



Form: TH-08

Virginia Regulatory Town Hall

townhall.virginia.gov

Exempt Action Proposed Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	State Board of Elections
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation	1 VAC 20-70-20, 20-70-30 [20-45-40]
Regulation title	Material Omissions from Absentee Ballots
Action title	Material Omissions from Absentee Ballots
Document preparation date	June 10, 2014

When a regulatory action is exempt from executive branch review pursuant to § 2.2-4002 or § 2.2-4006 of the Administrative Process Act (APA), the agency is encouraged to provide information to the public on the Regulatory Town Hall using this form.

Note: While posting this form on the Town Hall is optional, the agency must comply with requirements of The Virginia Register Act, Executive Orders 14 (2010) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of all regulatory changes, including the rationale behind such changes. Alert the reader to all substantive matters or changes. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

These amendments conforms existing regulations to 2014 legislative changes regarding the sealing of envelopes and completion of prescribed statutory statement that identifies absentee voters by mail under Va. Code § 24.2-706. The legislative amendments allow counting the ballot if the outer envelope is sealed and specify that neither omission of the date nor middle name or initial require rejecting the ballot if first and last names are provided. Amendments also are proposed dealing with generational suffix and street identifiers.

Family impact

Assess the impact of this regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability.

The amendments dealing with generational suffix may affect families with multiple generations residing together.

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Public participation

Please indicate whether the agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, including ideas to assist the agency in the development of the proposal and the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this notice or other alternatives. Also, indicate whether a public hearing is to be held to receive comments on this notice.

The agency is seeking comments on the proposed regulatory action, including but not limited to improving clarity and utility to voters and election officials.

Anyone wishing to submit comments may do so at the public hearing to be scheduled in August 2014 - specific date, time, and place to be determined. Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments online using the Regulatory Town Hall website from June 30 through July 21, 2014, <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov> or by mail, email, or fax to Martha Brissette, Policy Analyst, Department of Elections, 1100 Bank St., Richmond, VA 23219, 804.864.8925, 804.371.0194 (fax), martha.brisette@elections.virginia.gov Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter. In order to be considered, written comments must be received by the last day of the public comment period.

A public hearing will be held after this regulatory stage is published in the *Virginia Register of Regulations* and notice of the hearing will be posted on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>) and on the Commonwealth Calendar website (<http://www.virginia.gov/cmsportal3/cgi-bin/calendar.cgi>). Both oral and written comments may be submitted at that time.