

Amendment to HB 556

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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3 1 Election Procedure; Processing Absentee Ballots; Death of a Voter. Amend RSA 659:48 to
4 read as follows:

5 659:48 Death of a Voter. If the officers charged with the duty of processing absentee ballots are
6 cognizant of the fact that the voter has died prior to the ***time that absentee ballots are to begin***
7 ***being processed in accordance with RSA 659:55-a, or prior to the*** opening of the polls, they
8 shall not open the envelope containing the absentee ballot.

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10 Amend RSA 659:55-a, I as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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12 I. The moderator, or his or her designee, may begin the processing of absentee ballots prior
13 to the opening of the polls provided that the clerk shall post, in an appropriate place and prior to
14 election day, notice of the time and place of the processing. Such notice shall be posted in 2
15 appropriate places, one of which may be the public body's Internet website, if such exists, or shall be
16 printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at least 48 hours, excluding
17 Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meeting. The partial processing of absentee ballots prior
18 to an election shall not occur more than 7 days prior to the date of the election nor prior to the
19 certification of the checklist by the supervisors of the checklist in accordance with RSA 654:29. The
20 moderator shall be assisted by at least 3 other election officers as defined under RSA 652:14. Under
21 no circumstances shall absentee ballots be counted prior to the opening of the polls.