CHAPTER 8210 SECRETARY OF STATE ABSENTEE BALLOTS

8210.0050	ABSENTEE OR MAIL BALLOT MATERIALS.		PROCEDURES
8210.0100	PRESIDENTIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTS.		
8210.0200	ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION.	8210.2100	MAILING OR DELIVERING ABSENTEE
8210.0225	APPLICATIONS FROM CHALLENGED		BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES.
	VOTERS.	8210.2200	DUTIES OF COUNTY AUDITOR OR
8210.0300	BALLOT ENVELOPE.	021012200	MUNICIPAL CLERK UPON RECEIPT OF
8210.0500	INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSENT VOTER.		
8210.0600	STATEMENT OF ABSENTEE VOTER.		ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE.
8210.0700	ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE AS	8210.2300	RETAINING BALLOTS.
	PROVIDED BY MINNESOTA STATUTES,	8210.2400	SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES.
	SECTIONS 203B.04 TO 203B.15.	8210.2500	MAIL PICKUP
8210.0800	ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE AS		
	PROVIDED BY MINNESOTA STATUTES.		MAIL BALLOTS
	SECTIONS 203B.16 AND 203B.17.		
8210.1000	EXPERIMENTAL FORMS.	8210.3000	MAIL BALLOTING.

8210.0050 ABSENTEE OR MAIL BALLOT MATERIALS.

All materials mailed in connection with absentee or mail voting shall bear the official United States Postal Service Election Mail insignia, except that county auditors may consume stock on hand on August 9, 2004.

All envelopes used in connection with absentee or mail voting shall also bear a legend indicating the ballot category enclosed, in no smaller than 8-point type. The categories are:

- A. registered;
- B. nonregistered;
- C. registered (agent delivery);
- D. nonregistered (agent delivery);
- E. military/overseas;
- F. presidential only; and
- G. mail.

County auditors may consume the existing stock of absentee ballot applications on hand on August 9, 2004.

Statutory Authority: MS s 14.388

History: 29 SR 155

8210.0100 PRESIDENTIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

Subpart 1. **Procedure for voting.** A person who is qualified under United States Code, title 42, section 1973aa-1, to vote for the offices of president and vice-president or for electors for president and vice-president may vote by absentee ballot or in person at the auditor's office in the county where the person formerly resided. The affidavit of eligibility on the back of the absentee ballot return envelope must be printed in the form shown in subpart 2.

Subp. 2. Form of affidavit of eligibility.

↓ TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER↓

VOTER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

VOTER'S FORMER ADDRESS IN MINNESOTA (PLEASE PRINT)

MINNESOTA RULES 2005

8210.0100 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

612

CITY OR TOWN (PLEASE PRINT)

COUNTY (PLEASE PRINT)

I certify that I

- will be at least 18 years old on election day;
- am a citizen of the United States;
- am not under guardianship of the person where I have not retained the right to vote;
- have not been found by a court to be legally incompetent to vote;
- have not been convicted of a felony without having my civil rights restored;
- previously lived in Minnesota at the address printed above;
- moved from Minnesota to another state within 30 days of the election; and
- am not eligible to vote in the state in which I now live.

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DATE

Statutory Authority: MS s 14.388; 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125

History: 23 SR 459; 29 SR 155

8210.0200 ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION.

Subpart 1. Application form. An absentee ballot application prepared pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.06, subdivision 1, shall be in the form in subpart 1a. An absentee ballot application prepared pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.06, subdivision 1, in jurisdictions where absentee balloting is allowed for any reason, shall be in the form in subpart 1b. An absentee ballot application prepared pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.17, subdivision 2, must be in the form in subpart 1c. An absentee ballot application prepared pursuant to part 8210.0100 must be in the form in subpart 1d. An absentee ballot application for an election may include the date of the election.

Subp. 1a. General application form.

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING

RETURN THE APPLICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER ELECTION DAY CANNOT BE COUNTED.

