

2026 SESSION

INTRODUCED

26103908D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 213**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 7, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 24.2-612 and 24.2-646.1 of the Code of Virginia and to repeal § 24.2-453 of*
5 *the Code of Virginia, relating to elections; Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act; restrictions on*
6 *ballot eligibility; repeal.*

7 Patron—Feggans

8 Committee Referral Pending

9 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

10 **1. That §§ 24.2-612 and 24.2-646.1 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

11 **§ 24.2-612. List of offices and candidates filed with Department of Elections and checked for**
12 **accuracy; when ballots printed; number required.**

13 Immediately after the expiration of the time provided by law for a candidate for any office to qualify to
14 have his name printed on the official ballot and prior to printing the ballots for an election, each general
15 registrar shall forward to the Department of Elections a list of the county, city, or town offices to be filled at
16 the election and the names of all candidates who have filed for each office. In addition, each general registrar
17 shall forward the name of any candidate who failed to qualify with the reason for his disqualification. On that
18 same day, the general registrar shall also provide a copy of the notice to each disqualified candidate. The
19 notice shall be sent by email or regular mail to the address on the candidate's certificate of candidate
20 qualification, and such notice shall be deemed sufficient. The Department of Elections shall promptly advise
21 the general registrar of the accuracy of the list. The failure of any general registrar to send the list to the
22 Department of Elections for verification shall not invalidate any election.

23 Each general registrar shall have printed the number of ballots he determines will be sufficient to conduct
24 the election. Such determination shall be based on the number of active registered voters and historical
25 election data, including voter turnout, and shall be subject to the approval by the electoral board.

26 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, the Department of Elections may print or otherwise
27 provide one statewide paper ballot style for each paper ballot style in use for presidential and
28 vice-presidential electors for use only by persons eligible to vote for those offices only under § 24.2-402 or
29 only for federal elections under § 24.2-453. The Department of Elections may apportion or authorize the
30 printer or vendor to apportion the costs for these ballots among the localities based on the number of ballots
31 ordered. Any printer employed by the Department of Elections shall execute the statement required by
32 § 24.2-616. The Department of Elections shall designate a representative to be present at the printing of such
33 ballots and deliver them to the appropriate general registrars pursuant to § 24.2-617. Upon receipt of such
34 paper ballots, the electoral board or the general registrar shall affix the seal of the electoral board. Thereafter,
35 such ballots shall be handled and accounted for, and the votes counted as the Department of Elections shall
36 specifically direct.

37 The general registrar shall make printed ballots available for absentee voting not later than 45 days prior
38 to any election or within three business days of the receipt of a properly completed absentee ballot
39 application, whichever is later. In the case of a special election, excluding for federal offices, if time is
40 insufficient to meet the applicable deadline established herein, then the general registrar shall make printed
41 ballots available as soon after the deadline as possible. For the purposes of this chapter, making printed
42 ballots available includes mailing of such ballots or electronic transmission of such ballots pursuant to
43 § 24.2-706 to a covered voter, as defined in § 24.2-452, who has applied for an absentee ballot pursuant to
44 § 24.2-701. Not later than five days after absentee ballots are made available, each general registrar shall
45 report to the Department of Elections, in writing on a form approved by the Department of Elections, whether
46 he has complied with the applicable deadline.

47 Only the names of candidates for offices to be voted on in a particular election district shall be printed on
48 the ballots for that election district.

49 The general registrar shall send to the Department of Elections a statement of the number of ballots
50 ordered to be printed, proofs of each printed ballot for verification, and copies of each final ballot. If the
51 Department of Elections finds that, in its opinion, the number of ballots ordered to be printed by any general
52 registrar is not sufficient, it may direct the general registrar to order the printing of a reasonable number of
53 additional ballots.

54 **§ 24.2-646.1. Permitted use of paper ballots.**

55 The official paper ballot shall be used by a voter to cast his vote only in one of the following
56 circumstances:

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59 1. The official paper ballot is the only ballot in use in the precinct.
60 2. The official paper ballot is used by voters voting outside of the polling place pursuant to § 24.2-649.1.
61 3. The voter is casting a provisional ballot.
62 4. The voter is provided an official paper ballot or copy thereof pursuant to § 24.2-642 when voting
63 equipment is inoperable or otherwise unavailable.
64 5. The official absentee paper ballot voted in accordance with (§ 24.2-700 et seq.).
65 6. The voter is provided an official paper ballot for a presidential election pursuant to § 24.2-402 ~~or for~~
66 federal elections pursuant to § 24.2-453.
67 2. **That § 24.2-453 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**