

House Study Bill 591 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED SECRETARY OF
STATE BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to an absentee ballot marking pilot program for
2 voters with disabilities.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 53.5 Absentee ballot marking pilot
2 program.

3 1. The state commissioner may adopt rules pursuant
4 to chapter 17A to implement a pilot program to establish
5 procedures to enable a voter with a disability that prevents
6 the voter from marking a ballot by hand to independently and
7 privately mark a ballot or use an electronic voting device that
8 produces a paper record using nonvisual access, low-vision
9 access, or other assistive technology in order for the voter to
10 complete an absentee ballot by mail pursuant to this chapter.
11 The procedures must include a method by which a voter with a
12 disability that prevents the voter from marking a ballot by
13 hand to request an absentee ballot by mail.

14 2. If the pilot program under this section is not
15 implemented statewide, the pilot program must include
16 sufficient counties, as determined by the state commissioner,
17 to conclude whether the program is feasible statewide.

18 3. The state commissioner shall file a report with the
19 general assembly by December 31 of each year regarding the
20 pilot program established under this section.

21 4. This section is repealed July 1, 2027.

22 EXPLANATION

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

25 This bill allows the state commissioner of elections to
26 adopt rules to establish a pilot program to allow voters with
27 disabilities that prevent such voters from marking ballots by
28 hand to independently and privately mark absentee ballots,
29 including by the use of assistive technology. The bill
30 requires that the program include a method by which such voters
31 can request an absentee ballot by mail.

32 If the pilot program under the bill is not established
33 statewide, the bill requires that the program be established
34 in sufficient counties to allow the state commissioner
35 of elections to determine whether the program is feasible

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1 statewide. The bill requires the state commissioner of
2 elections to file a report with the general assembly by
3 December 31 of each year regarding the pilot program
4 established under the bill.

5 The pilot program is repealed on July 1, 2027.