicant and the election authority has the capability, by

1 facsimile transmission or by electronic transmission.

2 Ballots voted under this Section must be received by the
3 election authority before the closing of the polls on returned
4 ~~postmarked no later than~~ election day and received for
5 counting at the central ballot counting location of the
6 election authority during the period for counting provisional
7 ballots, the last day of which is the 14th day following
8 election day.

9 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15; 99-522, eff. 6-30-16.)

10 (10 ILCS 5/20-2.2) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-2.2)

11 Sec. 20-2.2. Any non-resident civilian citizen, otherwise
12 qualified to vote, may make application to the election
13 authority having jurisdiction over his precinct of former
14 residence for a vote by mail ballot containing the Federal
15 offices only not less than 10 days before a Federal election.
16 Such application may be made on the official postcard or by
17 facsimile or electronic transmission. A request pursuant to
18 this Section shall entitle the applicant to a vote by mail
19 ballot for every election in one calendar year at which
20 Federal offices are filled. The original application for
21 ballot shall be kept in the office of the election authority
22 for one year as authorization to send a ballot to the voter for
23 each election to be held within that calendar year at which
24 Federal offices are filled. A certified copy of such
25 application for ballot shall be sent each election with the

1 vote by mail ballot to the election authority's central ballot
2 counting location to be used in lieu of the original
3 application for ballot. No registration shall be required in
4 order to vote pursuant to this Section. Ballots under this
5 Section shall be delivered by the election authority in the
6 manner prescribed by Section 20-5 of this Article in person,
7 by mail, or, if requested by the applicant and the election
8 authority has the capability, by facsimile transmission or by
9 electronic transmission. Ballots voted under this Section must
10 be received by the election authority before the closing of
11 the polls on ~~returned postmarked no later than~~ election day
12 and received for counting at the central ballot counting
13 location of the election authority during the period for
14 counting provisional ballots, the last day of which is the
15 14th day following election day.

16 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15; 99-522, eff. 6-30-16.)

17 (10 ILCS 5/20-2.3) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-2.3)

18 Sec. 20-2.3. Members of the Armed Forces and their spouses
19 and dependents. Any member of the United States Armed Forces
20 while on active duty, and his or her spouse and dependents,
21 otherwise qualified to vote, who expects in the course of his
22 or her duties to be absent from the county in which he or she
23 resides on the day of holding any election, in addition to any
24 other method of making application for vote by mail ballot
25 under this Article, may make application for a vote by mail

1 ballot to the election authority having jurisdiction over his
2 or her precinct of residence by a facsimile machine or
3 electronic transmission not less than 10 days before the
4 election.

5 Ballots under this Section shall be delivered by the
6 election authority in the manner prescribed by Section 20-5 of
7 this Article in person, by mail, or, if requested by the
8 applicant and the election authority has the capability, by
9 facsimile transmission or by electronic transmission. Ballots
10 voted under this Section must be returned postmarked no later
11 than election day and received for counting at the central
12 ballot counting location of the election authority no later
13 than ~~during the period for counting provisional ballots, the~~
14 ~~last day of which is the 7th 14th~~ day following election day.
15 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15; 99-522, eff. 6-30-16.)

16 (10 ILCS 5/20-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-3)

17 Sec. 20-3. The election authority shall furnish the
18 following applications for registration by mail or vote by
19 mail ballot which shall be considered a method of application
20 in lieu of the official postcard.

21 1. Members of the United States Service and citizens of
22 the United States temporarily residing outside the territorial
23 limits of the United States may make application within the
24 periods prescribed in Sections 20-2 or 20-2.1, as the case may
25 be. Such application shall be substantially in the following

1 form:

2 "APPLICATION FOR BALLOT

3 To be voted at the election in the precinct
4 in which is located my residence at, in the
5 city/village/township of(insert home address)
6 County of and State of Illinois.

7 I state that I am a citizen of the United States; that on
8 (insert date of election) I shall have resided in the State of
9 Illinois and in the election precinct for 30 days; that on the
10 above date I shall be the age of 18 years or above; that I am
11 lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct at that election;
12 that I am (check category 1, 2, or 3 below):

- 13 1. () a member of the United States Service,
- 14 2. () a citizen of the United States temporarily
- 15 residing outside the territorial limits of the United States
- 16 and that I expect to be absent from the said county of my
- 17 residence on the date of holding such election, and that I will
- 18 have no opportunity to vote in person on that day.

19 I hereby make application for an official ballot or
20 ballots to be voted by me at such election if I am absent from
21 the said county of my residence, and I agree that I shall
22 return said ballot or ballots to the election authority
23 ~~postmarked~~ no later than the closing of the polls on election
24 day, for counting no later than during the period for counting
25 provisional ballots, the last day of which is the 14th day
26 following election day or shall destroy said ballot or

1 ballots.

