

House File 506 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 506
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 146)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act related to absentee ballot deadlines.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 53.17, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. The sealed return envelope may be mailed to the
4 commissioner by the registered voter or by the voter's
5 designee. If mailed by the voter's designee, the envelope
6 must be mailed within seventy-two hours of retrieving it from
7 the voter or within time to be ~~postmarked not later than the~~
8 ~~day before the election~~ received in the commissioner's office
9 before the polls close on election day, whichever is earlier.

10 Sec. 2. Section 53.17, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2015, are
11 amended to read as follows:

12 2. In order for the ballot to be counted, the return
13 envelope must be received in the commissioner's office before
14 the polls close on election day ~~or be clearly postmarked by~~
15 ~~an officially authorized postal service not later than the~~
16 ~~day before the election and received by the commissioner not~~
17 ~~later than noon on the Monday following the election, except~~
18 for ballots received from a member of the armed forces of the
19 United States pursuant to subchapter II of this chapter, which
20 must be received by noon on the day before the supervisors
21 canvass the votes.

22 3. ~~If the law authorizing the election specifies that~~
23 ~~the supervisors canvass the votes earlier than the Monday~~
24 ~~following the election, absentee ballots returned through the~~
25 ~~mail must be received not later than the time established for~~
26 ~~the canvass by the board of supervisors for that election.~~
27 The commissioner shall contact the post office serving the
28 commissioner's office at the latest practicable hour before
29 ~~the canvass by the board of supervisors~~ 10:00 a.m. on the day
30 before the board of supervisors canvass the votes for that
31 election, and shall arrange for absentee ballots received in
32 that post office but not yet delivered to the commissioner's
33 office to be brought to the commissioner's office before the
34 ~~canvass for that election by the board of supervisors~~ noon on
35 that day.

