

Action Alert on Elections Law

HB 9 (Cole) is scheduled to be heard in the House Privileges & Elections committee at **9:30am Friday, January 20** in the 9th Floor Appropriations Room of the General Assembly Building. HB 9 would change existing law so that a voter coming to the polls without any ID would only be able to vote using a provisional ballot (currently they can vote using a standard ballot after signing a sworn statement making the person subject to criminal felony penalties for making false statements).

Members of this committee include Cole (Chair), Putney, Ingram, Jones, Albo, Cosgrove, O'Bannon, Robert B. Bell, Miller, Landes, Hugo, J.A. Cox, Ramadan, Ransone, O'Quinn, J.M. Scott, Alexander, Joannou, Sickles, A.T. Howell, Dance, and Spruill. Please call these legislators, especially if you are a constituent, and ask them to vote **AGAINST** this bill. Messages can be left after hours on their voice mail.

To find out your legislator click [here](#)

This will also give you the telephone number to call your Senator at the General Assembly Building in Richmond.

Talking Points

- Attempt to respond to a problem that does not exist and in doing so makes the election process more onerous for election officers and officials, and for Virginia's citizens
- Makes it harder for citizens to actually exercise their right to vote (in one situation, in order for a 95-year old woman who walks with a walker and tires easily, she needs to get and pay for copies of both her birth certificate and marriage certificate -- a combined cost of \$85 -- plus the \$10 fee for an ID, and undergo the stress of traveling to the DMV just to get the ID)
- Use of provisional ballots slows the process of voting and closing the polls
- Use of provisional ballots has the potential for turning away voters who cannot take the extra time required to cast a provisional ballot that might never be counted
- At the electoral office, counting additional provisional ballots slows the canvass and could require additional staff, an additional expense that local electoral boards cannot afford