

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 4081

(SENATE AUTHORS: KORAN)

DATE
03/04/2026

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6475 Introduction and first reading
Referred to Elections

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; requiring voter verification before mail delivery of an absentee
1.3 ballot; amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.04, subdivision 5;
1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 203B.04, subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 203B.04, subdivision 1, is amended
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Application procedures.** (a) Except as otherwise allowed by subdivision
1.9 2 or by section 203B.11, subdivision 4, an application for absentee ballots for any election
1.10 may be submitted at any time not less than one day before the day of that election. The
1.11 county auditor shall prepare absentee ballot application forms in the format provided by the
1.12 secretary of state and shall furnish them to any person on request. By January 1 of each
1.13 even-numbered year, the secretary of state shall make the forms to be used available to
1.14 auditors through electronic means. An application submitted pursuant to this subdivision
1.15 shall be in writing. An application may be submitted in person, by electronic facsimile
1.16 device, by electronic mail, or by mail to:

1.17 (1) the county auditor of the county where the applicant maintains residence; or

1.18 (2) the municipal clerk of the municipality, or school district if applicable, where the
1.19 applicant maintains residence.

1.20 (b) An absentee ballot application may alternatively be submitted electronically through
1.21 a secure website that shall be maintained by the secretary of state for this purpose.

1.22 Notwithstanding paragraph (d), the secretary of state must require applicants using the
1.23 website to submit the applicant's email address and the applicant's:

2.1 (1) verifiable Minnesota driver's license number or Minnesota state identification card
2.2 number; and

2.3 (2) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number.

2.4 If an applicant does not possess both types of documents, the applicant must include the
2.5 number for one type of document and must affirmatively certify that the applicant does not
2.6 possess the other type of documentation. This paragraph does not apply to a town election
2.7 held in March.

2.8 (c) An application submitted electronically under paragraph (b) may only be transmitted
2.9 to the county auditor for processing if the secretary of state has verified the application
2.10 information matches the information in a government database associated with the applicant's
2.11 driver's license number, state identification card number, or Social Security number. The
2.12 secretary of state must review all unverifiable applications for evidence of suspicious activity
2.13 and must forward any such application to an appropriate law enforcement agency for
2.14 investigation.

2.15 (d) Subject to paragraphs (e) and (f), an application shall be approved if it is timely
2.16 received, signed and dated by the applicant, contains the applicant's name and residence
2.17 and mailing addresses, date of birth, and at least one of the following:

2.18 (1) the applicant's Minnesota driver's license number;

2.19 (2) Minnesota state identification card number;

2.20 (3) the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number; or

2.21 (4) a statement that the applicant does not have any of these numbers.

2.22 (e) To be approved, the application must contain an oath that the information contained
2.23 on the form is accurate, that the applicant is applying on the applicant's own behalf, and
2.24 that the applicant is signing the form under penalty of perjury.

2.25 (f) An application that would result in an absentee ballot being mailed that meets the
2.26 requirements of paragraphs (d) and (e) and has not already been verified under paragraph
2.27 (c), must be electronically submitted by the county auditor or municipal clerk to the secretary
2.28 of state to verify the application information matches the information in a government
2.29 database associated with the applicant's driver's license number, state identification card
2.30 number, or Social Security number. The secretary of state must maintain a secure website
2.31 for use by county auditors and municipal clerks for this purpose. The secretary of state must
2.32 review all unverifiable applications for evidence of suspicious activity and must forward
2.33 any such application to an appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation.

3.1 ~~(f)~~ (g) An applicant's full date of birth, Minnesota driver's license or state identification
 3.2 number, and the last four digits of the applicant's Social Security number must not be made
 3.3 available for public inspection. An application may be submitted to the county auditor or
 3.4 municipal clerk by an electronic facsimile device. An application mailed or returned in
 3.5 person to the county auditor or municipal clerk on behalf of a voter by a person other than
 3.6 the voter must be deposited in the mail or returned in person to the county auditor or
 3.7 municipal clerk within ten days after it has been dated by the voter and no later than six
 3.8 days before the election.

3.9 ~~(g)~~ (h) An application under this subdivision may contain an application under subdivision
 3.10 5 to automatically receive an absentee ballot. The application form must not be preprinted
 3.11 in a manner that requires the applicant to affirmatively opt out of being assigned to a
 3.12 permanent absentee voter list.

3.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2026, and applies to applications
 3.14 submitted on or after that date.

3.15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 203B.04, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

3.16 Subd. 5. **Permanent absentee voter status.** (a) An eligible voter may apply to a county
 3.17 auditor or municipal clerk to automatically receive an absentee ballot before each election,
 3.18 other than an election by mail conducted under section 204B.45, and to have the status as
 3.19 a permanent absentee voter indicated on the voter's registration record. An eligible voter
 3.20 listed as an ongoing absentee voter as of July 31, 2013, pursuant to laws in effect on that
 3.21 date, shall be treated as if the voter applied for status as a permanent absentee voter pursuant
 3.22 to this subdivision.

3.23 (b) A voter who applies under paragraph (a) must automatically be provided an absentee
 3.24 ballot for each eligible election. A voter's permanent absentee status ends and automatic
 3.25 ballot delivery must be terminated on:

3.26 (1) the voter's written request;

3.27 (2) the voter's death;

3.28 (3) return of an absentee ballot as undeliverable; or

3.29 (4) a change in the voter's status to "challenged" or "inactive" in the statewide voter
 3.30 registration system.

3.31 (c) At least 60 days but no more than 75 days before each regularly scheduled primary
 3.32 and general election, the secretary of state must validate that each permanent absentee voter

4.1 matches the information in a government database associated with the voter's driver's license
4.2 number, state identification card number, or Social Security number. If a voter on the
4.3 permanent absentee voter status cannot be verified, that voter's status must be changed to
4.4 "challenged" and the voter must be notified that the voter has been removed from the
4.5 permanent absentee voter list. The secretary of state must notify the voter by the method or
4.6 methods of communication provided by the voter on the voter's application for an absentee
4.7 ballot or voter registration.

4.8 ~~(e)~~ (d) The secretary of state shall adopt rules governing procedures under this
4.9 subdivision.

4.10 ~~(d)~~ (e) This subdivision does not apply to a voter residing in a jurisdiction that conducts
4.11 elections entirely by mail under section 204B.45.

4.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2026, and applies to elections
4.13 occurring on or after that date.