

An Act Relative to the Presentation of Identification to Vote

The undersigned qualified voters of the Commonwealth, desiring to preserve the integrity of the voting process, hereby present their petition.

Section 76B of Chapter 54 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth is hereby amended by replacing it with the following:

Section 76B. (1) A person desiring to vote, who fails to present suitable written identification, shall not be permitted to vote.

(2)(A) A person meets the requirements of this section if the person:

(a) in the case of a person who votes in person:

(i) presents to the appropriate election officer a current and valid government issued photo identification;

(ii) if the photo ID produced does not bear the same address at which the voter is registered to vote, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter must also be produced.

(b) in the case of a person who votes by absentee ballot, submits with the ballot:

(i) a copy of a current and valid government issued photo identification;

(ii) if the photo ID submitted does not bear the same address at which the voter is registered to vote, a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter must also be submitted.

(B)(i) A person who desires to vote in person but does not satisfy clause (a) of subparagraph (A) may cast a provisional ballot under section 76C.

(ii) A person who desires to vote by absentee ballot but who does not meet the requirements of subclause (ii) of said clause (a) of said subparagraph (A) may return the absentee ballot by mail, and the ballot shall be treated as a provisional ballot under section 76C.

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(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a person who:

(i) is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. sections 1973ff–1 et seq.;

(ii) is provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under section 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, 42 U.S.C. section 1973ee–1(b)(2); or

(iii) is otherwise entitled by federal law to vote otherwise than in person.

(4) Any person who swears or affirms that they are unable to afford a qualifying government issued photo identification shall be entitled to a fee waiver to obtain an identification card from the Registry of Motor Vehicles that meets the requirements of this section.

We have personally reviewed the final text of this Initiative Petition, fully subscribe to its contents, and all agree to be one of the original signers of the petition. We have affixed our initials on all pages and signed below.

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