

Voter Services Committee

Voting and Elections: HB 1116 and HB 1134 both bills were passed in the Senate Elections Committee on March 20. HB 1116 was assigned to the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee and HB 1334 will be scheduled for a vote before the full Senate.

HB 1134 makes changes to the application process for an absentee ballot.

- Voters applying for an absentee ballot must provide last 4 digits of SS# AND DL#, or State ID#. OR, send photocopy of DL or State ID or Passport. *Response: Unnecessarily complicates application process for an abs. ballot promising to suppress the vote esp. of the elderly, handicapped, etc. Complicates the verification process for county elections. A photocopy of an official document, like a DL or passport submitted to the county, opens the voter to identity theft if documents are not stored correct or if an entity is hacked. The changes create handling and processing problems for clerks, unnecessarily will suppress the vote of those who need to cast an absentee ballot, and threatens voters' privacy.*
- Prevents state, like the county clerk's office, from sending applications out in mass. Applications must be requested by an individual or a family member. For example, currently, the director for an elderly-care entity can request abs. ballot applications for their residence. This bill puts an end to this practice.
- Requires clerks to go through additional steps to cure an absentee ballot. *Response: This bill complicates the process of curing absentee ballots creating more work for officials and increasing the likelihood that legitimate votes are not counted because an arduous and time-consuming curing process.*
- Gives the Secretary of State — currently Diego Morales — broad powers to “prescribe any other procedures necessary to implement” certain provisions dealing with how to get new applications to and from voters.”

Contact your State Senator and ask him/her to oppose HB 1334. Explain the ways this bill is detrimental to voting. It unnecessarily complicates the application process for voters and election officials. It is a bill that perpetuates the lie and amplifies the disinformation that vote by mail cannot be trusted. If legislators want to improve absentee voting, they should do away with the required 12 reasons to vote via absentee ballot since those reasons cannot be actually verified

HB 1116 has multiple parts.

- Increases per diem payment for election officials—good language.
- A deadline for municipal redistricting has been set for May 2023. The date is at the end of May right after the primary and for any municipality that does not meet the May deadline, the Secretary of State assumes the responsibility for drawing the new districts. *Response: The May deadline puts redistricting in the middle of the Municipal/town elections— bad idea. It would be a better idea for the deadline to be extended until Dec. 2023 so clerks do not have to respond to redistricting changes in the middle of an election period. Additionally, the partisan office of Secretary of State should not be handed the responsibility of drawing districts for municipalities or towns.*

This bill perpetuates the “big lie” of voter fraud by adding an extra punishment to deter people from committing voter fraud. HB 1116 adds 10 additional years of disenfranchisement following the time served for a person convicted of voter fraud. *Response: This is bad for multiple reasons. It amplifies the lie of rampant voter fraud when there is none of note. Taking away voting rights from a person who has served his/her time for voter fraud is backtracking on the Indiana law that returns voting rights to a person once time is served. Passing this exception will open the door for future bills to add additional years of disenfranchisement for other types of convictions*[Type equation here.](#)