

SENATE BILL NO. 606

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MCCREERY.

1824S.02I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.286, 115.295, and 115.300, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to absentee ballots.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.286, 115.295, and 115.300, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 115.295 and 115.300, to read as follows:

115.295. 1. As each absentee ballot is received by the election authority, the election authority shall indicate its receipt on the list.

2. If the statements on any ballot envelope have not been completed[, the absentee ballot in the envelope shall be rejected] or the envelope has not been notarized as required by section 115.291, the election authority shall notify the voter of the incomplete information by all means reasonably calculated to make contact with the voter, including, but not limited to, postal mail, telephone, and electronic mail. The notice shall include a description of the missing information and instructions for how the voter can provide the missing information to the election authority.

3. The election authority shall allow the voter to supply the missing information by completing a new statement as described in section 115.283 and delivering it to the

EXPLANATION-Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18 election authority by any means authorized by law for
19 delivering absentee ballots.

20 4. Only an employee of the election authority may
21 contact the voter concerning missing ballot envelope
22 information. An election authority may not authorize any
23 third-party organization to contact voters concerning
24 missing ballot envelope information.

25 5. Voters may provide missing information for the
26 ballot envelope only once the envelope containing the ballot
27 has been received in the office of the election authority.
28 No person may change any selections on the ballot contained
29 within the envelope once it is initially received in the
30 office of the election authority.

31 6. If the voter provides the missing information by
32 either method described above no later than the close of
33 polls on election day, the ballot shall be accepted for
34 counting according to the requirements of section 115.299.
35 If the voter fails to provide the missing information by the
36 close of polls on election day, the ballot shall be rejected.

37 [3.] 7. All ballot envelopes received by the election
38 authority shall be kept together in a safe place and shall
39 not be opened except as provided in this subchapter.

115.300. In each jurisdiction, the election authority
2 may start, [not earlier than the fifth day prior to the
3 election] upon receipt, the preparation of absentee ballots
4 for tabulation on the election day. The election authority
5 shall give notice to the county chairman of each major
6 political party forty-eight hours prior to beginning
7 preparation of absentee ballot envelopes. Absentee ballot
8 preparation shall be completed by teams of election
9 authority employees or teams of election judges, with each

10 team consisting of one member from each major political
11 party.

2 [115.286. Absentee ballots under sections
3 115.275 to 115.304 received by the election
4 authority in person or other authorized location
5 designated by the election authority are deemed
6 cast when received prior to election day.
7 Absentee ballots received by the election
8 authority through a common carrier such as the
9 United States Postal Service are deemed cast
10 when received prior to the time fixed by law for
11 the closing of the polls on election day.
12 Absentee ballots received by the election
13 authority through a common carrier such as the
14 United States Postal Service shall be received
15 prior to the time fixed by law for the closing
16 of polls on election day. The election
17 authority shall hand mark or stamp each absentee
18 ballot envelope as it is received, indicating
19 the date and time the absentee ballot was
received.]

✓