



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB2600

Introduced 2/19/2021, by Rep. Ryan Spain

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/19-7

from Ch. 46, par. 19-7

Amends the Election Code. Provides that an election authority shall appoint panels as needed of 3 election judges from the list of election judges submitted by the county parties to compare the voter's signature on the certification envelope of the vote by mail ballot with the signature of the voter on file in the office of the election authority. Provides the procedure for verifying or rejecting the signature. Provides that if a vote by mail ballot is rejected, the election authority shall notify the voter within 2 days after the rejection or within one day if the rejection occurs after election day and in all cases before the close of the period for counting provisional ballots. Allows a voter to submit a statement confirming the vote if the signature was rejected. Allows a voter to cast a new ballot if the vote by mail ballot was rejected because the envelope was delivered opened.

LRB102 12097 SMS 17434 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 19-7 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/19-7) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-7)

7 Sec. 19-7. (a) Upon receipt of such vote by mail voter's
8 ballot, the election authority shall forthwith enclose the
9 same unopened, together with the application made by said vote
10 by mail voter in a large or carrier envelope which shall be
11 securely sealed and endorsed with the name and official title
12 of such officer and the words, "This envelope contains a vote
13 by mail ballot and must be opened on election day," together
14 with the number and description of the precinct in which said
15 ballot is to be voted, and such officer shall thereafter
16 safely keep the same in his office until counted by him as
17 provided in the next section.

18 (b) Within one day after receipt of such vote by mail
19 voter's ballot, the election authority shall transmit, by
20 electronic means pursuant to a process established by the
21 State Board of Elections, the voter's name, street address,
22 e-mail address, and precinct, ward, township, and district
23 numbers, as the case may be, to the State Board of Elections,

1 which shall maintain those names and that information in an
2 electronic format on its website, arranged by county and
3 accessible to State and local political committees.

4 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the
5 contrary, within 2 days after a vote by mail ballot is
6 received, but in all cases before the close of the period for
7 counting provisional ballots, the election authority shall
8 appoint panels as needed of 3 election judges, of which no more
9 than 2 shall be from the same political party, from the list of
10 election judges submitted by the county parties for this
11 specific purpose to compare the voter's signature on the
12 certification envelope of the vote by mail ballot with the
13 signature of the voter on file in the office of the election
14 authority. The signature shall be presumed to match unless 3
15 out of 3 election judges determine that the 2 signatures do not
16 match. A vote by mail ballot may only be rejected by a vote of
17 3 of 3 election judges and only for the following reasons: (1)
18 the signature on the certification envelope and the signature
19 used by the election authority for verification purposes do
20 not match or the certification envelope contains no signature;
21 (2) the ballot envelope was delivered opened; (3) the voter
22 has already cast a ballot; (4) if the voter voted in person on
23 election day; or (5) the voter is not a duly registered voter
24 in the precinct. If 3 of 3 election judges determine the ballot
25 should be rejected for any reasons stated in this subsection
26 (c), the judges shall mark across the face of the

1 certification envelope the word "rejected" and the date and
2 names of the judges voting to reject the ballot.

3 (d) If a vote by mail ballot is rejected, the election
4 authority shall notify the voter within 2 days after the
5 rejection or within one day if the rejection occurs after
6 election day and in all cases before the close of the period
7 for counting provisional ballots. The voter shall be notified
8 through mail or email, or both, and the notice shall inform the
9 voter of the reason or reasons the ballot was rejected. If the
10 ballot was rejected based on the signature or lack of a
11 signature, the voter shall be permitted to submit a statement
12 the voter cast the ballot, and upon receipt the ballot shall be
13 determined valid and counted before the close of the period
14 for counting provisional ballots. If the ballot was rejected
15 because the envelope was delivered opened, the voter shall be
16 permitted to vote in person or request to receive another vote
17 by mail ballot, provided the voter submits an application and
18 casts a new ballot prior to the close of polls on election day.

19 (Source: P.A. 98-115, eff. 7-29-13; 98-1171, eff. 6-1-15.)