

House File 2385 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2385

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the automatic mailing of ballots, and
2 including applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 22.7, subsection 72, Code 2024, is
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 48A.10A, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 1. The state registrar shall compare lists of persons who
6 are registered to vote with the department of transportation's
7 driver's license and nonoperator's identification card files
8 and shall, on an initial basis, issue a voter identification
9 card to each active, registered voter whose name does not
10 appear in the department of transportation's files. The voter
11 identification card shall include the name of the registered
12 voter, a signature line above which the registered voter shall
13 sign the voter identification card, the registered voter's
14 identification number assigned to the voter pursuant to section
15 47.7, subsection 2, instructions on how the voter may track the
16 status of an absentee ballot, an additional four-digit personal
17 identification number assigned by the state commissioner, and
18 the times during which polling places will be open on election
19 days.

20 Sec. 3. Section 53.1, Code 2024, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 **53.1 Right to vote — conditions power of attorney.**

23 ~~1. Any registered voter may, subject to the provisions of~~
24 ~~this chapter, vote at any election:~~

25 ~~a. When the voter expects to be absent on election day~~
26 ~~during the time the polls are open from the precinct in which~~
27 ~~the voter is a registered voter.~~

28 ~~b. When, through illness or physical disability, the voter~~
29 ~~expects to be prevented from going to the polls and voting on~~
30 ~~election day.~~

31 ~~c. When the voter expects to be unable to go to the polls~~
32 ~~and vote on election day.~~

33 2. A person who has been designated to have power of
34 attorney by a registered voter does not have authority
35 to ~~request or to~~ cast an absentee ballot on behalf of the

1 registered voter.

2 Sec. 4. Section 53.7, Code 2024, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 **53.7 Solicitation by public employees.**

5 1. It shall be unlawful for any employee of the state or any
6 employee of a political subdivision ~~to solicit any application~~
7 ~~or request for application for an absentee ballot, or to take~~
8 an affidavit in connection with any absentee ballot while the
9 employee is on the employer's premises or otherwise in the
10 course of employment. However, any such employee may take such
11 affidavit in connection with an absentee ballot which is cast
12 by the registered voter in person in the office where such
13 employee is employed in accordance with [section 53.10](#) or [53.11](#).
14 This subsection shall not apply to any elected official.

15 2. It is unlawful for any public officer or employee,
16 or any person acting under color of a public officer or
17 employee, to knowingly require a public employee ~~to solicit an~~
18 ~~application or request an application for an absentee ballot,~~
19 ~~or to knowingly require an employee to take an affidavit or~~
20 request for an affidavit in connection with an absentee ballot
21 application.

22 Sec. 5. Section 53.8, Code 2024, is amended to read as
23 follows:

24 **53.8 Ballot mailed.**

25 1. *a.* ~~Upon receipt of an application for an absentee ballot~~
26 ~~and immediately after the absentee ballots are printed, but not~~
27 Not more than twenty forty-five days before the election, the
28 commissioner shall mail an absentee ballot to ~~the applicant~~
29 ~~within twenty-four hours~~ each registered voter, except as
30 otherwise provided in [subsection 3](#). The absentee ballot
31 shall be sent to the registered voter by one of the following
32 methods:

33 (1) The absentee ballot shall be enclosed in an unsealed
34 envelope marked with a serial number and affidavit. The
35 absentee ballot and affidavit envelope shall be enclosed in

1 or with an unsealed return envelope marked postage paid which
2 bears the same serial number as the affidavit envelope. The
3 absentee ballot, affidavit envelope, and return envelope shall
4 be enclosed in a third envelope to be sent to the registered
5 voter. If the ballot cannot be folded so that all of the votes
6 cast on the ballot will be hidden, the commissioner shall also
7 enclose a secrecy envelope with the absentee ballot.

8 (2) The absentee ballot shall be enclosed in an unsealed
9 return envelope marked with a serial number and affidavit
10 and marked postage paid. The absentee ballot and return
11 envelope shall be enclosed in a second envelope to be sent
12 to the registered voter. If the ballot cannot be folded so
13 that all of the votes cast on the ballot will be hidden, the
14 commissioner shall also enclose a secrecy envelope with the
15 absentee ballot.

