



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB1916

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Julie A. Morrison

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

10 ILCS 5/19-3

from Ch. 46, par. 19-3

Amends the Election Code. Provides that any campaign, party, or other organization or individual that engages in a vote by mail operation in which voters are sent applications for vote by mail ballots shall also provide the voter with a return envelope addressed only to the appropriate local election authority for that registered voter. Removes language providing for if an application is sent to a post office box controlled by an individual or organization that is not an election authority.

LRB102 15245 SMS 20600 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 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/19-3) (from Ch. 46, par. 19-3)

7 Sec. 19-3. The application for vote by mail ballot shall
8 be substantially in the following form:

9 APPLICATION FOR VOTE BY MAIL BALLOT

10 To be voted at the election in the County of and
11 State of Illinois, in the precinct of the (1) *township of
12 (2) *City of or (3) *.... ward in the City of

13 I state that I am a resident of the precinct of the
14 (1) *township of (2) *City of or (3) *.... ward in
15 the city of residing at in such city or town in the
16 county of and State of Illinois; that I have lived at such
17 address for month(s) last past; that I am lawfully
18 entitled to vote in such precinct at the election to be
19 held therein on; and that I wish to vote by vote by mail
20 ballot.

21 I hereby make application for an official ballot or
22 ballots to be voted by me at such election, and I agree that I
23 shall return such ballot or ballots to the official issuing

1 the same prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the
 2 election or, if returned by mail, postmarked no later than
 3 election day, for counting no later than during the period for
 4 counting provisional ballots, the last day of which is the
 5 14th day following election day.

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

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

14

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

16 Post office address to which ballot is mailed:
 17

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

22 If application is made electronically, the applicant shall
 23 mark the box associated with the above described statement
 24 included as part of the online application certifying that the
 25 statements set forth in this application are true and correct,
 26 and a signature is not required.

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

1 generated by the applicant.

2 (Source: P.A. 99-522, eff. 6-30-16; 100-623, eff. 7-20-18.)