

SB0711/275467/1

BY: Committee on Ways and Means

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 711  
(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “requiring” in line 4 down through “voters;” in line 7 and substitute “authorizing certain envelopes used to return certain absentee ballots to include prepaid postage if the governing body of a county includes funding for prepaid postage in the budget of the local board of elections; prohibiting the State Board of Elections from requiring a local board to include prepaid postage on certain envelopes; requiring the State Board to submit a certain report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act;”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 14, strike “SHALL” and substitute “MAY”; in the same line, after “POSTAGE” insert “IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY INCLUDES FUNDING FOR PREPAID POSTAGE IN THE BUDGET OF THE LOCAL BOARD”; strike in their entirety lines 18 through 21, inclusive; in line 22, strike the brackets; in the same line, strike “(C)”; after line 24, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The State Board of Elections may not require a local board to include prepaid postage on ballot/return envelopes or return envelopes issued to a voter voting by absentee ballot.

(b) The State Board shall submit a report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on or before January 15, 2017, that includes the following information:

(Over)

- (1) each local board that included prepaid postage on ballot/return envelopes or return envelopes under this Act in the 2016 elections;
- (2) the cost to each local board of providing prepaid postage;
- (3) an analysis of the effect of providing prepaid postage on voter turnout, including a comparison of:
  - (i) the turnout of individuals voting by absentee ballot in the 2016 elections in the counties that provided prepaid postage to the turnout of individuals voting by absentee ballot in those counties in previous elections;
  - (ii) the turnout of individuals voting by any method in the 2016 elections in the counties that provided prepaid postage to the turnout of individuals voting by any method in those counties in previous elections; and
  - (iii) the percentage of absentee ballots sent by mail that were successfully returned to election officials in the 2016 elections in the counties that provided prepaid postage to the percentage of absentee ballots sent by mail that were successfully returned to election officials in those counties in previous elections; and
- (4) any other information the State Board determines is relevant to evaluating the efficacy of prepaid postage in improving access to voting.”;

in line 25, strike “2.” and substitute “3.”; and in line 26, after “October 1, 2015.” insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of September 30, 2017, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.