16 *b.* The affidavit shall be marked on the appropriate envelope
17 in a form prescribed by the state commissioner of elections.

18 *c.* For envelopes mailed at any election other than the
19 primary election, the commissioner shall not mark any envelope
20 with any information related to the party affiliation of the
21 ~~applicant~~ registered voter.

22 2. ~~a.~~ The commissioner shall enclose with the absentee
23 ballot a statement informing the ~~applicant~~ registered
24 voter that the sealed return envelope may be mailed to the
25 commissioner by the registered voter or a person not prohibited
26 to collect and deliver a completed ballot pursuant to section
27 53.33, may be returned to a drop box established by the
28 commissioner pursuant to [section 53.17, subsection 1](#), by the
29 registered voter or a person not prohibited to collect and
30 deliver a completed ballot pursuant to [section 53.33](#), only
31 if the commissioner has established such a drop box, or may
32 be personally delivered to the commissioner's office by the
33 registered voter or a person not prohibited to collect and
34 deliver a completed ballot pursuant to [section 53.33](#). The
35 statement shall also inform the voter that the voter may

1 request that the person not prohibited to collect and deliver a
2 completed ballot pursuant to [section 53.33](#) complete a receipt
3 when retrieving the ballot from the voter and that the status
4 of the absentee ballot may be checked on the internet site of
5 the secretary of state. A blank receipt shall be enclosed with
6 the absentee ballot.

7 ~~b. If an application is received so late that it is unlikely~~
8 ~~that the absentee ballot can be returned in time to be counted~~
9 ~~on election day, the commissioner shall enclose with the~~
10 ~~absentee ballot a statement to that effect.~~

11 3. a. When an ~~application for an~~ absentee ballot is
12 ~~received~~ mailed by the commissioner of any county ~~from~~ to a
13 registered voter who is a patient in a hospital in that county,
14 a tenant of an assisted living program in that county as shown
15 by the list of certifications provided the commissioner under
16 section 231C.21, or a resident of any facility in that county
17 shown to be a health care facility by the list of licenses
18 provided the commissioner under [section 135C.29](#), the absentee
19 ballot shall be delivered to the voter and returned to the
20 commissioner in the manner prescribed by [section 53.22](#). For
21 purposes of this paragraph, "*assisted living program*" means a
22 program certified pursuant to [section 231C.3](#) that meets the
23 standards for a dementia-specific assisted living program, as
24 established by rule by the department of inspections, appeals,
25 and licensing.

26 ~~b. (1) If the application is received more than five~~
27 ~~days before the ballots are printed and the commissioner has~~
28 ~~elected to have the ballots personally delivered during the~~
29 ~~ten-day period after the ballots are printed, the commissioner~~
30 ~~shall mail to the applicant within twenty-four hours a letter~~
31 ~~in substantially the following form: The state commissioner~~
32 ~~shall adopt rules regarding the delivery and return of absentee~~
33 ~~ballots pursuant to this subsection.~~

34 ~~Your application for an absentee ballot for the election~~
35 ~~to be held on has been received. This ballot will~~

1 ~~be personally delivered to you by a bipartisan team sometime~~
2 ~~during the ten days after the ballots are printed. If you will~~
3 ~~not be at the address from which your application was sent~~
4 ~~during any or all of the ten-day period immediately following~~
5 ~~the printing of the ballots, the ballot will be personally~~
6 ~~delivered to you sometime during the fourteen days preceding~~
7 ~~the election. If you will not be at the address from which~~
8 ~~your application was sent during either of these time periods,~~
9 ~~contact this office and arrangements will be made to have your~~
10 ~~absentee ballot delivered at a time when you will be present at~~
11 ~~that address.~~

12 (2) ~~If the application is received more than fourteen~~
13 ~~calendar days before the election and the commissioner has not~~
14 ~~elected to mail absentee ballots to applicants as provided~~
15 ~~under [section 53.22, subsection 4](#), and has not elected to have~~
16 ~~the absentee ballots personally delivered during the ten-day~~
17 ~~period after the ballots are printed, the commissioner shall~~
18 ~~mail to the applicant within twenty-four hours a letter in~~
19 ~~substantially the following form:~~

20 Your application for an absentee ballot for the election
21 to be held on has been received. This ballot will
22 be personally delivered to you by a bipartisan team sometime
23 during the fourteen days preceding the election. If you will
24 not be at the address from which your application was sent
25 during any or all of the fourteen-day period immediately
26 preceding the election, contact this office and arrangements
27 will be made to have your absentee ballot delivered at a time
28 when you will be present at that address.

