

1 HB174
2 196406-2
3 By Representative Gaston
4 RFD: Constitution, Campaigns and Elections
5 First Read: 19-MAR-19

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a qualified voter may
9 vote by absentee ballot if the voter has a
10 disability preventing the voter's attendance at the
11 polls.

12 This bill would authorize the Secretary of
13 State, by rule, to establish procedures to allow a
14 voter to be placed on a permanent absentee voter
15 list upon proof of having a permanent disability
16 preventing the voter's attendance at the polls and
17 to vote by absentee ballot on an on-going basis.

18
19 A BILL
20 TO BE ENTITLED
21 AN ACT
22

23 Relating to absentee voting; to authorize the
24 Secretary of State, by rule, to establish procedures to allow
25 a voter to be placed on a permanent absentee voter list upon
26 proof of having a permanent disability preventing the voter's

1 attendance at the polls and to vote by absentee ballot on an
2 on-going basis.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. (a) Notwithstanding Sections 17-11-3,
5 17-11-4, and 17-11-5, Code of Alabama 1975, a qualified voter
6 who has a permanent disability preventing his or her
7 attendance at the polls may vote by absentee ballot in
8 accordance with this section.

9 (b) The Secretary of State shall adopt rules that
10 provide a process for a voter who has a permanent disability
11 to be placed on an absentee voter list and have a ballot
12 automatically mailed to him or her before each election. The
13 rules shall include, but not be limited to, all of the
14 following:

15 (1) An application procedure for permanently
16 disabled voters to vote by absentee ballot on an on-going
17 basis.

18 (2) A procedure for verifying the identity of a
19 voter and determining that the voter has a permanent
20 disability preventing his or her attendance at the polls.

21 (3) A procedure for the voter to apply to the
22 absentee ballot manager on an annual basis.

23 (4) A procedure for automatically mailing absentee
24 ballots before each election in a timely manner to permanently
25 disabled voters who have been placed on the absentee voter
26 list.

1 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
2 first day of the third month following its passage and
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.