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January 31, 2025

The Honorable Ross Berry
Chairman
Election Law
NH Senate
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Berry and members of the Election Law Committee,

The NH Association of Counties would like to register its opposition to HB 686, requiring a voter to provide identification when requesting an absentee ballot.

While the Association understands the concern for safe and secure elections, counties are concerned about the fiscal impact to implementing this legislation. Counties operate 11 long term care facilities and 10 county correctional facilities. This bill requires copies of birth certificates, government issued identification cards and other documentation. Often residents in our long-term care facilities and county jails do not have access to these documents, which would infringe on their constitutional right to vote. Additionally, the requirement for a notary would likely prove costly to complete for county facilities.

For these reasons, the NH Association of Counties would urge the committee to vote HB 686 inexpedient to legislate. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please contact Kate Horgan at khorgan@dupontgroup.com

Sincerely,

Cathy Ann Stacey
President,
NH Association of Counties