

HB 216 -- Voter Identification Requirements

Sponsor: Cox

This bill changes the laws regarding the identification requirements for voting in a public election. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Specifies that a person seeking to vote in a public election must establish his or her qualifications as a United States citizen lawfully residing in this state by presenting a form of personal identification containing a photograph of the individual to election officials. All costs incurred by an election authority to implement the photo identification requirements must be reimbursed by the state. If there is no appropriation and distribution of state funds, the election authority must not enforce the photo identification requirement;

(2) Allows an individual to vote by casting a provisional ballot after signing an affidavit if he or she does not possess a required form of personal identification because of the inability to pay for a birth certificate or other documentation necessary to obtain the identification;

(3) Requires the state to provide at no cost at least one form of personal identification required to vote to a qualified individual who does not already possess the required identification and desires the identification in order to vote; and

(4) Repeals the provision requiring the Department of Revenue to provide a nondriver's license photo identification to a disabled or elderly person through a mobile processing system.

The bill will become effective only upon voter approval of a constitutional amendment that authorizes the General Assembly to require the photo identification.