2 (Check below only if category 2 and not previously
3 registered)

4 () I hereby make application to become registered as a
5 voter and agree to return the forms and affidavits for
6 registration to the election authority not later than 30 days
7 before the election.

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

11
12 Post office address or service address to which
13 registration materials or ballot should be mailed
14
15
16
17"

18 If application is made for a primary election ballot, such
19 application shall designate the name of the political party
20 with which the applicant is affiliated.

21 Such applications may be obtained from the election
22 authority having jurisdiction over the person's precinct of
23 residence.

24 2. A spouse or dependent of a member of the United States
25 Service, said spouse or dependent being a registered voter in
26 the county, may make application on behalf of said person in

1 the office of the election authority within the periods
2 prescribed in Section 20-2 which shall be substantially in the
3 following form:

4 "APPLICATION FOR BALLOT to be voted at the..... election
5 in the precinct in which is located the residence of the person
6 for whom this application is made at.....(insert
7 residence address) in the city/village/township of.....
8 County of..... and State of Illinois.

9 I certify that the following named person.....
10 (insert name of person) is a member of the United States
11 Service.

12 I state that said person is a citizen of the United States;
13 that on (insert date of election) said person shall have
14 resided in the State of Illinois and in the election precinct
15 for which this application is made for 30 days; that on the
16 above date said person shall be the age of 18 years or above;
17 that said person is lawfully entitled to vote in such precinct
18 at that election; that said person is a member of the United
19 States Service, and that in the course of his duties said
20 person expects to be absent from his county of residence on the
21 date of holding such election, and that said person will have
22 no opportunity to vote in person on that day.

23 I hereby make application for an official ballot or
24 ballots to be voted by said person at such election and said
25 person agrees that he shall return said ballot or ballots to
26 the election authority ~~postmarked~~ no later than the closing of

1 the polls on election day, for counting no later than during
 2 the period for counting provisional ballots, the last day of
 3 which is the 14th day following election day, or shall destroy
 4 said ballot or ballots.

5 I hereby certify that I am the (mother, father, sister,
 6 brother, husband or wife) of the said elector, and that I am a
 7 registered voter in the election precinct for which this
 8 application is made. (Strike all but one that is applicable.)

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

12 Name of applicant

13 Residence address

14 City/village/township.....

15 Service address to which ballot should be mailed:
 16
 17
 18
 19"

20 If application is made for a primary election ballot, such
 21 application shall designate the name of the political party
 22 with which the person for whom application is made is
 23 affiliated.

24 Such applications may be obtained from the election
 25 authority having jurisdiction over the voting precinct in
 26 which the person for whom application is made is entitled to

1 vote.

2 (Source: P.A. 101-270, eff. 1-1-21; 102-292, eff. 1-1-22.)

3 (10 ILCS 5/20-8) (from Ch. 46, par. 20-8)

4 Sec. 20-8. Time and place of counting ballots.

5 (a) (Blank.)

6 (b) Each vote by mail voter's ballot returned to an
7 election authority, by any means authorized by this Article,
8 and received by that election authority may be processed by
9 the election authority beginning on the day it is received by
10 the election authority in the central ballot counting location
11 of the election authority, but the results of the processing
12 may not be counted until the day of the election after 7:00
13 p.m., except as provided in subsections (g) and (g-5).

14 (c) Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an
15 election authority ~~and postmarked no later than election day,~~
16 but that is received by the election authority after the polls
17 close on election day shall not be counted ~~and before the close~~
18 ~~of the period for counting provisional ballots cast at that~~
19 ~~election, shall be endorsed by the receiving authority with~~
20 ~~the day and hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central~~
21 ~~ballot counting location of the election authority during the~~
22 ~~period for counting provisional ballots.~~

23 ~~Each vote by mail voter's ballot that is mailed to an~~
24 ~~election authority absent a postmark or a barcode usable with~~
25 ~~an intelligent mail barcode tracking system, but that is~~

1 ~~received by the election authority after the polls close on~~
2 ~~election day and before the close of the period for counting~~
3 ~~provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be endorsed~~
4 ~~by the receiving authority with the day and hour of receipt,~~
5 ~~opened to inspect the date inserted on the certification, and,~~
6 ~~if the certification date is election day or earlier and the~~
7 ~~ballot is otherwise found to be valid under the requirements~~
8 ~~of this Section, counted at the central ballot counting~~
9 ~~location of the election authority during the period for~~
10 ~~counting provisional ballots. Absent a date on the~~
11 ~~certification, the ballot shall not be counted.~~

12 If an election authority is using an intelligent mail
13 barcode tracking system, a ballot that is mailed to an
14 election authority absent a postmark may be counted if the
15 intelligent mail barcode tracking system verifies the envelope
16 was received by the election authority before the closing of
17 the polls on ~~mailed no later than~~ election day.

