

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM  
2020 REGULAR SESSION  
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Amend printed copy of **SB 2/GA**

Beginning on page 7, line 21, through page 21, line 2, delete Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8 in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"➔Section 5. KRS 117.077 is amended to read as follows:

In case of a medical emergency within fourteen (14) days or less of an election, a registered voter and the registered voter's spouse may apply for a mail-in~~an~~ absentee ballot. The application shall state that the emergency condition occurred within the fourteen (14) day period. The application shall be notarized. The application form may be requested by and delivered by the voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter. If the voter has no spouse, parents, or children, the application form may be requested by and delivered by the brother, sister, niece, nephew, or designee of the voter. The application form shall be restricted to the use of the voter. Upon receipt of the application and verification, the county clerk shall issue an absentee ballot.

➔Section 6. KRS 117.085 is amended to read as follows:

(1) All requests for an application for a mail-in absentee ballot may be transmitted by telephone, facsimile machine, by mail, by electronic mail, or in person. The county clerk shall transmit all applications for a mail-in absentee ballot to the voter by mail, electronic mail, or in person at the option of the voter, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection. The mail-in absentee ballot application may be requested by the voter or the spouse, parents, or children of the voter, but shall be restricted to the use of the voter.

Amendment No. HFA 29

Rep. Rep. McKenzie Cantrell

Committee Amendment \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Amendment \_\_\_\_\_

LRC Drafter: \_\_\_\_\_

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rejected: \_\_\_\_\_

Doc. ID: XXXX

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- (a) A qualified voter may apply to cast his or her vote by mail-in absentee ballot if the completed application is received not later than the close of business hours seven (7) days before the election, and if the voter is:
1. A resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010;
  2. A student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her residence;
  3. Incarcerated in jail and charged with a crime, but has not been convicted of the crime;
  4. Changing or has changed his or her place of residence to a different state while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence before an election of electors for President and Vice President of the United States, in which case the voter shall be permitted to cast a mail-in absentee ballot for electors for President and Vice President of the United States only;
  5. Temporarily residing outside the state but still eligible to vote in this state;
  6. Prevented from voting in person at the polls on election day and from casting an in-person absentee ballot in the county clerk's office on all days in-person absentee voting is conducted because his or her employment location requires him or her to be absent from the county of his or her residence all hours and all days in-person absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office;
  7. A participant in the Secretary of State's crime victim address confidentiality protection program as authorized by KRS 14.312; or
  8. Not able to appear at the polls on election day on the account of age, disability, or illness, and who has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (b) Residents of Kentucky who are covered voters as defined in KRS 117A.010 may apply for a mail-in absentee ballot by means of the federal post-card application,

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which may be transmitted to the county clerk's office by mail, by facsimile machine, or by means of the electronic transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4). The federal post-card application may be used to register, reregister, and to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot. If the federal post-card application is received at any time not less than seven (7) days before the election, the county clerk shall affix his or her seal to the application form upon receipt.

- (c) In-person absentee voting shall be conducted in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections during normal business hours for at least the twelve (12) working days before the election. A county board of elections may permit in-person absentee voting to be conducted on a voting machine for a period longer than the twelve (12) working days before the election.
- (d) A qualified voter may, at any time during normal business hours on those days in-person absentee voting is conducted in the county clerk's office, make application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, if the voter **provides proof of identification as defined in Section 24 of this Act or complies with the requirements of Sections 1 or 2 of this Act, and the voter:**
1. Is a resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010, who will be absent from the county of his or her residence on any election day;
  2. Is a student who temporarily resides outside the county of his or her residence;
  3. Has surgery, or whose spouse has surgery, scheduled that will require hospitalization on election day;
  4. Temporarily resides outside the state, but is still eligible to vote in this state and

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- will be absent from the county of his or her residence on any election day;
5. Is a resident of Kentucky who is a uniformed-service voter as defined in KRS 117A.010 confined to a military base on election day, learns of that confinement within seven (7) days or less of an election, and is not eligible for a mail-in absentee ballot under this subsection;
  6. Is in her last trimester of pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote under this paragraph. The application form for a voter under this subparagraph shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections, which shall contain the woman's sworn statement that she is in fact in her last trimester of pregnancy at the time she wishes to vote;
  7. Has not been declared mentally disabled by a court of competent jurisdiction and, on account of age, disability, or illness, is not able to appear at the polls on election day; or
  8. Is not permitted to vote by a mail-in absentee ballot under paragraph (a) of this subsection, but who will be absent from the county of his or her residence on election day.
- (e) Voters who change their place of residence to a different state while the registration books are closed in the new state of residence before a presidential election shall be permitted to cast an in-person absentee ballot for President and Vice President only, by making application in person to the county clerk to vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the election.
- (f) Any member of the county board of elections, any precinct election officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he or she is registered, any alternate

