

HB 136 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0258

08/06

HOUSE BILL **136**

AN ACT extending the time period for delivery of an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. to the close of the polls.

SPONSORS: Rep. Maggiore, Rock. 23; Rep. Balboni, Rock. 38; Rep. Bordes, Belk. 5; Rep. B. Boyd, Hills. 12; Rep. McGhee, Hills. 35; Rep. M. Smith, Straf. 10; Rep. Southworth, Straf. 11; Rep. Thackston, Ches. 12; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill extends the time period for delivery of an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. on election day to the close of the polling place.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT extending the time period for delivery of an absentee ballot from 5:00 p.m. to the close of the polls.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Procedure by Voter; Delivery of Absentee Ballots. Amend RSA 657:17, III to read as follows:

2 III. The city or town clerk, or ward clerk on election day at the polls, shall not accept an
3 absentee ballot from a delivery agent unless the delivery agent completes a form provided by the
4 secretary of state, which shall be maintained by the city or town clerk, and the delivery agent
5 presents a government-issued photo identification or has his or her identity verified by the city or
6 town clerk. Absentee ballots delivered through the mail or by the voter's delivery agent shall be
7 received by the town, city, or ward clerk no later than ~~[5:00 p.m.]~~ **the close of the polling place** on
8 the day of the election. A delivery agent who is assisting a voter who is blind or who has a disability
9 pursuant to this section may not personally deliver more than 4 absentee ballots in any election,
10 unless the delivery agent is a nursing home or residential care facility administrator, an
11 administrator designee, or a family member, each as authorized by this section.

12 2 Cutoff. Amend RSA 657:22 to read as follows:

13 657:22 Cutoff. In any state election, a town or city clerk shall not accept any completed
14 absentee ballots delivered to the clerk after ~~[5:00 p.m.]~~ **the close of the polling place** on election
15 day except as provided in RSA 657:21-a, V and RSA 659:20-a. The clerk shall record absentee ballots
16 received after such time in the statewide centralized voter registration database with the return
17 date and shall mark the ballot as rejected due to absentee ballot receipt after election day. The clerk
18 shall retain the unopened ballot until the time set for the destruction of other state election ballots
19 as provided in RSA 659:100 at which time the envelopes shall likewise be destroyed, unopened and
20 unexamined.

21 3 Voters Confined in Penal Institutions. Amend RSA 654:2-a, II(a) to read as follows:

22 (a) The person complies with all other applicable requirements and qualifications of the
23 state of New Hampshire, including, but not limited to, the requirement that an absentee voter take
24 the steps necessary to have his or her name placed on the voter checklist no later than 10 days
25 before an election and the requirement that the absentee voter take the steps necessary to make
26 sure that his or her ballot is received by the town or city clerk from whom it was sent by ~~[5:00 p.m.]~~
27 **the close of the polling place** on election day. A person confined in a penal institution shall use
28 the mail to comply with all applicable requirements and qualifications.

29 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.