

HB 738 -- ELECTIONS

SPONSOR: Rone

This bill changes election laws. In its main provisions the bill:

- (1) Prohibits changes to election laws in the six months preceding a presidential election;
- (2) Beginning January 1, 2022, the bill requires the use of a paper ballot that will be counted by hand and repeals electronic voting system language with certain exceptions for voting equipment used for the disabled;
- (3) Allows candidates to select poll watchers at their own expense to monitor an election;
- (4) Requires absentee ballots to be counted after regular ballots when the polls are closed. Absentee ballots mailed to an election authority must be received by the close of polls, under current law, to be counted;
- (5) Requires identification to register to vote and to vote in person using an absentee ballot;
- (6) Modifies affidavit language concerning provisional ballots to clarify current voter identification requirements;
- (7) Requires election authorities to count ballots after they have been returned from each polling place in a locked box and requires that election authorities audit ballots to ensure the proper number are returned to the election authority; and
- (8) Repeals expired Section 115.302, RSMo., which allowed mail in ballots during the COVID-19 crisis.