

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 24.2-701.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to absentee voting in person;*
 3 *voter satellite offices; days and hours of operation.*

4 [H 2056]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 24.2-701.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 **§ 24.2-701.2. Absentee voting in person; voter satellite offices.**

9 A. The governing body of any county or city may establish, by ordinance, voter satellite offices to be used
 10 in the locality for absentee voting in person. The governing body may establish as many offices as it deems
 11 necessary *and may prescribe, by ordinance, the dates and hours of operation for such offices, but any such*
 12 *ordinance adopted shall not provide for less than what is already required by subsection B of § 24.2-701.1.*
 13 No change in, including the creation or abolishment of, any voter satellite office shall be enacted within 60
 14 days next preceding any general election. *Notice shall be provided to the general registrar of the county or*
 15 *city at least two weeks prior to enactment.* Notice shall be published prior to enactment in a newspaper
 16 having general circulation in the locality once a week for two successive weeks.

17 B. Any voter satellite office shall be in a public building owned or leased by the county, city, or town
 18 within the county and may be in a facility that is owned or leased by the Commonwealth and used as a
 19 location for Department of Motor Vehicles facilities or as an office of the general registrar. Such location
 20 shall be deemed the equivalent of the office of the general registrar for the purposes of completing the
 21 application for an absentee ballot in person pursuant to §§ 24.2-701 and 24.2-706. Any such location shall
 22 have adequate facilities for the protection of all elections materials produced in the process of absentee voting
 23 in person, the voted and unvoted absentee ballots, and any voting systems in use at the location.

24 C. Voter satellite offices shall be accessible to qualified voters as required by the provisions of the
 25 Virginians with Disabilities Act (§ 51.5-1 et seq.), the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped
 26 Act (52 U.S.C. § 20101 et seq.), and the Americans with Disabilities Act relating to public services (42
 27 U.S.C. § 12131 et seq.). The State Board shall provide instructions to the local electoral boards and general
 28 registrars to assist the localities in complying with the requirements of the acts.

29 D. The governing body of each county, city, and town shall provide funds to enable the general registrar
 30 to provide adequate facilities at each voter satellite office for the conduct of elections.

31 E. Not later than 55 days prior to any election, the general registrar shall post notice of all voter satellite
 32 office locations in the locality and the dates and hours of operation of each location in the office of the
 33 general registrar and on the official website for the county or city. Such notice shall remain in the office of
 34 the general registrar and on the official website for the county or city for the duration of the period during
 35 which absentee voting in person is available. If the county or city does not have an official website, such
 36 notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or city at least once prior to the
 37 election but not later than 55 days prior to such election.

38 F. If an emergency makes a voter satellite office unusable or inaccessible, the electoral board or the
 39 general registrar shall provide an alternative voter satellite office, subject to the approval of the State Board,
 40 and shall give notice of the change in the location of the voter satellite office. The general registrar shall
 41 provide notice to the voters appropriate to the circumstances of the emergency. For the purposes of this
 42 subsection, "emergency" means a rare and unforeseen combination of circumstances, or the resulting state,
 43 that calls for immediate action.

44 G. The provisions of subsection E of § 24.2-310 providing certain limited circumstances in which a local
 45 electoral board may approve an exception to the prohibition on the distribution of campaign materials inside
 46 the prohibited area outside of a polling place shall apply to voter satellite offices and the building in which
 47 such offices may be located.

48 H. A voter satellite office established pursuant to this section shall be deemed to be the equivalent of an
 49 office of the general registrar for purposes of completing an application for an absentee ballot in person
 50 pursuant to §§ 24.2-701, 24.2-701.1, and 24.2-706.

ENROLLED

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