29 c. Nothing in [this subsection](#) nor in [section 53.22](#)
30 shall be construed to prohibit a registered voter who is a
31 hospital patient or resident of a health care facility, or who
32 anticipates entering a hospital or health care facility before
33 the date of a forthcoming election, from casting an absentee
34 ballot in the manner prescribed by [section 53.10](#) or [53.11](#).

35 4. ~~The commissioner and the state commissioner shall not~~

1 ~~mail an absentee ballot to a person who has not submitted an~~
2 ~~application for an absentee ballot.~~

3 Sec. 6. Section 53.10, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 2. ~~a.~~ Each person who wishes to vote by absentee ballot
6 at the commissioner's office shall first sign an application
7 for a ballot including the ~~following information: name,~~
8 ~~current address, voter verification number, and the election~~
9 for which the ballot is requested. The person may report a
10 change of address or other information on the person's voter
11 registration record at that time. ~~Prior to furnishing a~~
12 ~~ballot, the commissioner shall verify the person's identity~~
13 ~~as provided in [section 49.78](#).~~ The registered voter shall
14 immediately mark the ballot; enclose the ballot in a secrecy
15 envelope, if necessary, and seal it in the envelope marked
16 with the affidavit; subscribe to the affidavit on the reverse
17 side of the envelope; and return the absentee ballot to the
18 commissioner. The commissioner shall record the numbers
19 appearing on the application and affidavit envelope along with
20 the name of the registered voter.

21 ~~b.~~ For purposes of ~~this subsection~~, "~~voter verification~~
22 ~~number~~" means the registered voter's driver's license number
23 or nonoperator's identification card number assigned to the
24 voter by the department of transportation or the registered
25 voter's identification number assigned to the voter by the
26 state commissioner pursuant to ~~[section 47.7, subsection 2](#)~~.

27 Sec. 7. Section 53.12, Code 2024, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 **53.12 Duty of commissioner.**

30 The commissioner shall enclose the absentee ballot in
31 an unsealed envelope, to be furnished by the commissioner,
32 which envelope shall bear upon its face the words "county
33 commissioner of elections", the address of the commissioner's
34 office, and the same a serial number appearing on the unsealed
35 envelope shall be affixed to the application.

1 Sec. 8. Section 53.18, subsections 1 and 3, Code 2024, are
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. When the return envelope containing the completed
4 absentee ballot is received by the commissioner, the
5 commissioner shall at once electronically record receipt of
6 such ballot. Absentee ballots shall be stored in a secure
7 place until they are delivered to the absentee and special
8 voters precinct board.

9 3. If the affidavit envelope or the return envelope marked
10 with the affidavit contains a defect that would cause the
11 absentee ballot to be rejected by the absentee and special
12 voters precinct board, the commissioner shall immediately
13 notify the voter of that fact and that the voter's absentee
14 ballot shall not be counted unless the voter requests and
15 returns a replacement ballot in the time permitted under
16 section 53.17, subsection 2. For the purposes of [this section](#),
17 a return envelope marked with the affidavit shall be considered
18 to contain a defect if it appears to the commissioner that
19 the signature on the envelope has been signed by someone
20 other than the registered voter, in comparing the signature
21 on the envelope to the signature on record of the registered
22 voter named on the envelope. A signature or marking made
23 in accordance with [section 39.3, subsection 17](#), shall not
24 be considered a defect for purposes of [this section](#). The
25 voter may request a replacement ballot in person, in writing,
26 or over the telephone. The same serial number that was
27 assigned to the records of the original absentee ballot
28 ~~application~~ shall be used on the envelope and records of the
29 replacement ballot. The envelope marked with the affidavit and
30 containing the completed replacement ballot shall be marked
31 "Replacement ballot". The envelope marked with the affidavit
32 and containing the original ballot shall be marked "Defective"
33 and the replacement ballot shall be attached to such envelope
34 containing the original ballot and shall be stored in a secure
35 place until they are delivered to the absentee and special

1 voters precinct board, notwithstanding [sections 53.26](#) and
2 [53.27](#).

