

**House File 2610 - Reprinted**

HOUSE FILE 2610  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE  
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 697)

(COMPANION TO LSB 6288SV BY  
COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 5, 2024)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the duties of the secretary of state,  
2 including the address confidentiality program and the  
3 conduct of elections, and including effective date  
4 provisions.

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

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DIVISION I

ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

Section 1. Section 9E.3, subsection 1, paragraphs e and f, Code 2024, are amended to read as follows:

e. The residential address of the eligible person, disclosure of which could lead to an increased risk of domestic abuse, domestic abuse assault, sexual abuse, assault, stalking, or human trafficking. If the eligible person's residential address is a shelter known to the program, the applicant may provide the shelter's name and other contact information in lieu of the shelter's physical address.

f. If mail cannot be delivered to the residential address of the eligible person, the address to which mail can be sent to the eligible person. If the eligible person's mailing address is a shelter known to the program, the applicant may provide the shelter's name and other contact information in lieu of the shelter's physical address.

Sec. 2. Section 9E.4, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

2. The secretary shall cancel a program participant's certification ~~if the~~ for any of the following reasons:

a. The program participant's application contains false information.

b. The secretary receives information from a reliable source that the program participant has died.

Sec. 3. Section 9E.5, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3. The secretary shall forward all mail sent to the designated address to the program participant. At the request of the program participant, the secretary may hold the program participant's mail for up to thirty days.

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

DIVISION II

CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY OBJECTIONS

1     Sec. 5. Section 43.18, subsection 9, Code 2024, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3     9. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
4 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
5 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
6 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
7 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
8 the president of the United States.

9     Sec. 6. Section 43.24, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
10 by adding the following new paragraph:

11     NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* Objections to the eligibility of a  
12 candidate for a federal office shall not be sustained unless  
13 the objection is limited to the legal sufficiency of the  
14 nomination petition or certificate of nomination, or to the  
15 residency, age, or citizenship requirements as described in the  
16 Constitution of the United States.

17     Sec. 7. Section 44.3, subsection 2, paragraph i, Code 2024,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19     *i.* A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
20 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
21 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
22 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
23 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
24 the president of the United States.

25     Sec. 8. Section 44.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
26 follows:

27     **44.6 Hearing before state commissioner.**

28     Objections filed with the state commissioner shall be  
29 considered by the secretary of state and auditor of state and  
30 attorney general, and a majority decision shall be final.  
31 However, if the objection is to the certificate of nomination  
32 of one or more of the above named officers, the officer or  
33 officers objected to shall not pass upon the objection, but  
34 their places shall be filled, respectively, by the treasurer  
35 of state, the governor, and the secretary of agriculture.

1 Objections relating to incorrect or incomplete information  
2 for information that is required under [section 44.3](#) shall be  
3 sustained. Objections to the eligibility of a candidate for  
4 a federal office shall not be sustained unless the objection  
5 is limited to the legal sufficiency of the nomination petition  
6 or certificate of nomination, or to the residency, age, or  
7 citizenship requirements as described in the Constitution of  
8 the United States.

9 Sec. 9. Section 45.3, subsection 9, Code 2024, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11 9. A For a candidate for an office other than a federal  
12 office, a statement that the candidate is aware that the  
13 candidate is disqualified from holding office if the candidate  
14 has been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime and the  
15 candidate's rights have not been restored by the governor or by  
16 the president of the United States.

17 Sec. 10. Section 54.5, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. An objection to a nomination made under  
20 this section on any grounds other than the legal sufficiency  
21 of the certificate of nomination shall not be sustained. The  
22 certificate of nomination shall be presumed valid.

23 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act, being  
24 deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

25 DIVISION III

26 RANKED CHOICE VOTING

27 Sec. 12. Section 49.93, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
28 follows:

29 **49.93 Number of votes for each office.**

30 1. For an office to which one person is to be elected, a  
31 voter shall not vote for more than one candidate. If two or  
32 more persons are to be elected to an office, the voter shall  
33 vote for no more than the number of persons to be elected. If a  
34 person votes for more than the permitted number of candidates,  
35 the vote for that office shall not count. Valid votes cast on

1 the rest of the ballot shall be counted.

2 2. a. An election in this state shall not be conducted  
3 using ranked choice voting or instant runoff voting.

