

HB0535/843625/1

BY: Delegate Kipke

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 535, AS AMENDED
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1 of the Ways and Means Committee Amendments (HB0535/343422/1), in line 1 of Amendment No. 1, after “**Issuance.**” insert “**Signature Verification.**”; in line 4 of Amendment No. 1, after “election.” insert “requiring a local board to verify a signature on a return envelope or ballot/return envelope in a certain manner.”; and in line 12 of Amendment No. 1, before “9-306(c).” insert “9-303.”

On page 1 of the bill, in line 17, after “Section” insert “9-310.1 and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1 of the Ways and Means Committee Amendments, in line 2 of Amendment No. 2, before “9-306.” insert:

“9-303.

(a) The State Board shall establish guidelines for the administration of absentee voting by the local boards.

(b) The guidelines shall provide for:

- (1) the application process;
- (2) late application for absentee ballots;
- (3) ballot security, including storage of returned ballots;
- (4) determining timeliness of receipt of applications and ballots, including applications and ballots for overseas voters;
- (5) the canvass process;

(6) notice of the canvass to candidates, political parties, campaign organizations, news media, and the general public;

(7) observers of the process;

(8) review of voted ballots and envelopes for compliance with the law and for machine tabulation acceptability;

(9) standards for disallowance of ballots during the canvass;

(10) storage and retention of ballots following canvass and certification;

[and]

(11) the permanent absentee ballot list; AND

(12) VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURES ON ABSENTEE BALLOT ENVELOPES.

(c) The State Board shall:

(1) in consultation with the local boards, assess the guidelines before each primary election; and

(2) revise the guidelines if indicated.”.

On page 2 of the bill, before line 2, insert:

“9-310.1.

EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL VERIFY THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER ON THE RETURN ENVELOPE OR BALLOT/RETURN ENVELOPE BY COMPARING THE SIGNATURE WITH THE VOTER’S REGISTRATION RECORD IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD.”.

On page 4 of the bill, in line 17, strike “or”; and in line 20, after “ballot” insert “;”
OR

(IV) THE LOCAL BOARD IS UNABLE TO VERIFY THE VOTER’S SIGNATURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-310.1 OF THIS ARTICLE”.