

CHAPTER 184
HB 244 - FINAL VERSION

22Mar2023... 0957h
05/11/2023 1421s

2023 SESSION

23-0467
08/10

HOUSE BILL

244

AN ACT relative to the delivery of absentee ballots.

SPONSORS: Rep. Kuttub, Rock. 17; Rep. K. Perez, Rock. 16; Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 25; Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien, Rock. 13; Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Rep. Lynn, Rock. 17

COMMITTEE: Election Law

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the latest time that an absentee ballot may be requested.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 184
HB 244 - FINAL VERSION

22Mar2023... 0957h
05/11/2023 1421s

23-0467
08/10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three

AN ACT relative to the delivery of absentee ballots.

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

1 184:1 Sending Absentee Ballots; Time Change. Amend RSA 657:15, I to read as follows:

2 I. When the verification required by RSA 657:12 or 657:13 has been made, the clerk shall retain
3 the application and, without delay, personally deliver, email, or mail to the applicant the appropriate ballot
4 and materials as described in RSA 657:7 through 657:8 or designate an assistant to deliver such
5 materials to the applicant. The clerk's option to email an absentee ballot to a voter shall apply only to
6 absentee ballot applications from UOCAVA voters. The clerk shall [send] **mail** absentee ballots in
7 response to verified absentee ballot requests [~~until 5:00~~] **that have been received by 12:00** p.m. on the
8 day before the election. ***The clerk shall provide an absentee ballot to any voter requesting an absentee***
9 ***ballot in person at the clerk's office up until 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election or as may be provided***
10 ***elsewhere in Title LXIII.*** The clerk may not designate as an assistant any person who is a candidate for
11 nomination or office or who is working for such a candidate. Any ballots sent pursuant to the provisions of
12 this section shall be mailed or delivered only by officials from the city or town clerk's office and delivered
13 only to the applicant. If the address to which the absent voter's ballot is sent is outside the United States
14 or Canada, such papers shall be sent by air mail. Said clerks shall keep lists of the names and
15 addresses, arranged by voting places, of all applicants to whom official absentee ballots have been sent,
16 and shall identify those official absentee ballots which have been returned to the clerk and shall record the
17 absentee voter applicant information in the statewide centralized voter registration database. The lists
18 shall not be available for public inspection at any time without a court order.

184:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: August 04, 2023
Effective Date: October 03, 2023