

(iii) the reason, as authorized in § 9-304 of this subtitle, for absentee voting].

(b) Except for a late application under subsection (c) of this section, an application for an absentee ballot must be received by a local board not later than the Tuesday preceding the election, at the time specified in the guidelines.

(c) (1) Beginning on the Wednesday preceding the election, through the closing of the polls on election day, a registered voter or the voter's duly authorized agent may apply in person for an absentee ballot at the office of the local board [if the voter is qualified for absentee voting under § 9-304 of this subtitle or § 10-102 of this article].

(2) A special application for an absentee ballot issued under this subsection shall be supplied by the staff of the local board to the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent.

(3) The application shall be made under penalty of perjury[,] but without a formal oath[, specifying the reason for absentee voting].

(4) After review of the application, [if the staff of the local board finds that the voter qualifies for absentee voting,] the staff shall issue an absentee ballot to the voter or the voter's duly authorized agent.

10-102.

(a) If the polling place assigned to an elderly or disabled voter is not structurally barrier free, the voter may request a reassignment by the local board.

(b) (1) To qualify for a reassignment by the local board, the voter shall submit a request in writing to the local board not later than the close of registration for the election.

(2) The request may be made on a form prescribed by the State Board.

(c) On receipt of a request from an elderly or disabled voter under subsection (b) of this section, the local board shall either:

(1) assign the voter to an election district, ward, or precinct in the voter's county that contains a structurally barrier free polling place; or

(2) issue the voter an absentee ballot in accordance with the procedures established under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article[, notwithstanding the voter's lack of eligibility for an absentee ballot under Title 9, Subtitle 3 of this article].

(d) Any ballot issued to a voter under subsection (c)(2) of this section shall be identical to the ballot used in the polling place originally assigned to the voter.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 26, 2005