4 b. For the purposes of this section, "ranked choice voting"  
5 or "instant runoff voting" means a method of casting and  
6 tabulating votes in which a voter ranks candidates in order of  
7 preference, tabulation of ballots proceeds in rounds such that  
8 in each round either a candidate is elected or the candidate  
9 receiving the fewest votes is defeated, votes are transferred  
10 from elected or defeated candidates to a voter's next-ranked  
11 candidate in order of preference, and tabulation ends when a  
12 candidate receives the majority of votes cast or the number of  
13 candidates elected equals the number of offices to be filled,  
14 as applicable.

15 Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
16 effect January 1, 2025.

17 DIVISION IV

18 ABSENT VOTERS

19 Sec. 14. Section 39A.4, subsection 1, paragraph c,  
20 subparagraphs (10) and (11), Code 2024, are amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 (10) Returning a voted absentee ballot by mail, ~~to a ballot~~  
23 ~~drop box~~, or in person, to the commissioner's office and the  
24 person returning the ballot is a person prohibited to collect  
25 and deliver a completed ballot pursuant to [section 53.33](#).

26 (11) Making a false or untrue statement reporting that  
27 a voted absentee ballot was returned to the commissioner's  
28 office, by mail or in person, ~~or to a ballot drop box~~, by a  
29 person prohibited to collect and deliver a completed ballot  
30 pursuant to [section 53.33](#).

31 Sec. 15. NEW SECTION. 53.1B Definitions.

32 For purposes of this subchapter, unless the context  
33 otherwise requires:

34 1. "Affidavit envelope" means an envelope that includes  
35 a serial number and bears on the back an affidavit for a

1 registered voter to mark the registered voter's signature and  
2 voter verification number in a form prescribed by the state  
3 commissioner.

4 2. "*Delivery envelope*" means an envelope that bears on its  
5 face the name and address of the registered voter requesting an  
6 absentee ballot, the words "county commissioner of elections",  
7 the address of the commissioner's office, and the same serial  
8 number that appears on the affidavit envelope and return  
9 envelope.

10 3. "*Return envelope*" means an envelope that is addressed  
11 to the commissioner's office, bears appropriate return postage  
12 or a postal permit guaranteeing that the commissioner will pay  
13 the return postage, and includes the same serial number as the  
14 affidavit envelope and delivery envelope.

15 4. "*Secrecy envelope*" means an envelope, folder, or sleeve  
16 that hides all votes on a ballot when folded.

17 Sec. 16. Section 53.4, subsection 1, paragraph c,  
18 subparagraph (2), Code 2024, is amended by striking the  
19 subparagraph.

20 Sec. 17. Section 53.8, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
21 to read as follows:

22 1. a. Upon receipt of an application for an absentee ballot  
23 and immediately after the absentee ballots are printed, but  
24 not more than ~~twenty~~ twenty-two days before the election, the  
25 commissioner shall mail an absentee ballot to the applicant  
26 within twenty-four hours, except as otherwise provided in  
27 subsection 3. The absentee ballot shall be ~~sent to the~~  
28 ~~registered voter by one of the following methods:~~ enclosed  
29 in an unsealed affidavit envelope. The absentee ballot and  
30 affidavit envelope shall be enclosed in or with an unsealed  
31 return envelope. The absentee ballot, affidavit envelope, and  
32 return envelope shall be enclosed in the delivery envelope. If  
33 the ballot cannot be folded so that all the votes on the ballot  
34 will be hidden, the commissioner shall also enclose a secrecy  
35 envelope with the absentee ballot.

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

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

19     ~~b. The affidavit shall be marked on the appropriate envelope~~  
20 ~~in a form prescribed by the state commissioner of elections~~  
21 ~~registered voter requesting and receiving an absentee ballot~~  
22 ~~shall subscribe to the affidavit by signing and marking the~~  
23 ~~registered voter's voter verification number on the affidavit~~  
24 ~~envelope.~~

25     ~~c. All domestic return envelope flaps or backs shall also~~  
26 ~~be printed or stamped with a notice of the deadline to return a~~  
27 ~~completed absentee ballot and the manner to track the status of~~  
28 ~~the ballot in a form prescribed by the state commissioner.~~

29     ~~e. d. For envelopes mailed at any election other than the~~  
30 ~~primary election, the commissioner shall not mark any envelope~~  
31 ~~with any information related to the party affiliation of the~~  
32 ~~applicant.~~

33     Sec. 18. Section 53.8, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2024,  
34 is amended to read as follows:

35     a. The commissioner shall enclose with the absentee ballot

1 a statement informing the applicant that the sealed return  
2 envelope may be mailed to the commissioner by the registered  
3 voter or a person not prohibited to collect and deliver a  
4 completed ballot pursuant to [section 53.33](#), ~~may be returned to~~  
5 ~~a drop box established by the commissioner pursuant to section~~  
6 ~~53.17, subsection 1, by the registered voter or a person not~~  
7 ~~prohibited to collect and deliver a completed ballot pursuant~~  
8 ~~to [section 53.33](#), only if the commissioner has established~~  
9 ~~such a drop box, or may be personally delivered to the~~  
10 commissioner's office by the registered voter or a person not  
11 prohibited to collect and deliver a completed ballot pursuant  
12 to [section 53.33](#). The statement shall also inform the voter  
13 that the voter may request that the person not prohibited to  
14 collect and deliver a completed ballot pursuant to section  
15 53.33 complete a receipt when retrieving the ballot from the  
16 voter. A blank receipt shall be enclosed with the absentee  
17 ballot.

18 Sec. 19. Section 53.10, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
19 2024, is amended to read as follows:

20 a. Each person who wishes to vote by absentee ballot at  
21 the commissioner's office shall first sign an application for  
22 a ballot including the following information: name, current  
23 address, voter verification number, and the election for which  
24 the ballot is requested. The person may report a change of  
25 address or other information on the person's voter registration  
26 record at that time. Prior to furnishing a ballot, the  
27 commissioner shall verify the person's identity as provided  
28 in [section 49.78](#). The registered voter shall immediately  
29 mark the ballot; enclose the ballot in a secrecy envelope,  
30 if necessary, and seal it the ballot in the envelope marked  
31 with the affidavit envelope; subscribe to the affidavit on  
32 the reverse side of the envelope by signing and marking the  
33 registered voter's voter verification number; and return the  
34 sealed affidavit envelope containing the absentee ballot to  
35 the commissioner. The commissioner shall record the numbers



1 appearing on the application and affidavit envelope along with  
2 the name of the registered voter.

3 Sec. 20. Section 53.12, Code 2024, is amended by striking  
4 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

5 **53.12 Duty of commissioner.**

6 The commissioner shall affix to the application the same  
7 serial number that appears on the affidavit envelope, return  
8 envelope, and delivery envelope.

9 Sec. 21. Section 53.16, Code 2024, is amended by striking  
10 the section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11 **53.16 Subscribing to affidavit.**

12 After marking the ballot, the voter shall enclose the ballot  
13 in a secrecy envelope, if necessary, and seal the ballot in  
14 the affidavit envelope; subscribe to the affidavit by signing  
15 and marking the registered voter's voter verification number;  
16 place the sealed affidavit envelope in the return envelope; and  
17 securely seal the return envelope.

18 Sec. 22. Section 53.17, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
19 1, Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

20 ~~If the commissioner mailed the ballot pursuant to section~~  
21 ~~53.8, subsection 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph (1), the sealed~~  
22 ~~envelope bearing the voter's affidavit and containing the~~  
23 ~~absentee ballot shall be enclosed in a return envelope which~~  
24 ~~shall be securely sealed. If the commissioner mailed the~~  
25 ~~ballot pursuant to section 53.8, subsection 1, paragraph "a",~~  
26 ~~subparagraph (2), the absentee ballot shall be enclosed in the~~  
27 ~~return envelope which shall be securely sealed. The sealed~~  
28 ~~return envelope shall be returned to the commissioner by one of~~  
29 ~~the following methods:~~

30 Sec. 23. Section 53.17, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
31 2024, is amended to read as follows:

32 a. The sealed return envelope may be delivered by the  
33 registered voter, by the voter's designee, or by the special  
34 precinct election officials designated pursuant to section  
35 53.22, subsection 2, to the commissioner's office no later

1 ~~than the time the polls are closed~~ 5:00 p.m. on the day before  
2 election day. However, if delivered by the voter's designee,  
3 the envelope shall be delivered within seventy-two hours of  
4 retrieving it from the voter or by 5:00 p.m. on the day before  
5 ~~the closing of the polls on~~ election day, whichever is earlier.

6 Sec. 24. Section 53.17, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code  
7 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph.

8 Sec. 25. Section 53.17, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
9 to read as follows:

10 2. In order for the ballot to be counted, the return  
11 envelope must be received in the commissioner's office by 5:00  
12 p.m. on the day before the polls close on election day and  
13 recorded as received by the commissioner by 11:59 p.m. on the  
14 day before election day.