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precinct election officer, any deputy county clerk, any staff for the State Board of Elections, and any staff for the county board of elections may vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the election. The application form for those persons shall be prescribed by the State Board of Elections and, in the case of application by precinct election officers, shall contain a verification of appointment signed by a member of the county board of elections. If an alternate precinct election officer or a precinct election officer appointed to serve in a precinct other than that in which he or she is registered receives his or her appointment while in-person absentee voting is being conducted in the county, the officer may vote on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, up to the close of normal business hours on the day before the election. Precinct election officers' verification of appointment shall also contain the date of appointment. The applications shall be restricted to the use of the voter only.

- (g) The members of the county board of elections or their designees who provide equal representation of both political parties may serve as precinct election officers, without compensation, for all in-person absentee voting performed on a voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. If the members of the county board of elections or their designees serve as precinct election officers for the in-person absentee voting, they shall perform the same duties and exercise the same authority as precinct election officers who serve on the day of an election. If the members of the county board of elections or their designees do not serve as precinct election officers

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for in-person absentee voting, the county clerk or deputy county clerks shall supervise the in-person absentee voting.

- (h) Any individual qualified to appoint challengers for the day of an election may also appoint challengers to observe all in-person absentee voting performed at the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, and those challengers may exercise the same privileges as challengers appointed for observing voting on the day of an election at a regular polling place.
- (2) The county clerk shall type the name of the voter permitted to vote by mail-in absentee ballot on the mail-in absentee ballot application form for that person's use and no other. The mail-in absentee ballot application form shall be in the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections, shall bear the seal of the county clerk, and shall contain the following information: name, residential address, precinct, party affiliation, statement of the reason the person cannot vote in person on election day, statement of where the voter shall be on election day, statement of compliance with residency requirements for voting in the precinct, and the voter's mailing address for a mail-in absentee ballot. The mail-in absentee ballot application form shall be verified and signed by the voter. A notice of the actual penalty provisions in KRS 117.995(2) and (5) shall be printed on the mail-in absentee ballot application form.
- (3) If the county clerk finds that the voter is properly registered as stated in his or her mail-in absentee ballot application form and qualifies to receive a mail-in absentee ballot by mail, he or she shall mail to the voter a mail-in absentee ballot, two (2) official envelopes for returning the mail-in absentee ballot, and instructions for voting. The county clerk shall complete a postal form for a certificate of mailing for mail-in absentee ballots mailed within the fifty (50) states, and it shall be stamped by the postal service when the mail-in

absentee ballots are mailed. A mail-in absentee ballot may be transmitted by facsimile machine or by the electronic transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4) to a covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010. The covered voter shall be notified of the options for transmittal of the mail-in absentee ballot, and the mail-in absentee ballot shall be transmitted by the method chosen for receipt by the resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter.

- (4) Mail-in absentee ballots which are requested prior to the printing of the mail-in absentee ballots shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted as provided in subsection (3) of this section by the county clerk to the voter within three (3) days of the receipt of the printed ballots. Mail-in absentee ballots requested after the receipt of the ballots by the county clerk shall be mailed or otherwise transmitted as provided in subsection (3) of this section to the voter within three (3) days of the receipt of the request.
- (5) The county clerk shall cause mail-in absentee ballots to be printed fifty (50) days prior to each primary or regular election, and forty-five (45) days prior to a special election.
- (6) The outer envelope shall bear the words "Absentee Ballot" and the address and official title of the county clerk and shall provide space for the voter's signature, voting address, precinct number, and signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. A detachable flap on the secrecy~~inner~~ envelope shall provide space for the voter's signature, voting address, precinct number, signatures of two (2) witnesses if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature and notice of penalty provided in KRS 117.995(5). The county clerk shall type the voter's address and precinct number in the upper left hand corner of the outer envelope and of the detachable flap on the secrecy~~inner~~ envelope immediately below the blank space for the voter's signature. The secrecy~~inner~~ envelope shall be blank. The county clerk shall retain the mail-in ballot application form and the postal form required by

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subsection (3) of this section for twenty-two (22) months after the election.

