AMEND House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 738, Page 22, Section 115.279, Line 121, by inserting immediately after all of said section and line the following:

"115.280. 1. Any defendant who is confined in a jail and is otherwise entitled to vote, shall be allowed the opportunity to vote absentee in any election in which he or she is eligible to vote. For purposes of this section, the defendant's address shall be his or her residential address immediately prior to confinement.

2. Jails that house defendants who are eligible to vote shall provide applications for absentee ballots and assist any eligible defendant in mailing the application to the correct local election authority. The jail shall be responsible for the costs of mailing the application.

3. Local election authorities that receive applications from defendants confined in a jail shall verify the defendant's eligibility to vote in the same manner as other applications to vote absentee are verified and shall mail the appropriate ballot, including a postage-paid return envelope, to the defendant.

4. Upon receipt of a ballot, the defendant shall be allowed to exercise his or her right to vote. The jail shall provide a notary for the ballot, if required, and mail the ballot back to the local election authority before the deadline."; and

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