15 Sec. 26. Section 53.17, subsection 4, paragraph f, Code  
16 2024, is amended to read as follows:

17 *f.* A statement that the completed absentee ballot will be  
18 delivered to the commissioner's office within seventy-two hours  
19 of retrieving it from the voter or by the close of business  
20 on the day before the closing of the polls on election day,  
21 whichever is earlier, or that the completed absentee ballot  
22 will be mailed to the commissioner within seventy-two hours of  
23 retrieving it from the voter.

24 Sec. 27. Section 53.17A, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code  
25 2024, is amended to read as follows:

26 *a.* An absentee ballot received after the ~~polls close~~  
27 close of business on the day before election day but prior  
28 to the official canvass shall be counted if the commissioner  
29 determines that the ballot entered the federal mail system by  
30 the deadline specified in [section 53.17](#) or [53.22](#). The date of  
31 entry of such an absentee ballot into the federal mail system  
32 shall only be verified as provided in paragraph "b".

33 Sec. 28. Section 53.18, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2024, are  
34 amended to read as follows:

35 2. If the commissioner receives the return envelope

1 containing the completed absentee ballot by 5:00 p.m. on the  
2 Saturday before the election for general elections and by 5:00  
3 p.m. on the Friday before the election for all other elections,  
4 the commissioner shall ~~review the affidavit marked on the~~  
5 ~~return envelope, if applicable, for completeness or shall open~~  
6 ~~the return envelope to review the affidavit for completeness~~  
7 open the return envelope, if applicable, and review the  
8 affidavit marked on the affidavit envelope for completeness.  
9 If the affidavit lacks the signature or voter verification  
10 number of the registered voter, the commissioner shall, within  
11 twenty-four hours of the receipt of the envelope, notify the  
12 voter of the deficiency and inform the voter that the voter may  
13 vote a replacement ballot as provided in [subsection 3](#), cast a  
14 ballot as provided in [section 53.19, subsection 3](#), or complete  
15 the affidavit in person at the office of the commissioner not  
16 later than the time polls close on election day.

17 3. If the affidavit envelope ~~or the return envelope marked~~  
18 ~~with the affidavit~~ contains a defect that would cause the  
19 absentee ballot to be rejected by the absentee and special  
20 voters precinct board, the commissioner shall immediately  
21 notify the voter of that fact and that the voter's absentee  
22 ballot shall not be counted unless the voter requests and  
23 returns a replacement ballot in the time permitted under  
24 section 53.17, subsection 2. For the purposes of [this section](#),  
25 ~~a return~~ an affidavit envelope ~~marked with the affidavit~~  
26 shall be considered to contain a defect if it ~~appears to~~  
27 ~~the commissioner that the signature on the envelope has been~~  
28 ~~signed by someone other than the registered voter, in comparing~~  
29 ~~the signature on the envelope to the signature on record of~~  
30 ~~the registered voter named on the envelope. A signature or~~  
31 ~~marking made in accordance with section 39.3, subsection~~  
32 ~~17, shall not be considered a defect for purposes of this~~  
33 section the voter verification number provided does not match  
34 the voter verification number associated with the voter's  
35 voter registration. The voter may request a replacement

1 ballot in person, in writing, or over the telephone. The  
2 same serial number that was assigned to the records of the  
3 original absentee ballot application shall be used on the  
4 ~~envelope envelopes~~ and records of the replacement ballot. The  
5 affidavit envelope ~~marked with the affidavit and~~ containing  
6 the completed replacement ballot shall be marked "Replacement  
7 ballot". The affidavit envelope ~~marked with the affidavit and~~  
8 containing the original ballot shall be marked "Defective" ~~and~~  
9 ~~the~~ "Defective". The replacement ballot shall be attached to  
10 ~~such~~ the affidavit envelope containing the original ballot and  
11 shall be stored in a secure place until they are delivered to  
12 the absentee and special voters precinct board, notwithstanding  
13 sections 53.26 and 53.27.

14 Sec. 29. Section 53.19, subsection 1, Code 2024, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 1. The commissioner shall maintain a list of the absentee  
17 ballots provided to registered voters, the serial number  
18 appearing on the unsealed envelope, the date the application  
19 for the absentee ballot was received, the date the absentee  
20 ballot was sent to the registered voter requesting the absentee  
21 ballot, the date the absentee ballot was received by the  
22 commissioner, the date the absentee ballot outer envelope was  
23 opened, and whether the ballot was delivered by mail, or in  
24 person, ~~to a ballot drop box,~~ or cast in person at a satellite  
25 location. The information under this subsection shall be  
26 reported separately at the same time as the information  
27 reported under section 53.30, subsection 3.

