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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2959

03/10/2016 Authored by McNamara and Fischer

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to elections; authorizing an alternative method for casting in-person
1.3 absentee ballots; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 203B.081.
1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 203B.081, is amended to read:

1.6 **203B.081 LOCATIONS AND METHODS FOR ABSENTEE VOTING IN**
1.7 **PERSON.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. Location; timing. An eligible voter may vote by absentee ballot in
1.9 the office of the county auditor and at any other polling place designated by the county
1.10 auditor during the 46 days before the election, except as provided in this section.

1.11 Subd. 2. Town elections. Voters casting absentee ballots in person for a town
1.12 election held in March may do so during the 30 days before the election. The county
1.13 auditor shall make such designations at least 14 weeks before the election. At least one
1.14 voting booth in each polling place must be made available by the county auditor for
1.15 this purpose. The county auditor must also make available at least one electronic ballot
1.16 marker in each polling place that has implemented a voting system that is accessible for
1.17 individuals with disabilities pursuant to section 206.57, subdivision 5.

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

1.23 (b) If a voter chooses to vote in the manner provided in this subdivision, the voter
1.24 must state the voter's name, address, and date of birth to the county auditor or municipal

2.1 clerk. The voter shall sign a voter's certificate, which must include the voter's name,
2.2 identification number, and the certification required by section 201.071, subdivision 1.
2.3 The signature of an individual on the voter's certificate and the issuance of a ballot to the
2.4 individual is evidence of the intent of the individual to vote at that election.

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

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

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