3 Sec. 9. Section 53.19, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 1. The commissioner shall maintain a list of the absentee
6 ballots provided to registered voters, the serial number
7 appearing on the unsealed envelope, ~~the date the application~~
8 ~~for the absentee ballot was received~~, the date the absentee
9 ballot was sent to the registered voter ~~requesting the absentee~~
10 ~~ballot~~, the date the absentee ballot was received by the
11 commissioner, the date the absentee ballot outer envelope
12 was opened, and whether the ballot was delivered by mail, in
13 person, to a ballot drop box, or cast in person at a satellite
14 location. The information under [this subsection](#) shall be
15 reported separately at the same time as the information
16 reported under [section 53.30, subsection 3](#).

17 Sec. 10. Section 53.19, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
18 2024, is amended to read as follows:

19 *b.* A registered voter who ~~has requested an absentee ballot~~
20 ~~by mail but~~ for any reason has not received it an absentee
21 ballot by mail or who has not brought the ballot to the polls
22 may appear at the voter's precinct polling place on election
23 day and, after the precinct election officials confirm the
24 commissioner has not received the voter's absentee ballot, the
25 voter shall be permitted to vote in person at the polls. If
26 the precinct election officials are unable to confirm whether
27 the commissioner has received the voter's absentee ballot, the
28 voter shall cast a ballot in accordance with [section 49.81](#).

29 Sec. 11. Section 53.21, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
30 to read as follows:

31 1. A voter ~~who has requested an absentee ballot~~ may obtain
32 a replacement absentee ballot if the voter declares that the
33 original ballot was lost or did not arrive. The commissioner
34 upon receipt of a written or oral request for a replacement
35 ballot shall provide a duplicate ballot. The same serial

1 number that was assigned to the records of the original
2 absentee ballot request shall be used on the envelopes and
3 records of the replacement ballot.

4 Sec. 12. Section 53.21, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code
5 2024, is amended to read as follows:

6 a. The commissioner shall include with the replacement
7 ballot two copies of a statement in substantially the following
8 form:

9 The My absentee ballot which I requested on (date)
10 has been lost or was never received. If I find this absentee
11 ballot I will return it, unvoted, to the commissioner.

12

13 (Signature of voter)

14

15 (Date)

16 Sec. 13. Section 53.22, subsection 2, paragraph a,
17 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

18 (1) A registered voter who has applied for an absentee
19 ballot, in a manner other than that prescribed by section 53.10
20 or 53.11, and who is a resident, tenant, or patient in a health
21 care facility, assisted living program, or hospital located in
22 the county to which the application has been submitted shall
23 be delivered the appropriate absentee ballot by two special
24 precinct election officers, one of whom shall be a member of
25 each of the political parties referred to in section 49.13, who
26 shall be appointed by the commissioner from the election board
27 panel for the special precinct established by section 53.20.
28 The special precinct election officers shall be sworn in the
29 manner provided by section 49.75 for election board members,
30 shall receive compensation as provided in section 49.20,
31 and shall perform their duties during the ten calendar days
32 after the ballots are printed if the commissioner so elects,
33 during the fourteen calendar days preceding the election, and
34 on election day if all ballots requested under section 53.8,
35 subsection 3, have not previously been delivered and returned.

1 Sec. 14. Section 53.22, subsection 2, paragraphs b and c,
2 Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

3 ~~b. If an applicant under a registered voter subject to this~~
4 subsection notifies the commissioner that the ~~applicant voter~~
5 will not be available at the health care facility, assisted
6 living program, or hospital address at any time during the
7 ten-day period after the ballots are printed, if applicable,
8 or during the fourteen-day period immediately prior to the
9 election, but will be available there at some other time prior
10 to the election or on election day, the commissioner shall
11 direct the two special precinct election officers to deliver
12 the applicant's ballot at an appropriate time preceding the
13 election or on election day. ~~If a person who so requested an~~
14 ~~absentee ballot voter~~ has been dismissed from the health care
15 facility or hospital, or is no longer a tenant of the assisted
16 living program, the special precinct election officers may take
17 the ballot to the voter if the voter is currently residing in
18 the county.