I hereby apply for absentee ballots for:

(Check one)

()	both primary and general elections
()	primary election only
()	general election only

I will need an absentee ballot for the (Check one)	following reaso	n:
() absence from precinc () illness or disability () religious discipline or observance of religiou () service as election jud Name	ıs holiday	precinct
My legal residence address is:		
My legal residence address is.		
Street or Route No.	Apt. No.	Rural Box No.
() City () Township	County	Zip
(check whichever is applicable) Telephone number (optional)		
Date of birth (optional)		
Mail my absentee ballot to me at the	following addre	ess:
Street or Route No.	Apt. No.	Rural Box No.
City	State	Zìp
Date	Legal Signatu	re
Subp. 1b. [Repealed, 29 SR 155]		

Subp. 1b. [Repealed, 29 SR 155] Subp. 1c. **Military application form.**

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION

Who may use this application:

You may use this application for an absentee ballot if you (or the voter you are applying for) will be absent from your Minnesota residence on election day because you are

- a member of the armed forces
- a spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces
- temporarily outside the United States
- permanently living outside the United States.

8210.0200 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Please complete the following:

You may apply on behalf of another voter if you are the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child age 18 or older of the voter. One application covers both the upcoming primary and general elections.

Please drop-off, mail, or fax this application to the county auditor's office in the county where you reside or resided in Minnesota. Allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to you and for the ballot to arrive back to the county auditor by election day.

Voter's name Voter's date of birth Voter's Minnesota address (If the voter is living permanently outside the United States, please give the voter's former address of residence in Minnesota.) MN City or township Check the box that best describes why the voter will be absent from Minnesota on election day: () Voter is a member of the armed forces. Voter is the spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces. Voter is temporarily outside the United States. Voter lives permanently outside the United States with no definite intention of returning to the United States (eligible to vote for president, vice-president, and members of Congress only). Mail the ballot(s) to this address: Applicant's signature: The voter expects to be absent from the precinct on election day. The information I provided on this application is true and correct. Signature of applicant Date

Relat	ionship to voter (if applicant is not voter)
Please pro	vide one of the following forms of identification (check one):
	Voter's military ID card number
	Voter's passport numberor
	Signature and title of a person authorized to administer oaths certifying that the applicant has attested to the truthfulness of the contents of this application under oath. (This person may be a military officer ranked sergeant or equivalent or above, a notary public, or any other person authorized to administer oaths.)
	Signature Title
Subp.	1d. Presidential application form.
	PRESIDENTIAL ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION
Who may u	ise this application:
	w permits you to apply for an absentee ballot that has only the offices of and vice-president if you:
	rill be at least 18 years old on election day; re a citizen of the United States;
• a:	re not under a guardianship of the person;
	ave not been found by a court to be legally
	ave not been convicted of a felony without having
ye	our civil rights restored;
	reviously lived in Minnesota; noved from Minnesota to another state within 30 days
	f the election; and
• a	re not eligible to register to vote in the state in which you now live.
in the cou	p-off, mail, or fax this application as soon as possible to the auditor's office nty where you lived in Minnesota. Allow enough time for the ballot to be you and for the ballot to arrive back to the county auditor by election day.

Your name

Your former address in Minnesota

MN

Please complete the following:

City or township

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County

8210,0200 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

ease sign.	
The information I provided of is true and correct	on this application
is true and correct	

Subp. 1e. [Repealed, 25 SK 616]

Subp. 1f. [Repealed, 25 SR 616]

Subp. 2. Absentee ballot instruction. The following instructions must be sent with an absentee ballot application prepared pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.06, subdivision 1. Jurisdictions where absentee voting is allowed for any reason may omit instruction number 2:

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. To vote by absentee ballot
- you must be an eligible voter, and
- you must reside at the legal residence address you give on this application on election day.

It is a felony to make a false statement in an application for an absentee ballot, to apply for an absentee ballot more than once in an election with the intent to cast an illegal ballot, to show a ballot marked by a person to another person, or to violate an absentee ballot provision for the purpose of casting an illegal vote or to help anyone to cast an illegal vote.

- 2. Be sure to check the appropriate box indicating why you cannot go to your polling place on election day; these are the only reasons that entitle you to vote by absentee ballot.
- 3. Be sure to give your correct legal residence address as completely as possible, since this is used to verify your precinct number.
 - 4. Be sure to sign the application.
- 5. Return the completed application as soon as possible to the election official from whom you received it.

Remember:

- You must indicate whether you are requesting ballots for the primary or general election, or both.
 - Do not submit more than one application for each election.
- Your absentee ballots will be mailed or delivered to you as soon as they are available.
 - Ballots received by election officials after election day will not be counted.

