

fact stated in such affidavit. Upon making and filing with the judges such affidavit, the voter shall retire to one of said booths or voting machines with any person [whom the voter may select] OF THE VOTER'S CHOICE, OTHER--THAN NOT TO INCLUDE THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION, or with two judges of opposite political parties. Then and there the person whom the voter has selected, or in case the voter has selected no one, one of said judges in the presence of the other, shall mark the ballot or operate the voting machine as such voter shall direct. The only assistance which it shall be lawful for said person or for the said judges to give the voter is to mark the ballot or operate the voting machine, as the voter shall direct, without prompting or suggestion from them, or either of them.

(2) If, however, any voter, after entering the voting machine booth, shall ask for further instructions concerning the manner of voting, then two of the judges of opposite political parties shall give him such instructions, but no such judge shall, in any manner, request, or suggest, or seek to persuade or induce any such voter to vote any particular ticket, or for any particular candidate, or for or against any particular question. After giving such instructions, the judges shall retire, and the voter shall forthwith vote.

(d) A voter may not be accompanied into a voting booth or voting machine by any person over the age of five years unless the affidavit required by subsection (c) has been accepted by the election judges.

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(b) [Any otherwise qualified voter who is blind, physically disabled or who has impaired vision and is for one of these reasons unable to mark his absentee ballot and sign the required oath, may be assisted in voting by any person selected by the voter.] ANY REGISTERED VOTER WHO REQUIRES ASSISTANCE TO VOTE BY REASON OF BLINDNESS, DISABILITY, OR INABILITY TO READ THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OR WRITE MAY BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE BY A PERSON OF THE VOTER'S CHOICE, OTHER--THAN NOT TO INCLUDE THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AGENT OF THAT EMPLOYER OR OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION. Any person rendering assistance pursuant to this subsection shall execute a certification to be included in the instructions prescribed by § 27-8 of this article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1983.

Approved May 24, 1983.

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