

AN ACT concerning elections.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The Election Code is amended by changing Section 17-14 as follows:

(10 ILCS 5/17-14) (from Ch. 46, par. 17-14)

Sec. 17-14. Any voter who declares upon oath, properly witnessed and with his or her signature or mark affixed, that he or she requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, physical disability or inability to read, write or speak the English language shall, upon request, be assisted in marking his or her ballot, by 2 judges of election of different political parties, to be selected by all judges of election of each precinct at the opening of the polls or by a person of the voter's choice, other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union. A voter who presents an Illinois Disabled Person Identification Card, issued to that person under the provisions of the Illinois Identification Card Act, indicating that such voter has a Class 1A or Class 2 disability under the provisions of Section 4A of the Illinois Identification Card Act, or a voter who declares upon oath, properly witnessed, that by reason of any physical disability he is unable to mark his ballot shall, upon request, be assisted in marking his ballot by 2 of the election officers of different parties as provided above in this Section or by a person of the voter's choice other than the voter's employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter's union. Such voter shall state specifically the reason why he cannot vote without assistance and, in the case of a physically disabled voter, what his physical disability is ~~and whether or not the disability is permanent~~. Prior to entering the voting booth, the person providing the assistance, if other than 2

judges of election, shall be presented with written instructions on how assistance shall be provided. This instruction shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections and shall include the penalties for attempting to influence the voter's choice of candidates, party, or votes in relation to any question on the ballot and for not marking the ballot as directed by the voter. Additionally, the person providing the assistance shall sign an oath, swearing not to influence the voter's choice of candidates, party, or votes in relation to any question on the ballot and to cast the ballot as directed by the voter. The oath shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections and shall include the penalty for violating this Section. In the voting booth, such person shall mark the ballot as directed by the voter, and shall thereafter give no information regarding the same. The judges of election shall enter upon the poll lists or official poll record after the name of any elector who received such assistance in marking his ballot a memorandum of the fact and if the disability is permanent. Intoxication shall not be regarded as a physical disability, and no intoxicated person shall be entitled to assistance in marking his ballot.

No person shall secure or attempt to secure assistance in voting who is not blind, physically disabled or illiterate as herein provided, nor shall any person knowingly assist a voter in voting contrary to the provisions of this Section.

(Source: P.A. 90-101, eff. 7-11-97.)