18 (d) Special write-in vote by mail voter's blank ballots
19 returned to an election authority, by any means authorized by
20 this Article, and received by the election authority at any
21 time before the closing of the polls on election day shall be
22 endorsed by the receiving election authority with the day and
23 hour of receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot
24 counting location of the election authority during the same
25 period provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots
26 under subsections (b), (g), and (g-5). Special write-in vote

1 by mail voter's blank ballot that are mailed to an election
2 authority and postmarked no later than election day, but that
3 are received by the election authority after the polls close
4 on election day and before the closing of the period for
5 counting provisional ballots cast at that election, shall be
6 endorsed by the receiving authority with the day and hour of
7 receipt and shall be counted at the central ballot counting
8 location of the election authority during the same periods
9 provided for counting vote by mail voters' ballots under
10 subsection (c).

11 (e) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, vote by
12 mail voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's
13 blank ballots received by the election authority after the
14 closing of the polls on the day of election shall be endorsed
15 by the person receiving the ballots with the day and hour of
16 receipt and shall be safely kept unopened by the election
17 authority for the period of time required for the preservation
18 of ballots used at the election, and shall then, without being
19 opened, be destroyed in like manner as the used ballots of that
20 election.

21 (f) Counting required under this Section to begin on
22 election day after the closing of the polls shall commence no
23 later than 8:00 p.m. and shall be conducted by a panel or
24 panels of election judges appointed in the manner provided by
25 law. The counting shall continue until all vote by mail
26 voters' ballots and special write-in vote by mail voter's

1 blank ballots required to be counted on election day have been
2 counted.

3 (g) The procedures set forth in Articles 17 and 18 of this
4 Code shall apply to all ballots counted under this Section. In
5 addition, within 2 days after a ballot subject to this Article
6 is received, but in all cases before the close of the period
7 for counting provisional ballots, the election judge or
8 official shall compare the voter's signature on the
9 certification envelope of that ballot with the signature of
10 the voter on file in the office of the election authority. If
11 the election judge or official determines that the 2
12 signatures match, and that the voter is otherwise qualified to
13 cast a ballot under this Article, the election authority shall
14 cast and count the ballot on election day or the day the ballot
15 is determined to be valid, whichever is later, adding the
16 results to the precinct in which the voter is registered. If
17 the election judge or official determines that the signatures
18 do not match, or that the voter is not qualified to cast a
19 ballot under this Article, then without opening the
20 certification envelope, the judge or official shall mark
21 across the face of the certification envelope the word
22 "Rejected" and shall not cast or count the ballot.

23 In addition to the voter's signatures not matching, a
24 ballot subject to this Article may be rejected by the election
25 judge or official:

26 (1) if the ballot envelope is open or has been opened

1 and resealed;

2 (2) if the voter has already cast an early or grace
3 period ballot;

4 (3) if the voter voted in person on election day or the
5 voter is not a duly registered voter in the precinct; or

6 (4) on any other basis set forth in this Code.

7 If the election judge or official determines that any of
8 these reasons apply, the judge or official shall mark across
9 the face of the certification envelope the word "Rejected" and
10 shall not cast or count the ballot.

11 (g-5) If a ballot subject to this Article is rejected by
12 the election judge or official for any reason, the election
13 authority shall, within 2 days after the rejection but in all
14 cases before the close of the period for counting provisional
15 ballots, notify the voter that his or her ballot was rejected.
16 The notice shall inform the voter of the reason or reasons the
17 ballot was rejected and shall state that the voter may appear
18 before the election authority, on or before the 14th day after
19 the election, to show cause as to why the ballot should not be
20 rejected. The voter may present evidence to the election
21 authority supporting his or her contention that the ballot
22 should be counted. The election authority shall appoint a
23 panel of 3 election judges to review the contested ballot,
24 application, and certification envelope, as well as any
25 evidence submitted by the vote by mail voter. No more than 2
26 election judges on the reviewing panel shall be of the same

1 political party. The reviewing panel of election judges shall
2 make a final determination as to the validity of the contested
3 ballot. The judges' determination shall not be reviewable
4 either administratively or judicially.

5 A ballot subject to this subsection that is determined to
6 be valid shall be counted before the close of the period for
7 counting provisional ballots.

8 (g-10) All ballots determined to be valid shall be added
9 to the vote totals for the precincts for which they were cast
10 in the order in which the ballots were opened.

11 (h) Each political party, candidate, and qualified civic
12 organization shall be entitled to have present one pollwatcher
13 for each panel of election judges therein assigned.

14 (Source: P.A. 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15; 99-522, eff. 6-30-16.)

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.