

House _____ Amendment NO. _____

Offered By

1 AMEND House Bill No. 1480, Page 2, Section 115.257, Line 29, by inserting after all of said
2 section and line the following:

3
4 "115.291. 1. Upon receiving an absentee ballot [in person or] by mail, the voter shall mark
5 the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and fill out the
6 statement on the ballot envelope. The affidavit of each person voting an absentee ballot shall be
7 subscribed and sworn to before the election official receiving the ballot, a notary public or other
8 officer authorized by law to administer oaths, unless the voter is voting absentee due to incapacity
9 or confinement due to the provisions of section 115.284, illness or physical disability, or the voter is
10 a covered voter as defined in section 115.902. If the voter is blind, unable to read or write the
11 English language, or physically incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be assisted by a person
12 of the voter's own choosing. Any person assisting a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, and
13 any person who assists a voter and in any manner coerces or initiates a request or a suggestion that
14 the voter vote for or against or refrain from voting on any question, ticket or candidate, shall be
15 guilty of a class one election offense. If, upon counting, challenge or election contest, it is
16 ascertained that any absentee ballot was voted with unlawful assistance, the ballot shall be rejected.

17 2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section, each absentee ballot shall be returned
18 to the election authority in the ballot envelope and shall only be returned by the voter in person, or
19 in person by a relative of the voter who is within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, by
20 mail or registered carrier or by a team of deputy election authorities; except that covered voters,
21 when sent from a location determined by the secretary of state to be inaccessible on election day,
22 shall be allowed to return their absentee ballots cast by use of facsimile transmission or under a
23 program approved by the Department of Defense for electronic transmission of election materials.

24 3. In cases of an emergency declared by the President of the United States or the governor
25 of this state where the conduct of an election may be affected, the secretary of state may provide for
26 the delivery and return of absentee ballots by use of a facsimile transmission device or system. Any
27 rule promulgated pursuant to this subsection shall apply to a class or classes of voters as provided
28 for by the secretary of state.

29 4. No election authority shall refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid marked
30 absentee ballot submitted in any manner by a covered voter solely on the basis of restrictions on
31 envelope type."; and

32
33 Further amend said bill, Section 115.293, Page 2, Line 12, by inserting after all of said section and
34 line the following:

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36 "115.299. 1. To count absentee votes on election day, the election authority shall appoint a
Standing Action Taken _____ Date _____

Select Action Taken _____ Date _____

1 sufficient number of teams of election judges comprised of an equal number of judges from each
2 major political party.

3 2. The teams so appointed shall meet on election day after the time fixed by law for the
4 opening of the polls at a central location designated by the election authority. The election authority
5 shall deliver the absentee ballots to the teams, and shall maintain a record of the delivery. The
6 record shall include the number of ballots delivered to each team and shall include a signed receipt
7 from two judges, one from each major political party. The election authority shall provide each
8 team with a ballot box, tally sheets and statements of returns as are provided to a polling place.

9 3. Each team shall count votes on all absentee ballots designated by the election authority.

10 4. [One] To process absentee ballots in envelopes, one member of each team, closely
11 observed by another member of the team from a different political party, shall open each envelope
12 and call the voter's name in a clear voice. Without unfolding the ballot, two team members, one
13 from each major political party, shall initial the ballot, and an election judge shall place the ballot,
14 still folded, in a ballot box. No ballot box shall be opened until all of the ballots a team is counting
15 have been placed in the box. The votes shall be tallied and the returns made as provided in sections
16 115.447 to 115.525 for paper ballots. After the votes on all ballots assigned to a team have been
17 counted, the ballots and ballot envelopes shall be placed on a string and enclosed in sealed
18 containers marked "voted absentee ballots and ballot envelopes from the election held,
19 20....". All rejected absentee ballots and envelopes shall be enclosed and sealed in a separate
20 container marked "rejected absentee ballots and envelopes from the election held,
21 20....". On the outside of each voted ballot and rejected ballot container, each member of the team
22 shall write his name, and all such containers shall be returned to the election authority. Upon receipt
23 of the returns and ballots, the election authority shall tabulate the absentee vote along with the votes
24 certified from each polling place in its jurisdiction."; and

25
26 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references
27 accordingly.