- Subp. 3. **Postcard application.** The absentee ballot application may be printed as a postcard application or in any other manner deemed appropriate by the secretary of state. If the application is printed as a postcard application, it must conform to United States Postal Service requirements.
- Subp. 4. **Permanent application.** An eligible voter who meets the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.04, subdivision 5, may apply to the county auditor or municipal clerk to automatically receive an absentee ballot application for each election in which the voter is eligible to vote. The county auditor shall make available the form provided in subpart 4a for this purpose. The voter shall complete the form and return it to the county auditor or municipal clerk. A municipal clerk who receives a completed application shall forward it to the county auditor immediately. The voter's permanent application status must be indicated and permanently maintained on the voter's registration record on the statewide voter registration system.

The county auditor shall maintain a list of voters who have applied to automatically receive an absentee ballot application. At least 45 days before each election, the county auditor or municipal clerk shall send an absentee ballot application to each person on the list who is eligible to vote in the election.

Subp. 4a. Permanent application form.

APPLICATION TO AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Name				
	Last	First	Middle	
Township or City of Legal Residence _		······		
	Township o	r City	County	
Address of Legal Residence	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
· ·	Street Address	or Route and Box	Number	
Mailing Address for Application (if different)				
,	Street Address or Route and Box Number			
	Mailing City	State	Zip	
Telephone Number ((optional)			
Date of Birth (option	nal)			
polling place for my	precinct due to ill	ness or disability a	le to vote in person at the and hereby request that an ach election in which I am	
Signature		Da	te	

Subp. 5. [Repealed, 25 SR 616]

8210.0200 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Subp. 6. Agent delivery application. An application for agent delivery may be combined in one document with an absentee ballot application.

Statutory Authority: MS s 14.388; 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125

History: 10 SR 1690; 13 SR 259; 15 SR 1641; 17 SR 8; 20 SR 2787; 23 SR 459; 25 SR 616; 29 SR 155

8210.0225 APPLICATIONS FROM CHALLENGED VOTERS.

A voter registration application must be sent with the ballot to any challenged voter and to each voter whose voter registration application is incomplete under Minnesota Statutes, section 201.061, subdivision 1a, or 201.121, who applies for an absentee ballot. The absentee ballot process must be administered as if the voter was not registered to vote.

Statutory Authority: MS s 14.388; 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125

History: 23 SR 459; 29 SR 155

8210.0250 [Repealed, 25 SR 616]

8210.0300 BALLOT ENVELOPE.

The ballot envelope shall be printed in the following manner.

The envelope shall be tan in color with black ink. The envelope shall be of a size to fit inside the absentee ballot return envelope. The words "Ballot Envelope" shall be printed on the front of the envelope.

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125; 203B.14

History: 8 SR 1348; 17 SR 351

8210.0500 INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSENT VOTER.

Subpart 1. Required instructions. Instructions to the absent voter shall be enclosed with the absentee ballot materials mailed or delivered to the absent voter. The instructions shall be in the form in subpart 2, 3, or 4. The instructions may include a telephone number or electronic mail address which voters can call or contact for help in absentee voting. In election jurisdictions using electronic voting systems, the instructions must explain how to correctly mark and fold the electronic voting system ballots. The instructions must inform the voter of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office and, in the case of a partisan primary, the effect of voting for candidates of more than one party. The instructions must include information on how to correct a ballot before it is cast and counted, including instructions on how to request a replacement ballot if the voter is unable to change the ballot or correct an error.

Subp. 2. Instructions for unregistered voters.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSENTEE VOTERS, VOTERS WHO ARE CURRENTLY NOT REGISTERED IN MINNESOTA, VOTERS WHOSE REGISTRATIONS HAVE BEEN DULY CHALLENGED, AND VOTERS WHO REGISTERED BY MAIL AND HAVE NOT COMPLETED REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

"IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHALLENGED VOTERS:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 201, the county auditor is required to "challenge" your voter registration, either because of a notification from the post office that you no longer live at the address listed on your voter registration or because of another question about your eligibility to vote. To remove the challenge so that your ballot can be counted, you must complete the enclosed Minnesota voter registration application. Read the statement at the bottom of the registration application and sign the application only if all parts apply to you. To complete the return envelope, follow the instructions provided."