- (7) Any person who has received a mail-in absentee ballot by mail but who knows at least seven (7) days before the date of the election that he or she will be in his or her county of residence on election day and who has not voted pursuant to the provisions of KRS 117.086 shall cancel his or her mail-in absentee ballot and vote in person. The voter shall return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of the election. Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot or the unmarked ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened. The county clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots, and the voter may vote in the precinct in which he or she is properly registered.
- (8) Any voter qualified for a mail-in absentee ballot who does not receive a requested mail-in absentee ballot within a reasonable amount of time shall contact the county clerk, who shall reissue a second mail-in absentee ballot. The county clerk shall keep a record of the mail-in absentee ballots issued and returned by mail, and the in-person absentee voting **and in-person provisional absentee voting** that is performed on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, to verify that only the first voted ballot to be returned by the voter is counted. Upon the return of any **mail-in absentee** ballot after the first **mail-in absentee** ballot is returned, the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed ballot the words "Canceled because ballot reissued."
- (9) Any covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010 who has received a mail-in absentee ballot but who knows that he or she will be in the county on election day and who has not voted pursuant to the provisions of KRS 117.086 shall cancel his or her mail-in absentee ballot



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and vote in person. The voter shall return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before election day. Upon the return of the mail-in absentee ballot, the county clerk shall mark on the outer envelope of the sealed mail-in absentee ballot or the unmarked mail-in absentee ballot the words "Canceled because voter appeared to vote in person." Sealed envelopes so marked shall not be opened. If the covered voter is unable to return the mail-in absentee ballot to the county clerk's office on or before election day, at the time he or she votes in person, he or she shall sign a written oath as to his or her qualifications on the form prescribed by the State Board of Elections pursuant to KRS 117.245. The county clerk shall remove the voter's name from the list of persons who were sent mail-in absentee ballots, provide the voter with written authorization to vote at the precinct, and the voter may vote in the precinct in which he or she is properly registered.

- (10) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884, the information contained in an application for a mail-in absentee ballot shall not be made public until after the close of business hours on the election day for which the application applies. This subsection shall not prohibit at any time the disclosure, upon request, of the total number of applications for mail-in absentee ballots that have been filed, or the disclosure to the Secretary of State or the State Board of Elections, if requested or if otherwise required by law, of any information in an application for a mail-in absentee ballot.

→Section 7. KRS 117.0851 is amended to read as follows:

Absentee ballots cast, as provided by KRS 117.077 and 117.085, **and provisional absentee ballots cast as provided by Section 6 of this Act**, shall all be tabulated in the same manner, as shall be provided by this chapter.

→Section 8. KRS 117.086 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The voter returning his **or her** absentee ballot by mail shall mark his **or her** ballot, seal it in

the ~~secret~~~~inner~~ envelope, and then in the outer envelope, and mail it to the county clerk as ~~shall be~~ provided in~~by~~ this chapter. The voter shall sign the detachable flap and the outer envelope in order to validate the ballot. A person having power of attorney for the voter and who signs the detachable flap and outer envelope for the voter shall complete the voter assistance form as required by KRS 117.255. The signatures of two (2) witnesses are required if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. A resident of Kentucky who is a covered voter as defined in KRS 117A.010 who has received an absentee ballot transmitted by facsimile machine or by means of the electronic transmission system established under KRS 117A.030(4) shall transmit the voted ballot to the county clerk by mail only, conforming with ballot security requirements that may be promulgated by the State Board of Elections~~state board~~ by administrative regulation under KRS Chapter 13A. In order to be counted, the ballots shall be received by the county clerk by at least the time established by the election laws generally for the closing of the polls, which time shall not include the extra hour during which those voters may vote who were waiting in line to vote at the scheduled poll closing time.

