

House Bill 577 (HB577)

Require Photo ID When Casting Mail-In Ballots

Shortfalls in Current Law

- **Unequal Treatment:** In-person voters must present a valid, unexpired photo ID, while mail-in voters are not subject to this requirement.
- **Weak Mail-In Ballot Identity Verification:** Voters whose ID numbers (driver's license, state ID, or last four of SSN) do not match Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) or Social Security Administration (SSA) records can still vote by mail using the same invalid information.
- **Barriers for Confined or Disabled Voters:** Individuals who are confined or disabled may be unable to obtain a photo ID, limiting their ability to vote by mail.
- **Limited Access to Free Photo ID Copies:** Only public libraries are authorized to provide a free copy of a photo ID for mail-in voting.
- **Insufficient Online Identity Proof:** Individuals can register or update voter registrations online without adequate identity verification.
- **Restricted Access to Voter Records:** Voters cannot easily view all public information on their voter registration or see actions required to cast a regular ballot.

Key Provisions of HB577

Include a Copy of Photo ID with Mail-In Ballots:

- Voters must include a copy of a valid photo ID with their absentee ballot envelope.
- Provide instructions that emphasize mailing a copy of a photo ID, not an original.
- Voters with a religious objection to being photographed may submit an affidavit instead.
- Ballots submitted without a copy of a photo ID will be treated as provisional, and have an opportunity to provide ID for the ballot to count.
- Board of Elections will confirm that ID information matches voter registration records.
*** this process expects voter registration records to match BMV or SSA records
- The Secretary of State must provide instructions on submitting a copy of a photo ID and obtaining a free copy of photo ID in the voter registration information brochure.
- Maintains compliance with federal laws for military and overseas voters.

Codify BMV Services for Confined or Disabled Voters:

- Permit homebound individuals to request BMV services at home in order to obtain a state ID and a copy of photo ID for absentee voting.

Expand Access to Free Copy of Photo ID:

- Require all state entities offering voter registration forms to provide free copies of a photo ID.
- Enable Board of Elections staff delivering absentee ballots to confined or disabled voters to make a free copy of photo ID.

Enhance Online Voter Registration Security:

- Require account creation and multi-factor authentication for online voter registration or updates.

Create a Searchable Online Voter Record Portal:

- Provide voters with convenient online access to their public registration information and any actions needed to cast a regular ballot.