

S.F. No. 4130 – Various Election Law Modifications

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Section 1 [§5B.06; Voting by program participant; absentee ballot] allows the secretary of state to prepare a ballot and mail it to a Safe at Home program participant.

Section 2 [§201.061; Election day registration] amends the definition of “residential facility” for purposes of election day registration.

Section 4 [§201.071; Deficient registration] reorganizes the section that specifies when a voter registration is or is not deficient.

Section 11 [§203B01; Utility worker] defines “utility worker” for purposes of **section 12**.

Section 12 [§203B.02; Emergency response providers] allows certain emergency response providers and utility workers who are deployed during the absentee voting period, on election day, or during a state of emergency to vote by absentee ballot.

Section 13 [§203B.081; Location; timing] requires the county auditor to designate absentee voting polling places at least 14 weeks prior to an election. In-person absentee voters at a March town election may cast absentee ballots for the 30 days before the election. This replaces language that is stricken in **section 14**.

Section 14 [§203B.081; Voting booth; electronic ballot marker] strikes language that is reproduced in **section 13**. Makes formatting changes.

Section 15 [§203B.11; Generally] allows absentee ballots to be delivered to veterans homes in the same manner as to health care facilities.

Section 19 [§204B.13; Candidates for federal office] states that statute regarding vacancies in nominations in partisan offices does not apply to candidates for federal office.

Section 20 [§204B.16; **Authority; location**] requires local governments to pass an ordinance or resolution establishing polling places only if there are changes from the previous year. Otherwise, the designations from the previous year continue in effect.

Section 23 [§204B.45; **Authorization**] allow towns in the metro area and cities with fewer than 400 registered voters in the metro area to use mail balloting.

Section 25 [§204B.46; **Mail elections; questions**] allows offices to be voted on in a mail election where overlapping school and municipal jurisdictions and one jurisdiction has a question on the ballot.

Section 26 [§204C.15; **Physical assistance in marking ballots**] eliminates the cap on the number of voters a person may assist in filling out ballots.

Section 27 [§204C.33; **State canvass**] requires the State Canvassing Board to declare the candidates who received the highest number of votes to be the winners.

Section 28 [§204D.19; **Special election when legislature will be in session**] amends the timing for a legislative vacancy when the vacancy occurs between the last day of session in an odd-numbered year and the 54th day before the opening day of session in the following even-numbered year. This date is two weeks earlier than current law. The prohibition on special elections four days before or after a holiday is stricken. **Sections 29 and 30** make conforming timeline changes.

Section 34 [§207A.12; **Conducting presidential nomination primary**] requires a Safe at Home program participant to be allowed to cast a ballot in the presidential nomination primary.

Section 36 [§211B.11; **Soliciting near polling places**] specifies that the prohibition on soliciting near polling places only applies during voting hours.

The remaining sections of the bill delete the term “resided” and replace it with the phrase “maintained residence.”