- (2) Any voter who shall be absent from the county on election day, but who does not qualify to receive a mail-in~~an~~ absentee ballot~~by mail~~ under the provisions of KRS 117.085, and all voters qualified to vote prior to the election under the provisions of KRS 117.085, shall vote at the main office of the county clerk or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, prior to the day of election. The county clerk may provide for such voting by the voting equipment in general use in the county either at the precinct, the equipment as may be used to tabulate absentee ballots, or any other voting equipment approved by the State Board of Elections for use in Kentucky, except as follows:
  - (a) Any voter qualifying to vote in the county clerk's office or other place designated by

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the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, who receives assistance to vote shall complete the voter assistance form required by KRS 117.255;[+]

- (b) Any voter qualifying to vote in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, whose qualifications are challenged on grounds other than inability to provide proof of identification by any clerk or deputy shall complete an "Oath of Voter" affidavit; and
- (c) Any voter qualifying to vote in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections, who is unable to provide proof of identification as defined in Section 24 of this Act, may cast a provisional in-person absentee ballot in accordance with Section 2 of this Act. Provisional in-person absentee ballots and accompanying provisional in-person absentee voter affirmations shall be kept in a separate ballot box marked as containing provisional absentee ballots under this paragraph. Any voter casting a provisional in-person absentee ballot under this paragraph shall sign a "Provisional Absentee Ballot Signature Roster" and his or her in-person affirmation and vote shall be processed in accordance with Section 2 of this Act.
- (3) When the county clerk uses general voting equipment as provided for in subsection (2) of this section, each voter casting his vote at the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, shall sign an "Absentee Ballot Signature Roster."
- (4) The county clerk shall designate a location within his or her office where the ballots shall be cast secretly. The county clerk, with the approval of the State Board of Elections, may establish locations other than his or her main office in which the voters may execute their ballots. Public notice of the locations shall be given pursuant to KRS Chapter 424, and

similar notice by mail shall be given to the county ~~chairs~~~~chairmen~~ of the two (2) political parties whose candidates polled the largest number of votes in the county at the last ~~regular~~~~general~~ election.

(5) The State Board of Elections shall promulgate administrative regulations under KRS Chapter 13A to provide for casting ballots in accordance with~~as provided in~~ subsection (2) of this section.

(6) The county clerk shall deposit all of the returned mail-in absentee ballots~~returned by mail~~ in a locked ballot box immediately upon receipt without opening the outer envelope. The ballot box shall be locked with three (3) locks. The keys to the box shall be retained by the three (3) members of the central absentee ballot counting board, if one is appointed, or by the members of the board of elections, and the box shall remain locked until the ballots are counted. All voting equipment on which ballots are cast as permitted in subsection (2) of this section shall also remain locked and the keys shall be retained by the three (3) members of the central absentee ballot counting board, if one is appointed, or by the members of the board of elections, and the equipment shall remain locked until the ballots are counted.

(7) The county clerk shall keep separate lists~~a list~~ for each election of all persons who:

(a) Return their absentee ballots by mail;~~or who~~

(b) Cast their ballots in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections; and

(c) Cast their provisional in-person absentee ballots under subsection (2)(c) of this section.

The county clerk~~, and~~ shall send a copy of each list to the State Board of Elections~~state board~~ after any primary or~~the~~ election day~~for which the list applies~~. Notwithstanding the provisions of the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884, each list of all

persons who return their absentee ballots by mail or who cast their ballots in the clerk's office or other designated and approved place shall not be made public until after the close of business hours on the primary or election day for which the list applies. The county clerk and the Secretary of State shall keep a record of the number of votes cast by each method listed in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this subsection~~[absentee ballots returned by mail and cast on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections]~~, which are cast in any primary or election as a part of the official returns of the primary or election.

- (8) The county board of elections shall report to the State Board of Elections within ten (10) days after any primary or ~~general~~ election as to the number of rejected absentee ballots, and ballots cast under subsection (2) of this section, and the reasons for rejecting the~~[rejected absentee]~~ ballots on a form prescribed and furnished by the State Board of Elections in administrative regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A."; and

From page 21, line 24, through page 25, line 12, delete Sections 11 and 12 in their entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"→Section 11. KRS 117.087 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The challenge of an absentee ballot returned by mail shall be in writing and in the hands of the county clerk before 8 a.m. on election day.
- (2) The county board of elections shall count the absentee ballots returned by mail and the votes cast on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. Provisional in-person absentee ballots shall be processed in accordance with Section 2 of this Act. The board may appoint a central ballot counting board of not less than three (3) members, who shall be qualified voters and no more than two-thirds (2/3) of whom shall be members of the same political party, to count the ballots at the direction of the county board of

elections.

