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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 158

01/19/2021 Authored by Xiong, J.; Vang; Gomez; Hollins; Lee and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; requiring voting instructions in certain languages other than
1.3 English for use in in-person absentee voting; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020,
1.4 section 203B.081, subdivision 3.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 203B.081, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. Alternative procedure. (a) The county auditor may make available a ballot
1.8 counter and ballot box for use by the voters during the seven days before the election. If a
1.9 ballot counter and ballot box is provided, a voter must be given the option either (1) to vote
1.10 using the process provided in section 203B.08, subdivision 1, or (2) to vote in the manner
1.11 provided in this subdivision.

1.12 (b) If a voter chooses to vote in the manner provided in this subdivision, the voter must
1.13 state the voter's name, address, and date of birth to the county auditor or municipal clerk.
1.14 The voter shall sign a voter's certificate, which must include the voter's name, identification
1.15 number, and the certification required by section 201.071, subdivision 1. The signature of
1.16 an individual on the voter's certificate and the issuance of a ballot to the individual is evidence
1.17 of the intent of the individual to vote at that election.

1.18 (c) After signing the voter's certificate, the voter shall be issued a ballot and immediately
1.19 retire to a voting station or other designated location in the polling place to mark the ballot.
1.20 The ballot must not be taken from the polling place. If the voter spoils the ballot, the voter
1.21 may return it to the election official in exchange for a new ballot. After completing the
1.22 ballot, the voter shall deposit the ballot into the ballot box.

2.1 (d) The election official must immediately record that the voter has voted in the manner
2.2 provided in section 203B.121, subdivision 3.

2.3 (e) The election duties required by this subdivision must be performed by the county
2.4 auditor, municipal clerk, or a deputy of the auditor or clerk.

2.5 (f) The secretary of state must prepare voting instructions in languages other than English
2.6 for use by voters casting a ballot under this subdivision. At a minimum, the instructions
2.7 must be prepared and made available in print, electronic, and audio-visual formats in the
2.8 Spanish, Hmong, and Somali languages.