19 c. The special precinct election officers shall travel
20 together in the same vehicle and both shall be present when
21 ~~an applicant~~ a voter casts an absentee ballot. If either
22 or both of the special precinct election officers fail to
23 appear at the time the duties set forth in [this section](#) are
24 to be performed, the commissioner shall at once appoint some
25 other person, giving preference to persons designated by
26 the respective county chairpersons of the political parties
27 described in [section 49.13](#), to carry out the requirements of
28 this section. The persons authorized by [this subsection](#) to
29 deliver an absentee ballot to ~~an applicant~~ a voter, and, if
30 requested, may assist the ~~applicant voter~~ in filling out the
31 ballot as permitted by [section 49.90](#). After the voter has
32 securely sealed the marked ballot in the envelope provided and
33 has subscribed to the oath, the voted absentee ballots shall
34 be deposited in a sealed container which shall be returned to
35 the commissioner on the same day the ballots are voted. On

1 election day the officers shall return the sealed container by
2 the time the polls are closed.

3 Sec. 15. Section 53.22, subsections 3, 4, and 5, Code 2024,
4 are amended to read as follows:

5 3. Any registered voter who becomes a patient, tenant, or
6 resident of a hospital, assisted living program, or health
7 care facility in the county where the voter is registered
8 to vote ~~after the deadline to make a written application~~
9 ~~for an absentee ballot as provided in [section 53.2](#) within~~
10 three days prior to the date of any election or on election
11 day may request an absentee ballot during that period or on
12 election day. ~~As an alternative to the application procedure~~
13 ~~prescribed by [section 53.2](#), the~~ The registered voter may make
14 the request directly to the officers who are delivering and
15 returning absentee ballots under [this section](#). Alternatively,
16 the request may be made by telephone to the office of the
17 commissioner not later than four hours before the close of the
18 polls. If the requester is found to be a registered voter
19 of that county, these officers shall deliver the appropriate
20 absentee ballot to the registered voter in the manner
21 prescribed by [this section](#).

22 4. For any election except a primary or general election
23 or a special election to fill a vacancy under [section 69.14](#),
24 the commissioner may, as an alternative to [subsection 2](#), mail
25 an absentee ballot to ~~an applicant~~ a registered voter under
26 this section to be voted and returned to the commissioner in
27 accordance with [this chapter](#). [This subsection](#) only applies
28 to ~~applications for~~ absentee ballots ~~from~~ for a single health
29 care facility, assisted living program, or hospital if there
30 are no more than two applications from that facility, program,
31 or hospital.

32 5. The commissioner shall mail an absentee ballot to a
33 registered voter ~~who has applied for an absentee ballot and~~
34 who is a patient, tenant, or resident of a hospital, assisted
35 living program, or health care facility outside the county in

1 which the voter is registered to vote.

2 Sec. 16. Section 53.22, subsection 6, paragraph a, Code
3 2024, is amended to read as follows:

4 a. If the registered voter becomes a patient, tenant, or
5 resident of a hospital, assisted living program, or health care
6 facility outside the county where the voter is registered to
7 vote ~~after the deadline to make a written application for an~~
8 ~~absentee ballot as provided in [section 53.2](#)~~ within three days
9 of any election or on election day, the voter may designate a
10 person to deliver and return the absentee ballot. The designee
11 shall be a person not prohibited to collect and deliver a
12 completed ballot pursuant to [section 53.33](#). The request for
13 an absentee ballot may be made by telephone to the office of
14 the commissioner not later than four hours before the close of
15 the polls. If the requester is found to be a registered voter
16 of that county, the ballot shall be delivered by mail or by the
17 person designated by the voter. An application form shall be
18 included with the absentee ballot and shall be signed by the
19 voter and returned with the ballot.

20 Sec. 17. Section 53.23, subsection 3, paragraph c, Code
21 2024, is amended to read as follows:

22 c. The commissioner ~~may~~ shall convene the special precinct
23 election board ~~on the day before the election~~ on November 1 to
24 begin counting absentee ballots. ~~However, if in the preceding~~
25 ~~general election the counting of absentee ballots was not~~
26 ~~completed by 10:00 p.m. on election day, the commissioner shall~~
27 ~~convene the special precinct election board on the day before~~
28 ~~the next general election to begin counting absentee ballots.~~
29 The board shall not release the results of its tabulation
30 pursuant to this paragraph until the count is completed on
31 election day.

