



HB 4535 (Hirschauer) E-Learning Day Election SUPPORT

This proposal clarifies when a school is used as a polling place on Election Day, a district may use its adopted and verified e-learning program to provide instruction remotely, **protect staff and student safety**, without using one of its allotted emergency days.

What the Bill Does

- Under the bill, a school board may use an adopted and verified e-learning program district-wide to provide instruction electronically on election day when a school has been selected as a polling place under Section 11-4.1 of the Election Code.
- This ensures districts can maintain instruction while avoiding the safety and security challenges created when large numbers of members of the public are present in a school building during the instructional day.

What the Bill Does NOT Do

- This bill does not expand the number of emergency days districts must schedule. It does not allow districts to reduce emergency days, or treat Election Day e-learning as a substitute for weather or emergency closures.

Why This Matters

1. Prioritizes student and staff safety
 - a. When schools are used as polling places, districts must manage increased building access, traffic, and unfamiliar visitors during the day. Even with safeguards, the presence of the general public in instructional spaces can create avoidable risk.
 - b. This bill allows approved e-learning plans to be utilized **without placing students and staff in a heightened safety environment.**
2. Prevents calendar manipulation
 - a. Election Day is a known, scheduled event, not an emergency.
 - b. This bill prevents districts from using Election Day to “burn” emergency day equivalents.
3. Protects emergency day planning
 - a. Emergency days exist for unexpected closures (weather, safety issues, facility emergencies).
 - b. This language preserves the purpose of emergency days and keeps calendars honest.
4. Supports continuity of learning
 - a. If a school must be closed to students because it is a polling place, e-learning allows:
 - i. a full instructional day,
 - ii. no lost instructional time,
 - iii. and no need to extend the school year.

SUPPORT HB 4535