28 Sec. 30. Section 53.21, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code  
29 2024, is amended to read as follows:

30 *b.* The voter shall enclose one copy of the above statement  
31 in the return envelope along with the affidavit envelope, ~~if~~  
32 ~~the voter was mailed a separate affidavit envelope,~~ and shall  
33 retain a copy for the voter's records.

34 Sec. 31. Section 53.23, subsection 3, paragraph b,  
35 subparagraph (1), Code 2024, is amended to read as follows:

1 (1) The commissioner may direct the board to meet on the day  
 2 before the election for the purpose of reviewing the absentee  
 3 voters' affidavits appearing on the sealed envelopes. If in  
 4 the commissioner's judgment this procedure is necessary due  
 5 to the number of absentee ballots received, the members of  
 6 the board may open the sealed affidavit envelopes and remove  
 7 the secrecy envelope containing the ballot, but under no  
 8 circumstances shall a secrecy envelope or ~~a return~~ an affidavit  
 9 envelope ~~marked with an affidavit~~ be opened before the board  
 10 convenes on election day, except as provided in paragraph  
 11 "c". If the affidavit envelopes are opened before election  
 12 day pursuant to this paragraph "b", the observers appointed  
 13 by each political party, as defined in [section 43.2](#), shall  
 14 witness the proceedings. Each political party may appoint up  
 15 to five observers under this paragraph "b". The observers  
 16 shall be appointed by the county chairperson or, if the  
 17 county chairperson fails to make an appointment, by the state  
 18 chairperson. However, if either or both political parties fail  
 19 to appoint an observer, the commissioner may continue with the  
 20 proceedings.

21 Sec. 32. Section 53.23, subsection 5, Code 2024, is amended  
 22 to read as follows:

23 5. The special precinct election board shall preserve the  
 24 secrecy of all absentee and provisional ballots. After the  
 25 affidavits on the affidavit envelopes have been reviewed and  
 26 the qualifications of the persons casting the ballots have been  
 27 determined, those that have been accepted for counting shall  
 28 be opened. The ballots shall be removed from the affidavit  
 29 envelopes ~~or return envelopes marked with the affidavit, as~~  
 30 ~~applicable,~~ without being unfolded or examined, and then shall  
 31 be thoroughly intermingled, after which they shall be unfolded  
 32 and tabulated. If secrecy ~~folders~~ or envelopes are used with  
 33 provisional paper ballots, the ballots shall be removed from  
 34 the secrecy ~~folders~~ envelopes after the ballots have been  
 35 intermingled.

1     Sec. 33. Section 53.25, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
2 2024, is amended to read as follows:

3     a. If the absentee voter's affidavit lacks the voter's  
4 signature or voter verification number, if the applicant is  
5 not a duly registered voter on election day in the precinct  
6 where the absentee ballot was cast, if the affidavit envelope  
7 ~~marked with the affidavit~~ contains more than one ballot of any  
8 one kind, or if the voter has voted in person, such vote shall  
9 be rejected by the absentee and special voters precinct board.  
10 If the affidavit envelope ~~or return envelope marked with the~~  
11 ~~affidavit~~ is open, or has been opened and resealed, or if the  
12 ballot is not enclosed in ~~such~~ the affidavit envelope, and an  
13 affidavit envelope or return envelope marked with the affidavit  
14 with the same serial number and marked "Replacement ballot" is  
15 not attached as provided in [section 53.18](#), the ballot shall be  
16 rejected by the absentee and special voters precinct board.

17     Sec. 34. Section 53.25, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19     2. If the absentee or provisional ballot is rejected prior  
20 to the opening of the affidavit envelope ~~or return envelope~~  
21 ~~marked with the affidavit~~, the voter casting the ballot shall  
22 be notified by a precinct election official by the time the  
23 canvass is completed of the reason for the rejection on a form  
24 prescribed by the state commissioner of elections.

