

HB 160 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0730

08/11

HOUSE BILL ***160***

AN ACT relative to the contents of the pre-election certificate.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burnham, Straf. 2; Rep. Ankarberg, Straf. 7; Rep. Berry, Hills. 44; Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1; Rep. Panek, Hills. 1; Rep. Sellers, Graf. 18; Rep. Wherry, Hills. 13; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill adds to the contents of the pre-election certificate.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to the contents of the pre-election certificate.

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

1 1 Pre-Election Certificate. Amend RSA 658:32 to read as follows:

2 658:32 Pre-Election Certificate.

3 **I.** The secretary of state shall prepare and distribute to each town or ward clerk 3 copies of
4 the pre-election certificate. When the ballots are counted, the moderator and clerk shall certify
5 thereon the **following**:

6 (a) ~~[Total number of ballots received.]~~ **The total number of absentee ballots received**
7 **from the secretary of state.**

8 (b) **The number of absentee ballots mailed to voters.**

9 (c) **The number of absentee ballots spoiled.**

10 (d) **The number of absentee ballots remaining at the close of polls.**

11 **II.** One copy shall be retained by the moderator for his or her records; one copy shall be
12 retained by the clerk for his or her records, and one copy shall be forwarded by the clerk to the
13 secretary of state with the election returns pursuant to RSA 659:75.

14 2 General Content of Return; Additional Information. Amend RSA 659:73, III to read as follows:

15 **III.** The moderator shall fill out a moderator's post-election certificate prepared by the
16 secretary of state, which shall be recorded and signed by the moderator within 48 hours of the
17 closing of the polls or other time ordered by the secretary of state and submitted to the clerk. The
18 post-election certificate shall include, but not be limited to:

19 (a) The number of official ballots received from the secretary of state brought to the
20 polling place by the city or town clerk on election day, excluding ballots marked as test ballots and
21 used prior to election day to test an electronic ballot counting device.

22 (b) The number of official ballots cast on election day.

23 (c) If the polling place runs out of official ballots, the number of absentee ballots used as
24 official ballots and cast.

25 (d) If the polling place runs out of official ballots, the number of photocopied ballots used
26 as official ballots and cast.

27 (e) The number of state absentee ballots cast.

28 (f) The number of federal offices only absentee ballots cast.

29 (g) The number of state write-in absentee ballots cast.

30 (h) The number of federal write-in absentee ballots cast.

31 (i) **The number of general election ballots remaining.**

1 ***(j) The total number of ballots cast.***

2 ***(k)*** A comparison of the different methods of tallying ballots cast.

3 3 General Content of Return. Amend RSA 659:73, V-VI to read as follows:

4 V. ~~[The moderator shall record and sign a ballots cast form prepared by the secretary of~~
5 ~~state within 48 hours of the closing of the polls, or other time ordered by the secretary of state, and~~
6 ~~shall submit the form to the secretary of state, with a copy to the clerk. The ballots cast form shall~~
7 ~~include, but not be limited to:~~

8 ~~(a) The number of official election day ballots cast;~~

9 ~~(b) The number of absentee ballots cast;~~

10 ~~(c) The number of federal office only cast; and~~

11 ~~(d) The total number of ballots cast.~~

12 ~~VI.]~~ The town or city clerk may require that forms be completed under this section earlier
13 than the time required by the secretary of state.

14 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.