

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 218, relative to absentee ballot outer envelopes.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator James Gray for the committee.

This bill removes the requirement that absentee ballots be placed in outer envelopes unless they are mailed to town or city clerks. It also allows clerks to open outer envelopes, allowing applicants time to cure defects. The committee believes enacting this bill would, during a preprocessing session, allow for ease of processing and increase transparency throughout the absentee voting process. For these reasons, the committee believes SB 218 Ought to Pass.