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Network Update

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



February 6, 2022

MDW SC Update: H. 4919 in House Elections Subcommittee Hearing This Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022

The House has posted the following agenda:

ELECTION LAWS SUBCOMMITTEE

The following is a list of bills that may be discussed at the Election Laws Subcommittee meeting on **Wednesday, February 9, 2022 immediately upon adjournment** in Room 516 of the Blatt Building. H. 4919 Early and Absentee Voting Rep. Lucas

This is not an exclusive list of bills to be discussed. The agenda is subject to change. The members may bring up and discuss any bill presently in subcommittee.

No information is provided regarding public testimony. I have queried both Judiciary Chief Counsel Emma Dean and Election Laws Subcommittee Counsel Roland Franklin by email about whether testimony will be accepted and if so by what means and will let everyone know if or when I receive a response.

A quick summary of H.4919:

- Adds a two-week period preceding each general election (no including primary elections) to cast an early in-person ballot without excuse;
- eliminates in-person excused absentee voting (so that there is no in-person early voting of any kind for primaries or special elections);

- a formula is provided to establish early voting locations for general elections in each county with the following specifications:
 - o A county population guideline
 - o A county geographic (square miles) guideline
 - o early polling locations must be at least 10 miles apart from one another and
 - o the county election office must be one of those locations;
- prohibits multi-party candidates as well as candidates running for multiple offices;
- persons must be absent for vacation or business during both the early voting period and election day to qualify for excused absentee voting;
- requires that absentee ballot applications include voters' driver's license or other government issued ID number including all of the forms permitted as in-person photo ID (SC driver's license, SC DMV ID, passport, military ID, SC photo voter registration card);
- does NOT include a provision for notice and cure when ballots are found defective;
- requires printed name and address as well as signature of mail ballot witnesses;
- requires that authorized returnees provide government-issued photo identification when returning ballots to election offices; and
- requires that absentee ballot tabulations must not be reported until polls close on election day.

Please plan to testify on this bill in whatever form is permitted.

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