

SUMMARY OF NO. 25-04

This proposed law would require a prospective voter to show photo identification before receiving a ballot at a polling place and would require a person who votes either by mail or absentee to include a copy of their photo identification in the inner envelope with their completed ballot. The photo identification would have to be issued by a branch of the United States government, or by the state, or by a tribal authority recognized either by the United States or the state.

Prospective voters who do not present such identification at a polling place would be permitted to vote only if they complete an affidavit, witnessed by a poll worker, attesting to their identity, residence, citizenship, and date of birth, and only after a poll worker verifies that the signature on the affidavit matches the signature on file with the election official in their city or town.

Before each prospective voter receives a ballot at a polling place, a poll worker also must verify that they (1) appear on the registered voter list for the city or town in which they are trying to vote, and (2) are eligible to vote.

If a prospective voter does not meet any of these requirements, they would be permitted to vote by provisional ballot if they complete an affidavit, witnessed by a poll worker, attesting to their identity, residence, citizenship, and

date of birth. That provisional ballot would be counted if the city or town clerk verifies that (1) the prospective voter appears on the registered voter list for the city and town in which they are trying to vote; (2) the signature on the affidavit matches the signature on file with the election officials in the city or town in which they are trying to vote; and (3) the prospective voter is eligible to vote.

Voters could vote absentee or by mail if they include a copy of their photo identification in the inner envelope with their completed ballot. A voter who does not present such identification would be permitted to vote only if they attest to their identity, residence, citizenship, and date of birth on the affidavit of compliance.

The person designated to open absentee ballot envelopes would be required to verify and confirm (1) the voter's identity using the photo identification, if included in the inner envelope; (2) that the voter appears on the registered voter list for the city and town in which the prospective voter is trying to vote; (3) that the voter's signature on the affidavit of compliance matches their signature on file with the election officials in the city or town in which they are trying to vote; and (4) that each voter is eligible to vote. If a prospective voter does not meet any of these requirements, they could vote by provisional ballot if they complete an affidavit, witnessed

by a poll worker, attesting to their identity, residence, citizenship, and date of birth. That provisional ballot would be counted if the city or town clerk verifies that (1) the voter appears on the registered voter list for the city and town in which they are trying to vote; (2) the voter's signature on the affidavit matches that on file with the election officials in their city or town; and (3) the voter is eligible to vote.