



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB5475

by Rep. Edgar Gonzalez, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/17-15

from Ch. 46, par. 17-15

Amends the Election Code. Provides that an employee is entitled to absent himself or herself from work for a period of 4 hours (rather than 2) to vote. Provides that an employee receiving an hourly wage shall be compensated for the time used to vote, up to 4 hours.

LRB101 17717 SMS 67144 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 Section
5 17-15 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/17-15) (from Ch. 46, par. 17-15)

7 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 101-624)

8 Sec. 17-15. Any person entitled to vote at a general or
9 special election or at any election at which propositions are
10 submitted to a popular vote in this State, shall, on the day of
11 such election, be entitled to absent himself from any services
12 or employment in which he is then engaged or employed, for a
13 period of 4 ~~2~~ hours between the time of opening and closing the
14 polls; and such voter shall not because of so absenting himself
15 be liable to any penalty; Provided, however, that application
16 for such leave of absence shall be made prior to the day of
17 election. The employer may specify the hours during which said
18 employee may absent himself as aforesaid, except that the
19 employer must permit a 4-hour ~~2-hour~~ absence during working
20 hours if the employee's working hours begin less than 4 ~~2~~ hours
21 after the opening of the polls and end less than 4 ~~2~~ hours
22 before the closing of the polls. No person or corporation shall
23 refuse to an employee the privilege hereby conferred, nor shall

1 subject an employee to a penalty, including a reduction in
2 compensation due to an absence under this Section, because of
3 the exercise of such privilege, nor shall directly or
4 indirectly violate the provisions of this Section. An employee
5 receiving an hourly wage shall be compensated for up to 4 hours
6 for the time he or she absented himself or herself to vote.

7 (Source: P.A. 94-645, eff. 8-22-05.)

8 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 101-624)

9 Sec. 17-15. (a) Any person entitled to vote at a general or
10 special election or at any election at which propositions are
11 submitted to a popular vote in this State, shall, on the day of
12 such election, be entitled to absent himself from any services
13 or employment in which he is then engaged or employed, for a
14 period of 4 ~~2~~ hours between the time of opening and closing the
15 polls; and such voter shall not because of so absenting himself
16 be liable to any penalty; Provided, however, that application
17 for such leave of absence shall be made prior to the day of
18 election. The employer may specify the hours during which said
19 employee may absent himself as aforesaid, except that the
20 employer must permit a 4-hour ~~2-hour~~ absence during working
21 hours if the employee's working hours begin less than 4 ~~2~~ hours
22 after the opening of the polls and end less than 4 ~~2~~ hours
23 before the closing of the polls. No person or corporation shall
24 refuse to an employee the privilege hereby conferred, nor shall
25 subject an employee to a penalty, including a reduction in

1 compensation due to an absence under this Section, because of
2 the exercise of such privilege, nor shall directly or
3 indirectly violate the provisions of this Section. An employee
4 receiving an hourly wage shall be compensated for up to 4 hours
5 for the time he or she absented himself or herself to vote.

6 (b) Beginning the 15th day before a general or special
7 election or any election at which propositions are submitted to
8 a popular vote in this State or on the day of a general or
9 special election or any election at which propositions are
10 submitted to a popular vote in this State, any student entitled
11 to vote at such election shall be entitled to be absent from
12 school for a period of 2 hours during the school day in order
13 to vote. The school may specify the hours during which the
14 eligible student may be absent. A student who is absent from
15 school under this subsection (b) is not considered absent for
16 the purpose of calculating enrollment under Section 18-8.15 of
17 the School Code.

18 (Source: P.A. 101-624, eff. 6-1-20.)

19 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes
20 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text
21 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section
22 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does
23 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes
24 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other
25 Public Act.