

House File 239 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY SMITH

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to delivery of absentee ballots to certain health
2 care facilities and hospitals.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
4 TLSB 1173HH 83
5 sc/nh/8

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1 1 Section 1. Section 53.22, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
1 2 2009, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:
1 3 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (1A) Notwithstanding subparagraph (1)
1 4 and subsection 3, the commissioner shall, upon receipt of an
1 5 application under this section, contact the applicant by
1 6 telephone to determine whether the applicant wishes to have
1 7 the absentee ballot mailed to the applicant. If the applicant
1 8 wishes to have the absentee ballot delivered by mail, the
1 9 commissioner shall proceed under section 53.8, subsections 1
1 10 and 2. If the commissioner is unable to make contact with the
1 11 applicant by telephone within four days of receiving the
1 12 application, the applicant shall be delivered the absentee
1 13 ballot in the manner provided in subparagraph (1). If section
1 14 53.8, subsection 3, applies to an application received by the
1 15 commissioner, the commissioner shall not mail the notice
1 16 required under section 53.8, subsection 3, until the
1 17 commissioner has contacted the applicant by telephone or after
1 18 four days following the receipt of the application, whichever
1 19 is earlier.

EXPLANATION

1 20
1 21 Under current law, a resident of a health care facility or
1 22 hospital who makes application for an absentee ballot is, in
1 23 most circumstances, delivered the ballot by two special
1 24 precinct election officials appointed by the county
1 25 commissioner of elections. This bill provides that, upon
1 26 receipt of an application for an absentee ballot by a resident
1 27 of a health care facility or hospital, the commissioner shall
1 28 attempt to contact the applicant by telephone to determine
1 29 whether the applicant wishes to have the absentee ballot
1 30 delivered by mail. If the commissioner is unable to make
1 31 telephone contact with the applicant within four days of
1 32 receipt of the application, the ballot shall be delivered to
1 33 the applicant by the two special precinct election officials.
1 34 LSB 1173HH 83
1 35 sc/nh/8