

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1638

As of February 11, 1998

Title: An act relating to an absentee ballot request.

Brief Description: Permitting an absentee ballot request on the election or primary day.

Sponsors: Representative Kessler; by request of Secretary of State.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Government Operations: 2/20/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Staff: Eugene Green (786-7405)

Background: A registered voter may request an absentee ballot for a single primary or election or may become an ongoing absentee voter and receive an absentee ballot for all subsequent primaries and elections.

A request for an absentee ballot may be made up to the day before the primary or election for which it is issued. However, a voter who is both confined to a hospital and who was admitted to the hospital five or fewer days before a primary or election may apply by messenger for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary or election. The application must include a signed statement by the hospital administrator, or designee, verifying the voter's date of admission and status as a patient on the day of the primary or election.

Summary of Bill: A voter may apply for an absentee ballot on the day of the primary or election.

A signed statement by a hospital administrator verifying a voter's date of admission and status as a patient is no longer required to be included with the special application for an absentee ballot that a voter confined to a hospital on the day of the primary or election may submit by messenger to the county auditor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.