

House File 380 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 380

BY MASCHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the scanning and usage of intelligent mail
2 barcodes on absentee ballots.

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

1 Section 1. Section 53.17, subsection 2, Code 2019, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. In order for the ballot to be counted, the return
4 envelope must be received in the commissioner's office before
5 the polls close on election day or be clearly postmarked by an
6 officially authorized postal service or bear an intelligent
7 mail barcode traceable to a date of entry into the federal mail
8 system not later than the day before the election and received
9 by the commissioner not later than noon on the Monday following
10 the election. The commissioner shall cause to be placed on
11 every ballot an intelligent mail barcode. However, if the
12 ballot contains a postmark and an intelligent mail barcode, the
13 commissioner shall cause the intelligent mail barcode to be
14 scanned only if the postmark does not indicate that the ballot
15 was mailed by the deadline in this section.

16 Sec. 2. Section 53.22, subsection 6, paragraph b, Code 2019,
17 is amended to read as follows:

18 b. Absentee ballots voted under **this subsection** shall be
19 delivered to the commissioner no later than the time the polls
20 are closed on election day. If the ballot is returned by mail
21 the return envelope must be received by the time the polls
22 close, or be clearly postmarked by an officially authorized
23 postal service or bear an intelligent mail barcode traceable
24 to a date of entry into the federal mail system not later than
25 the day before the election and received by the commissioner no
26 later than the time established for the canvass by the board
27 of supervisors for that election. The commissioner shall
28 cause to be scanned the intelligent mail barcode on every
29 ballot, provided that if the ballot contains a postmark and
30 an intelligent mail barcode, the commissioner shall cause the
31 intelligent mail barcode to be scanned only if the postmark
32 does not indicate that the ballot was mailed by the deadline in
33 this section.

34 Sec. 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
35 3, shall not apply to this Act.

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EXPLANATION

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

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4 This bill requires the county commissioner of elections
5 to place an intelligent mail barcode on every ballot return
6 envelope and to scan the intelligent mail barcode on any
7 absentee ballot received by the commissioner that contains such
8 a barcode to determine when the ballot entered the federal
9 mail system. However, if the ballot contains a postmark and
10 an intelligent mail barcode, the commissioner shall cause the
11 intelligent mail barcode to be scanned only if the postmark
12 does not indicate that the ballot was mailed by the applicable
13 deadline.

14 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
15 section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable Code section 25B.2,
16 subsection 3, which would relieve a political subdivision from
17 complying with a state mandate if funding for the cost of
18 the state mandate is not provided or specified. Therefore,
19 political subdivisions are required to comply with any state
20 mandate included in the bill.