- (3) Beginning at 8 a.m. on election day, the board shall meet at the county clerk's office to count the absentee ballots returned by mail and the ballots cast on the voting machine in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elections. Candidates or their representatives shall be permitted to be present. The county board of elections shall authorize representatives of the news media to observe the counting of the ballots. The board shall open the boxes containing absentee ballots returned by mail and remove the envelopes one (1) at a time. As each envelope is removed, it shall be examined to ascertain whether the outer envelope and the detachable flap are in proper order and have been signed by the voter. A person having power of attorney for the voter and who signs the detachable flap and outer envelope for the voter shall complete the voter assistance form required by KRS 117.255. The signatures of two (2) witnesses are required if the voter signs the form with the use of a mark instead of the voter's signature. All unsigned mail-in absentee ballots shall be rejected automatically. The chair~~[chairman]~~ of the county board of elections shall compare the signatures on the outer envelope and the detachable flap with the signature of the voter that appears on the registration card. If the outer envelope and the detachable flap are found to be in order, the chair~~[chairman]~~ shall read aloud the name of the voter. If the vote of the voter is not rejected on a challenge then made as provided in subsection (4) of this section, the chairman shall remove the detachable flap and place the secrecy~~[inner]~~ envelope unopened in a ballot box which has been provided for the purpose.
- (4) When the name of a voter who cast an absentee ballot by mail is read aloud by the chairman, the vote of the voter may be challenged by any board member or by the written challenge provided in subsection (1) of this section and the challenge may be determined and the vote accepted or rejected by the board as if the voter was present and voting in

person; but if the outer envelope and the detachable flap are regular, and substantially comply with the provisions of this chapter, they shall be considered as showing that the voter is prima facie entitled to vote. If the vote of a voter is rejected pursuant to the challenge, the secrecy~~[inner]~~ envelope shall not be opened, but returned to the outer envelope upon which the chairman shall write on the envelope the word "rejected."

- (5) After the challenges have been made and all the blank secrecy~~[inner]~~ envelopes have been placed in a ballot box, the box shall be thoroughly shaken to redistribute the absentee ballots in the box. The board shall open the ballot box, remove the absentee ballots from the secrecy~~[inner]~~ envelopes, and count the ballots.
- (6) The board shall unlock any voting equipment used to cast ballots in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections, and approved by the State Board of Elections, as provided for in KRS 117.086, and a total of all ballots shall be made and recorded on the form provided by the State Board of Elections.
- (7) The county board of elections, the county clerk, and all individuals permitted to be present for the counting of absentee ballots pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall not make public the absentee ballot results determined as provided in this section until after 6 p.m. prevailing time.

➔Section 12. KRS 117.145 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) At least fifteen (15) days before any special election, and at least fifty (50) days before any primary or regular election, the county clerk of each county shall cause to be printed and ready for use ballot labels for each candidate who, and each question which, is entitled to be voted upon in such election. The ballot labels shall be printed on clear white paper or other material which shall be furnished by the printer. They shall be printed in black ink, in plain, clear type clearly legible to a person with normal vision, and shall be of a size to fit the ballot frames. The labels shall include the necessary party designations.

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- (2) Each county clerk shall have printed a sufficient number of paper absentee ballots. The absentee ballot shall be used for voting by absent voters; by precinct officers who have been assigned to a precinct other than their own; by members of a county board of elections; by voters so disabled by age, infirmity, or illness as to be unable to appear at the polls; and for voting in an emergency situation. **The provisional absentee ballot shall indicate that the ballot is a provisional absentee ballot.** The **provisional absentee ballot stubs and the absentee** ballot stubs shall **each** be consecutively numbered, and the county board shall keep a record, by number, of all **provisional absentee ballots and all** absentee ballots used for any of the purposes listed **in this subsection**~~herein~~.
- (3) **Each county clerk shall have printed a sufficient number of provisional ballots, which shall have the same form as the absentee ballots, and provisional voter affirmations. A provisional ballot shall indicate that the ballot is a provisional ballot and not an absentee ballot. The provisional ballot stubs shall be consecutively numbered and the county board of elections shall keep a record, by number, of all provisional ballots used for votes cast by provisional voters.**
- ~~(4)(3)~~ No later than the Friday preceding a special or regular election, the county clerk shall equip the voting machines with the necessary supplies for the purpose of write-in votes. The county clerk shall also attach a pencil or pen to the voting machine for write-in purposes.
- ~~(5)(4)~~ If supplemental paper ballots have been approved as provided in KRS 118.215, the county clerk shall cause to be printed a sufficient number of paper ballots for the registered voters of each precinct. The paper ballots shall have stubs which are numbered consecutively. The quality of paper on which the supplemental paper ballots are printed shall be determined by **administrative** regulations promulgated **under KRS Chapter 13A** by the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet."