



**House Constitution, Campaigns and Elections  
Reported Substitute for SB1**

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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to absentee ballot applications; to amend Section 17-11-4, Code of Alabama 1975; to delete a provision allowing a handwritten request for an absentee ballot in lieu of completing an absentee ballot application form; to prohibit prefilling of applications by another person; to prohibit a person from receiving a payment or providing a payment or gift to another person for distributing, ordering, requesting, collecting, prefilling, completing, obtaining, or delivering an absentee ballot application of a voter in certain circumstances; to provide for criminal penalties; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 17-11-4, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§17-11-4

(a) The application required in Section 17-11-3 shall



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29 be ~~filed with the person designated to serve as the absentee~~  
30 ~~election manager. The application shall be~~ in a form  
31 prescribed and designed by the Secretary of State and shall be  
32 used throughout the state. ~~Notwithstanding the foregoing,~~  
33 ~~handwritten applications can also be accepted at any time~~  
34 ~~prior to the five-day deadline to receive absentee ballot~~  
35 ~~applications as provided in Section 17-11-3.~~ The application  
36 form shall contain and require all of the following:

37 (1) That the applicant submit sufficient information to  
38 identify the applicant. ~~and shall include the~~

39 (2) The applicant's name, residence address, ~~or~~ and  
40 such other information as necessary to verify that the  
41 applicant is a registered voter. ~~The application shall also~~

42 (3) A list of all felonies of moral turpitude, as  
43 provided in Section 17-3-30.1, and a requirement that the  
44 applicant declare that he or she is not barred from voting  
45 because of a disqualifying felony conviction or, if the  
46 applicant was convicted of a disqualifying felony, that the  
47 applicant's right to vote has been restored.

48 (4) An explanation of penalties for violations of this  
49 section.

50 (b) (1) Any applicant may receive assistance in filling  
51 out the application as he or she desires, but each application  
52 shall be manually signed by the applicant, under penalty of  
53 perjury, and ~~r~~ if he or she signs by mark, the application  
54 shall also include the name of the witness ~~to his or her~~ and  
55 the witness's signature ~~shall be signed thereon.~~

56 (2) It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly



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57 distribute an absentee ballot application to a voter that is  
58 prefilled with the voter's name or any other information  
59 required on the application form.

60 ~~(c) (1) The application may be handed by the~~  
61 ~~applicant~~ Completed applications may be submitted to the  
62 absentee election manager ~~or forwarded to him or her by United~~  
63 ~~States~~ in any of the following ways, as further provided by  
64 rule of the Secretary of State:

65 a. The applicant delivering the application in person.

66 b. The applicant mailing the application by U.S. mail  
67 ~~or.~~

68 c. The applicant sending the application by commercial  
69 carrier, ~~as determined by rule by the Secretary of State. An~~

70 (2) Except in situations governed by Section  
71 17-11-3(f), it shall be unlawful for an individual to submit a  
72 completed absentee ballot application to the absentee election  
73 manager other than his or her own application, except that an  
74 application for a voter who requires emergency treatment by a  
75 licensed physician within five days before an election  
76 pursuant to Section 17-11-3 may be ~~forwarded~~ submitted to the  
77 absentee election manager by ~~the applicant or his or her~~  
78 ~~designee. Application forms that are printed and made~~  
79 ~~available to any applicant by the absentee election manager~~  
80 ~~shall have printed thereon all penalties provided for any~~  
81 ~~violation of this article~~ an individual designated by the  
82 applicant.

83 (d) (1) Except in situations governed by Section  
84 17-11-3(f), it shall be unlawful for a third party to



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85 knowingly receive a payment or gift for distributing,  
86 ordering, requesting, collecting, completing, prefilling,  
87 obtaining, or delivering a voter's absentee ballot  
88 application. Any person who violates this subdivision shall be  
89 guilty of a Class C felony.

90 (2) Except in situations governed by Section  
91 17-11-3(f), it shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly pay  
92 or provide a gift to a third party to distribute, order,  
93 request, collect, prefill, complete, obtain, or deliver a  
94 voter's absentee ballot application. Any person who violates  
95 this subdivision shall be guilty of a Class B felony.

96 (e) Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason  
97 of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be  
98 given assistance by an individual of the voter's choice, other  
99 than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer  
100 or agent of the voter's union.

101 (f) Voters voting by absentee ballot through the  
102 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act are not  
103 subject to this section. The Secretary of State shall provide  
104 applications for absentee voting to military and overseas  
105 voters in accordance with Section 17-4-35."

106 Section 2. Unless a penalty is otherwise specified, a  
107 knowing violation of Chapter 11 of Title 17, Code of Alabama  
108 1975, is a Class A misdemeanor.

109 Section 3. Although this bill would have as its purpose  
110 or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of  
111 local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements  
112 and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of



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113 Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or  
114 amends the definition of an existing crime.

115 Section 4. This act shall become effective immediately,  
116 following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its  
117 otherwise becoming law.