

House File 236 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 236

BY JACOBY

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the absentee voting period.

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

1 Section 1. Section 53.8, subsection 1, paragraph a,
2 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2019, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 Upon receipt of an application for an absentee ballot
5 and immediately after the absentee ballots are printed,
6 ~~but not more than twenty-nine days before the election,~~ the
7 commissioner shall mail an absentee ballot to the applicant
8 within twenty-four hours, except as otherwise provided in
9 subsection 3. The absentee ballot shall be sent to the
10 registered voter by one of the following methods:

11 Sec. 2. Section 53.10, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 1. Not more than ~~twenty-nine~~ forty-five days before the
14 date of the primary election or the general election, the
15 commissioner shall provide facilities for absentee voting in
16 person at the commissioner's office. This service shall also
17 be provided for other elections as soon as the ballots are
18 ready, but in no case shall absentee ballots be available under
19 this section more than ~~twenty-nine~~ forty-five days before an
20 election.

21 Sec. 3. Section 53.11, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2019,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 a. Not more than ~~twenty-nine~~ forty-five days before the
24 date of an election, satellite absentee voting stations may be
25 established throughout the cities and county at the direction
26 of the commissioner and shall be established upon receipt
27 of a petition signed by not less than one hundred eligible
28 electors requesting that a satellite absentee voting station
29 be established at a location to be described on the petition.
30 However, if a special election is scheduled in the county on a
31 date that falls between the date of the regular city election
32 and the date of the city runoff election, the commissioner is
33 not required to establish a satellite absentee voting station
34 for the city runoff election.

35 Sec. 4. Section 53.42, Code 2019, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **53.42 Voting in person in commissioner's office.**

3 Notwithstanding the provision as to time found in section
4 53.10, any qualified voter in the armed forces of the United
5 States may personally appear in the office of the commissioner
6 of the county of the voter's residence and there vote an absent
7 voter's ballot at any time not earlier than ~~forty~~ forty-five
8 days before the primary or general election, as the case may
9 be.

10

EXPLANATION

11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill changes the start of the absentee voting period
14 from not more than 29 days before the date of an election to not
15 more than 45 days before the date of an election. The bill also
16 changes the start of the absentee voting period for qualified
17 voters in the armed forces from not more than 40 days before
18 the date of an election to not more than 45 days before the date
19 of an election.