

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 13, 2022

3 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
4 FOR ENGROSSED  
5 HOUSE BILL NO. 1711

By: Hill and Turner of the  
House

6 and

7 Rosino of the Senate

8  
9 [ elections - allowing blind or visually impaired  
10 persons to request certain ballot electronically -  
11 providing for return of ballot - prohibiting return  
of ballot electronically - providing for processing  
of ballot - effective date ]

12  
13 ~~BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:~~

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 14-115.12 of Title 26, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. 1. A registered voter who swears or affirms that the voter  
18 is physically unable to vote in person at the voter's precinct on  
19 the day of the election because the voter is a blind person as  
20 defined by Section 72 of Title 7 of the Oklahoma Statutes may  
21 request that an accessible absentee ballot be delivered to the voter  
22 electronically in a manner prescribed by the Secretary of the State  
23 Election Board. A system for electronic delivery of absentee  
24 ballots to voters who are blind persons may include the same or

1 similar requirements as the electronic delivery system authorized  
2 for uniformed services voters as set forth in Section 14-118 of  
3 Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

4 2. An accessible absentee voting packet for voters who are  
5 blind persons, which shall include all necessary materials except  
6 the absentee ballot, shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the  
7 State Election Board. The accessible absentee voting packet may be  
8 delivered to the voter by United States mail or electronically.

9 B. 1. The electronic delivery system may provide the voter the  
10 opportunity to use the voter's personal computer to mark an  
11 accessible absentee ballot privately and independently and then  
12 print the marked ballot.

13 2. The absentee ballot shall be accompanied by an absentee  
14 ballot affidavit, which shall be executed in the same manner as  
15 provided for affidavits in Section 14-113.2 of Title 26 of the  
16 Oklahoma Statutes.

17 3. The voter shall return the absentee ballot and executed  
18 affidavit to the secretary of the county election board in the same  
19 manner provided in Section 14-113.2 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma  
20 Statutes. Nothing in this section shall allow for an absentee  
21 ballot to be returned to the county election board electronically,  
22 and no absentee ballot returned electronically shall be eligible to  
23 be counted by a county election board.

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1 C. A registered voter who is a blind person as defined by  
2 Section 72 of Title 7 of the Oklahoma Statutes may choose to request  
3 the assistance of another person to complete any requirements of  
4 this section, as provided in Section 7-123.3 of Title 26 of the  
5 Oklahoma Statutes.

6 D. Upon return of an absentee ballot described in this section,  
7 the secretary of the county election board shall cause it to be  
8 processed in the same manner as prescribed by law for other absentee  
9 ballots.

10 E. Any person who is not qualified for the electronic delivery  
11 of an absentee ballot as provided in this section, but who applies  
12 for an absentee ballot described in this section, shall be deemed  
13 guilty of a felony as provided in Section 16-102.2 of Title 26 of  
14 the Oklahoma Statutes.

15 F. The Secretary of the State Election Board may promulgate  
16 rules or procedures to implement the requirements of this section.

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2023.

18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
19 April 13, 2022 - DO PASS AS AMENDED  
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