32 Sec. 18. Section 53.23, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended
33 to read as follows:

34 4. The room where members of the special precinct election
35 board are engaged in counting absentee ballots ~~on the day~~

1 ~~before the election pursuant to subsection 3, paragraph "c",~~
 2 ~~or during the hours the polls are open~~ shall be policed so
 3 as to prevent any person other than those whose presence is
 4 authorized by **this subsection** from obtaining information
 5 about the progress of the count. The only persons who may
 6 be admitted to that room are the members of the board, five
 7 challengers representing each political party, one observer
 8 representing any nonparty political organization or any
 9 candidate nominated by petition pursuant to **chapter 45** or
 10 any other nonpartisan candidate in a city or school election
 11 appearing on the ballot of the election in progress, one
 12 observer representing persons supporting a public measure
 13 appearing on the ballot and one observer representing
 14 persons opposed to such measure, and the commissioner or the
 15 commissioner's designee. It shall be unlawful for any of these
 16 persons to communicate or attempt to communicate, directly or
 17 indirectly, information regarding the progress of the count at
 18 any time while the board is convened pursuant to **subsection 3,**
 19 **paragraph "c",** or at any time before the polls are closed.

20 Sec. 19. Section 53.39, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended
 21 to read as follows:

22 1. ~~Section 53.2~~ does not apply in the case of a qualified
 23 voter of the state of Iowa serving in the armed forces of the
 24 United States. In any such case an application for ballot as
 25 provided for in that section is not required and an An absent
 26 voter's ballot shall be sent or made available to any such
 27 a qualified voter of the state of Iowa serving in the armed
 28 forces of the United States upon a request as provided in this
 29 subchapter.

30 Sec. 20. Section 53.45, subsection 4, Code 2024, is amended
 31 to read as follows:

32 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of **section 53.49,**
 33 an eligible elector who requests a special absentee ballot
 34 under **this section** may also make application for an ~~absentee~~
 35 ~~ballot under section 53.2~~ or an armed forces absentee ballot

1 under [section 53.40](#). If the regular absentee or armed forces
2 absentee ballot is properly voted and returned, the special
3 absentee ballot is void and the commissioner shall reject it in
4 whole when special absentee ballots are canvassed.

5 Sec. 21. Section 53.49, Code 2024, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 **53.49 Applicable to armed forces and other citizens.**

8 The provisions of [this subchapter](#) as to absent voting shall
9 apply only to absent voters in the armed forces of the United
10 States as defined for the purpose of absentee voting in section
11 53.37. The provisions of ~~sections~~ [section 53.1](#) and [sections](#)
12 [53.4](#) through 53.33 shall apply to all other voters not members
13 of the armed forces of the United States.

14 Sec. 22. REPEAL. Sections 53.2 and 53.3, Code 2024, are
15 repealed.

16 Sec. 23. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT. Section 25B.2, subsection
17 3, shall not apply to this Act.

18 Sec. 24. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to all elections
19 taking place on or after July 1, 2024.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This bill relates to the mailing of absentee ballots.
24 The bill requires county commissioners of elections to
25 automatically mail absentee ballots to all registered voters
26 45 days before an election and to electronically confirm the
27 receipt of returned absentee ballots. Current law requires
28 registered voters to submit an application prior to receiving
29 an absentee ballot, and provides that commissioners mail
30 absentee ballots not earlier than 20 days before the election.
31 The special precinct election board must convene starting on
32 November 1 to begin counting ballots.

33 The bill requires voter registration cards and absentee
34 ballots to include instructions on how absentee ballots may be
35 tracked by the voter. The bill may include a state mandate as

1 defined in Code section 25B.3. The bill makes inapplicable
2 Code section 25B.2, subsection 3, which would relieve a
3 political subdivision from complying with a state mandate if
4 funding for the cost of the state mandate is not provided or
5 specified. Therefore, political subdivisions are required to
6 comply with any state mandate included in the bill.

7 The bill applies to all elections taking place on or after
8 July 1, 2024.