

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1055

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOVIS.

2198H.011

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.295 and 115.300, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to absentee ballots.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.295 and 115.300, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.295 and 115.300, to read as follows:

115.295. 1. As each absentee ballot is received by the election authority, the election authority shall indicate its receipt on the list.

2. If the statements on any ballot envelope have not been completed~~[, the absentee ballot in the envelope shall be rejected]~~ **or the envelope has not been notarized as required by section 115.291, the election authority shall notify the voter of the incomplete information by all means reasonably calculated to make contact with the voter including, but not limited to, postal mail, telephone, and email. The notice shall include a description of the missing information and instructions for how the voter can provide the missing information to the election authority.**

3. The election authority shall allow the voter to supply the missing information by completing a new statement as described in section 115.283 and delivering it to the election authority by any means authorized by law for delivering absentee ballots.

4. Only an employee of the election authority may contact the voter concerning missing ballot envelope information. An election authority shall not authorize any third-party organization to contact voters concerning missing ballot envelope information.

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~[thus]~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **5. Voters may provide missing information for the ballot envelope only after the**
18 **envelope containing the ballot has been received in the office of the election authority.**
19 **No person shall change any selections on the ballot contained within the envelope after it**
20 **is initially received by the election authority.**

21 **6. If the voter provides the missing information no later than the time the polls**
22 **close on election day, the ballot shall be accepted for counting according to the**
23 **requirements of section 115.299. If the voter fails to provide the missing information**
24 **before the polls close on election day, the ballot shall be rejected.**

25 [3:] **7. All ballot envelopes received by the election authority shall be kept together in**
26 **a safe place and shall not be opened except as provided in this subchapter.**

 115.300. In each jurisdiction, the election authority may start, ~~[not earlier than the~~
2 ~~fifth day prior to the election]~~ **upon receipt**, the preparation of absentee ballots for tabulation
3 on the election day. The election authority shall give notice to the county chairman of each
4 major political party forty-eight hours prior to beginning preparation of absentee ballot
5 envelopes. Absentee ballot preparation shall be completed by teams of election authority
6 employees or teams of election judges, with each team consisting of one member from each
7 major political party.

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