

June 15, 2017
2017-2359-EBA
08/05

Enrolled Bill Amendment to SB 248

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred SB 248

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the rescheduling of elections and relative to absentee voter signatures.

Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill as amended ought to pass.

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Explanation to Enrolled Bill Amendment to SB 248

This enrolled bill amendment includes changes to RSA 657:4, I made by 2017, 49:1 (SB 108).

Enrolled Bill Amendment to SB 248

Amend section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

6 Absentee Voting; Forms. Amend RSA 657:4, I to read as follows:

I. Prior to any state election, the secretary of state shall prepare the appropriate application forms for absentee ballots worded in substantially the following form. The secretary of state shall insert the names of all parties qualified as set forth in RSA 652:11 in the list of parties on the application form. The secretary of state shall prepare the application forms in such quantity as he or she deems necessary:

Absence (Excluding Absence Due to Residence Outside the United States),

Religious Observance, and Disability:

I hereby declare that (check one):

☐ I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.

☐ I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability, and request that the forms necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

☐ I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where

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I am domiciled.

___ I am requesting a ballot for the presidential primary election and I may be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled, but the date of the election has not been announced. I understand that I may only make such a request 14 days after the filing period for candidates has closed, and that if I will not be absent on the date of the election I am not eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

___ I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.

___ I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.

___ I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24.

I am requesting an official absentee ballot for the following election (check one):

___ Presidential Primary to be held on _____

(MM/DD/YYYY)

(The date may appear as blank when the date is not known.)

___ State Primary to be held on _____

(MM/DD/YYYY)

___ General Election

For primary elections, I am a member of or I am now declaring my affiliation with the (check one):

___ Republican Party

___ Democratic Party

and am requesting a ballot for that party's primary.

Please print:

Applicant's Name:

(Last) (First) (Middle) (Sr., Jr., II., III)

Applicant's Voting Domicile (home address):

(Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

Mail the ballot to me at this address (if different than the home address):

(Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

Applicant's Phone Number (optional): _____

Applicant's Email Address (optional): _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

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~~[The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot.]~~

Date Signed: _____

(MM/DD/YYYY)

The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot. The signature on this form must match the signature on the affidavit envelope in which the absentee ballot is returned, or the ballot may be rejected. Any person who assists a voter with a disability in executing this form shall make a statement acknowledging the assistance on the application form to assist the moderator when comparing signatures on election day.

Amend the bill by replacing section 10 with the following:

10 Effective Date.

I. Section 6 of this act shall take effect July 11, 2017, at 12:01 a.m.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.