
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 1514

AN ACT CONCERNING CURBSIDE VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR ELECTORS WITH DISABILITIES OR OTHER INCAPACITIES.

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the curbside voting law, including adding several prohibitions related to using curbside voting. It also makes conforming changes.

Under current law, if a voter cannot access his or her polling place due to a temporary incapacity, the registrars of voters or the assistant registrars of voters must take a ballot out to the voter. After showing any required identification, the voter may mark their ballot and return it to the registrars to be cast. The bill (1) eliminates the requirement that the voter's incapacity be temporary in order to use curbside voting and (2) requires the registrars of voters to designate a specific area for curbside voting to occur.

Separately, the bill prohibits any person within a marked radius of 20 feet of an elector being brought a ballot curbside from (1) soliciting on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate or any question on the ballot or (2) loitering, peddling, or offering any advertising matter, ballot, or circular. (Unlike a similar exemption for conducting these activities 75 feet from a polling place entrance, the bill does not specify how this radius should be marked. Further, in practice, this radius would change depending on how many voters are using curbside voting (e.g., no voters, one voter, or multiple voters) or where the voters position themselves within the designated area.)

Additionally, no person may be in a vehicle being used by a person casting a ballot in the designated area unless they are casting a vote or driving the voter. Further, a candidate may never be in the vehicle unless he or she is casting his or her own vote.

The bill requires the secretary of the state to adopt any regulations she deems necessary to implement these provisions. She must include a model plan that municipalities may adopt.

A violation of these provisions, including the removal or injury to any marker the bill requires, is a class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to three months in prison, up to a \$500 fine, or both.

As with similar prohibitions under state law, these provisions do not prohibit (1) certain school-connected organizations from holding bake sales or other fundraising activities on election day other than where the election booths are located in a school, (2) election officials from distributing “I Voted Today” stickers, or (3) registrars from jointly permitting nonpartisan activities in a room other than where the election booths are located.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2026

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sSB 1516, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, makes identical changes.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/26/2025)