

Date: 5 Feb 2024

Bill number: SB-365

Indicate Disposition: Opponent

Randall Hardy

Speaker, Silver-Haired Legislature

Former State Senator

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

In 2019, I was vice-chair on the Elections and Local Government committee chaired by Senator Bowers. We were presented the same issue that you are dealing with today.

I remember that the heart of the issue in that hearing was the element of fairness to the voter. We wanted those who were using advance voting ballots to have the same opportunities as those who chose to wait until election day to cast their ballot. That sentiment resonated with the legislature, and the bill passed the Senate and House and became law.

To be fair, those casting advance voting ballots should have until 7 PM on election day to mail their ballots. That way, they will have full knowledge of the candidates in political situations that might influence voters' decisions prior to election day.

Requiring advance mail ballots to arrive by election day deprives those voters of full knowledge, and therefore makes the process unfair to those casting advance voting ballots.

Advance voting ballots are safe and secure. There is nothing nefarious about tallying the advance ballots after election day.

I urge you to consider the element of fairness when discussing this issue. Thank you for your time.