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 to chapter
4 17A to implement a pilot program to establish procedures to
5 enable a voter with a disability that prevents the voter from
6 marking a ballot by hand to independently and privately mark
7 a ballot or use an electronic voting device that produces a
8 paper record using nonvisual access, low-vision access, or other
9 assistive technology in order for the voter to complete an
10 absentee ballot by mail pursuant to this chapter. The procedures
11 must include a method by which a voter with a disability that
12 prevents the voter from marking a ballot by hand to request an
13 absentee ballot by mail.
14   2. If the pilot program under this section is not implemented
15 statewide, the pilot program must include a sufficient number of
16 counties, as determined by the state commissioner, to conclude
17 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 pilot
20 program established under this section.
21   4. This section is repealed July 1, 2029.
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
28 by hand to independently and privately mark absentee ballots,
29 including by the use of assistive technology. The bill requires
30 that the program include a method by which such voters can
31 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 in a
34 sufficient number of counties to allow the state commissioner of
35 elections to determine whether the program is feasible statewide.

1 The bill requires the state commissioner of elections to file
2 a report with the general assembly by December 31 of each year
3 regarding the pilot program established under the bill.
4   The pilot program is repealed July 1, 2029.