

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First Engrossment

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**Subject:** Absentee voting

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### Overview

The bill makes three relatively small changes on the procedures for voting by absentee ballot.

#### Section

- 1**      **Design of envelopes.** Amends the current statutory provision on the voter eligibility certificate a witness must sign for an absentee voter. Requires the individual to print his or her name, address, and city of residence. In the case of a notary public, requires including the person's official title.
- 2**      **Marking and return by voter.** Specifies that all absentee ballots, whether mailed or returned in person by an agent, must reach the county auditor or municipal clerk's office by 5:00 PM election day. Current law specifies this deadline only for ballots returned by an agent, and specifies a 3:00 p.m. deadline.
- 3**      **Examination of rejected return envelopes.** If return absentee ballot envelopes are marked "rejected," specifies that they may not be opened for inspection during a recount or challenge by election judges or other persons for any reason. The envelopes may be opened only as part of a court review.