25     Sec. 35. Section 53.30, subsection 2, Code 2024, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27     2. At the conclusion of each meeting of the absentee and  
28 special voters precinct board, the board shall securely seal  
29 all ballots counted by them in the manner prescribed in section  
30 50.12. The ballot envelopes, including the affidavit envelope  
31 ~~if an affidavit envelope was provided~~, the return envelope, and  
32 secrecy envelope bearing the signatures of precinct election  
33 officials, as required by [section 53.23](#), shall be preserved.  
34 All applications for absentee ballots, ballots rejected without  
35 being opened, absentee ballot logs, and any other documents

1 pertaining to the absentee ballot process shall be preserved  
2 until such time as the documents may be destroyed pursuant to  
3 section 50.19.

4 Sec. 36. Section 53.32, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 **53.32 Ballot of deceased voter.**

7 When it shall be made to appear by due proof to the precinct  
8 election officials that any elector, who has so marked and  
9 forwarded a ballot, has died before the ~~envelope marked with~~  
10 ~~the affidavit~~ affidavit envelope is opened, then the ballot of  
11 such deceased voter shall be endorsed, "Rejected because voter  
12 is dead", and be returned to the commissioner. The casting  
13 of the ballot of a deceased voter shall not invalidate the  
14 election.

15 Sec. 37. Section 53.33, subsection 7, paragraph a, Code  
16 2024, is amended to read as follows:

17 a. Deliver the completed absentee ballot in person to the  
18 commissioner's office. The delivery agent shall not deliver  
19 the completed absentee ballot by mail ~~or to a ballot drop box.~~

20 Sec. 38. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
21 effect January 1, 2025.

22 DIVISION V

23 PERSONS PERMITTED IN VOTING BOOTHS

24 Sec. 39. Section 49.88, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 3. A person standing for election on the ballot before a  
27 voter ~~shall not occupy~~ commits a violation of this section by  
28 occupying the voting booth with the voter, including to assist  
29 the voter.

30 Sec. 40. Section 49.90, Code 2024, is amended to read as  
31 follows:

32 **49.90 Assisting voter.**

33 1. Any voter who may declare upon oath that the voter is  
34 blind, cannot read the English language, or is, by reason of  
35 any physical disability other than intoxication, unable to cast

1 a vote without assistance, shall, upon request, be assisted by  
2 the two officers as provided in [section 49.89](#), or alternatively  
3 by any other person the voter may select in casting the vote,  
4 except that the voter shall not select a person standing for  
5 election on the ballot. The officers, or the person selected  
6 by the voter, shall cast the vote of the voter requiring  
7 assistance, and shall thereafter give no information regarding  
8 the vote cast. If any elector because of a disability cannot  
9 enter the building where the polling place for the elector's  
10 precinct of residence is located, the two officers shall take  
11 a paper ballot to the vehicle occupied by the elector with  
12 a disability and allow the elector to cast the ballot in  
13 the vehicle. Ballots cast by voters with disabilities shall  
14 be deposited in the regular ballot box, or inserted in the  
15 tabulating device, and counted in the usual manner.

16 2. A person standing for election on the ballot before a  
17 voter commits a violation of section 49.88 by occupying the  
18 voting booth with the voter.

19 Sec. 41. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
20 effect January 1, 2025.

21 DIVISION VI

22 VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE PILOT PROGRAM

23 Sec. 42. NEW SECTION. **47.7A Statewide voter registration**  
24 **database verification pilot program.**

25 1. A statewide voter registration database verification  
26 pilot program is established within the office of the state  
27 registrar as follows:

28 *a.* The state registrar shall contract with a third-party  
29 vendor to develop or provide a program to allow the state  
30 registrar to verify the status of records in the statewide  
31 voter registration file and identify ineligible voters on an  
32 ongoing basis.

33 *b.* During the first quarter of the calendar year 2025,  
34 the state registrar shall utilize the program developed or  
35 provided by the third-party vendor to verify the status of



1 records in the statewide voter registration file. The state  
2 registrar shall forward the results of the analysis to each  
3 county commissioner of registration prior to the date reports  
4 are required to be submitted pursuant to section 48A.40.

5 c. The state registrar shall evaluate the efficacy and  
6 cost of the pilot program as compared to the current method  
7 of verifying the list of voters in the statewide voter  
8 registration file.

9 2. This section is repealed December 31, 2027.

10

DIVISION VII

11

COUNTY HOSPITAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

12 Sec. 43. Section 347.9, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
13 by striking the subsection.

14 Sec. 44. TRANSITION. This division of this Act does not  
15 alter the term of office of a trustee elected to a county  
16 public hospital board of trustees prior to the effective date  
17 of this division of this Act.

18 Sec. 45. EFFECTIVE DATE. This division of this Act takes  
19 effect January 1, 2025.