

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 294, relative to the processing of absentee ballots.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Pat Long for the committee.

HB 294 removes the ability of 10 voters to postpone the processing of absentee ballots. The committee believes that allowing a small group to halt the process of counting ballots on election day creates unnecessary bottlenecks, overburdens local officials, and risks voter disenfranchisement. By eliminating this provision, HB 294 strikes a balance between fairness and practicality, ensuring that ballots are counted promptly while still allowing challenges through existing oversight mechanisms. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends that HB 294 Ought to Pass.