

HB 1287 -- ADVANCE BALLOTS

SPONSOR: English

Beginning January 1, 2015, this bill allows any registered voter to vote by advance ballot beginning on the third Wednesday before an election at the central voting location in the jurisdiction designated by the election authority. Voting will be allowed on weekdays during regular business hours which cannot begin earlier than 7:00 a.m. nor extend beyond 7:00 p.m. and on Saturdays until 12:00 p.m. through the close of regular business hours on the Wednesday before the election.

For federal elections, up to six satellite voting sites must be provided by the election authority with one satellite site established for every 50,000 registered voters. For all other elections and for a jurisdiction with fewer than 50,000 registered voters, the use of satellite sites is discretionary. An election authority must provide adequate public notice of the designated central voting location and the satellite sites on its website and at its offices and may publicize the location of the other sites through other means. The election authority must appoint at least one judge from each major political party at each satellite site. No major political party may have a majority of the judges at any satellite site, and no established party can have a greater number of judges at any satellite than any major political party.

If it is determined that a voter submitted an advance ballot and also voted at the polls on election day, he or she will be guilty of a class one election offense. All costs associated with the implementation of advance voting must be reimbursed from the state's general revenue.

The bill also specifies that any person who knowingly discloses specified confidential information regarding advance ballots or absentee ballots to unauthorized persons will be guilty of a class four election offense. Persons voting by advance ballot will receive the same confidentiality protections as those voting by absentee ballot.

The bill also increases, from 25 to 100 feet of a building's outer door closest to the polling place, the prohibition of exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature, posting signs, or placing vehicles bearing signs regarding any candidate or question on an election day.

Certain provisions requiring the election authority to record information regarding advance and absentee ballots in St. Louis and Kansas City and the counties of Jackson and St. Louis are repealed

to require all election authorities to record the information.