

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5214

As of February 12, 2001

Title: An act relating to the time for signing and receipt of absentee and mail ballots.

Brief Description: Requiring absentee ballots to reach the auditor by election day.

Sponsors: Senators Roach, Swecker, Hale and Johnson.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: State & Local Government: 2/14/01.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Staff: Aaron Jennings (786-7445)

Background: Absentee ballots must be signed and postmarked or deposited in the county auditor's office by 8:00 pm the day of the election or primary. If a postmark is illegible, the date on the return identification envelope where the voter attests will determine the absentee ballot's validity.

Summary of Bill: In-state absentee ballots must be signed by the date of the election or primary and arrive at the county auditor's office by the time the polls are closed for the ballots to be counted. Out-of-state, overseas, or military service voters are still counted if the absentee ballot's envelope is signed and mailed by the date of the election or primary.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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