

HB 292 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

01/05/2022 2222s

2021 SESSION

21-0402

08/10

HOUSE BILL

292

AN ACT relative to the absentee ballot application process.

SPONSORS: Rep. Hill, Merr. 3; Rep. Silber, Belk. 2; Rep. Rice, Hills. 37; Rep. Rouillard, Hills. 6; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Gunski, Hills. 6

COMMITTEE: Election Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the absentee ballot affidavit envelope.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to the absentee ballot application process.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Absentee Ballots and Related Materials; Affidavit Envelopes. Amend RSA 657:7, II to read as
2 follows:

3 II. Affidavit envelopes of sufficient size to contain the ballots on which shall be printed the
4 following:

5 YOUR COMPLETED ABSENTEE BALLOT MUST BE SEALED IN THIS ENVELOPE

6 I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that:

7 I am a voter in the city or town of _____, New Hampshire.

8 One of the following applies to me:

9 1) I will be absent on election day. Absence includes:

10 a) I will be out-of-town on election day.

11 b) I will be unable to vote in person because I will be working.

12 c) I will be unable to vote in person because I will be caring for children or infirm adults,
13 with or without compensation.

14 d) I am voting absentee on the Monday immediately before the election, the National
15 Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning that
16 applies to my town/ward, and I have concerns for traveling in the storm.

17 2) I am unable to vote in person due to disability.

18 3) I am unable to vote in person due to observance of a religious commitment, which prevents me
19 from voting in person.

20 4) I am confined to a penal institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial.

21 I have carefully read or had read to me the absentee voting instructions. I personally marked
22 the absentee ballot enclosed in this envelope or, due to a disability, I had assistance in marking the
23 absentee ballot.

24 Voter Signature _____

25 **Print Name** _____

26 A person assisting a voter with a disability shall sign this statement on this envelope acknowledging
27 the assistance.

28 I attest that I assisted (print voter name) _____ because the voter is a person
29 with a disability. I marked the ballot and/or this form as instructed by the voter.

30 In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false
31 information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence

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- 1 of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to
- 2 vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.
- 3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.