Follow these instructions carefully.

Before you vote by absentee ballot you must have a witness.

- Step 1. Locate one of the following individuals to serve as your witness:
- a. anyone who is registered to vote in Minnesota including your spouse or another relative who meets this qualification;
 - b. a notary public; or
 - c. any person having authority to administer oaths.
- Step 2. Fill out the voter registration application. Remember to sign your name at the bottom of the application.
- Step 3. Show your witness your proof of residence in the precinct. One of the following documents may be used as proof of residence:
- a. a valid Minnesota driver's license, permit, or identification card, or a receipt for any of these forms, that contains your current address;
 - b. one document from the list in (i) and one document from the list in (ii):
- (i) an original bill in your name for gas, electric, telephone, cable television, solid waste, water, or sewer services showing your current address and due up to 30 days before or after election day, and
- (ii) your Minnesota driver's license or identification card, United States passport, United States military identification card with your photograph, or Minnesota postsecondary student identification card with your photograph;
- c. the signature of a registered voter who lives in your precinct; if your witness is registered to vote in your precinct, your witness may also vouch for you;
- d. a student identification card, registration card, or fee statement that contains the student's current address in the precinct;
 - e. a current valid registration in the same precinct; or
- f. tribal band members living on an Indian reservation may prove residence for purposes of registering by showing an identification card issued by the tribal government of a tribe recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, that contains the name, street address, signature, and picture of the individual. The county auditor of each county having territory within the reservation shall maintain a record of the number of election day registrations accepted under this section.
 - Step 4. Show your witness the unmarked ballots.
- Step 5. Mark the ballots in secrecy. If you are disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballots, you may ask your witness to assist you. Mark your votes in the manner shown or explained at the top of the ballots. Follow the instructions under each office that tell you how many votes can be cast and do not cast more votes than instructed. Casting more votes than instructed for an office will prevent your votes from being counted for that office.

FOR PRIMARY VOTERS ONLY: Carefully follow the instructions on the ballot. If you are voting in a partisan primary, you may only vote for the candidates of one party. Voting for candidates in more than one party will prevent your partisan ballot from being counted.

If you make an error when marking your ballot, you may request a new ballot from the election official from whom you received your ballot. If you cannot request a new ballot for any reason, completely erase any errors and remark your ballot.

- Step 6. Fold each ballot so that it fits within the tan ballot secrecy envelope. Do not put any identifying marks on the ballot.
- Step 7. Place all voted ballots in the tan ballot secrecy envelope and seal the envelope. Do not write on the tan ballot secrecy envelope.

8210.0500 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- Step 8. Place the tan ballot secrecy envelope and your completed voter registration application into the white ballot return envelope and seal the envelope.
- Step 9. Print your name and address and sign your name on the back of the white ballot return envelope. The name, address, and signature of your witness are required as well.
- Step 10. Return your ballot to the address on the white ballot return envelope in one of the following ways:
 - a. by mail so it will be delivered by election day;
 - b. in person no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day; or
- c. by having someone else return your ballot by 3:00 p.m. on election day (this person cannot be a candidate and cannot return ballots for more than three voters).

Note: Follow these instructions carefully. An improperly completed ballot, or statement of voter or witness, will invalidate your votes. If you have any questions, please call

Subp. 3. Instructions for registered voters.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSENTEE VOTERS

Follow these instructions carefully.

Before you vote by absentee ballot you must have a witness.

- Step 1. Locate one of the following individuals to serve as your witness:
- a. anyone who is registered to vote in Minnesota including your spouse or another relative who meets this qualification;
 - b. a notary public; or
 - c. any person having authority to administer oaths.
 - Step 2. Show your witness the unmarked ballots.
- Step 3. Mark the ballots in secrecy. If you are disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballots, you may ask your witness to assist you. Mark your votes in the manner shown or explained at the top of the ballots. Follow the instructions under each office that tell you how many votes can be cast and do not cast more votes than instructed. Casting more votes than instructed for an office will prevent your votes from being counted for that office.
- FOR PRIMARY VOTERS ONLY: Carefully follow the instructions on the ballot. If you are voting in a partisan primary, you may only vote for candidates of one party. Voting for candidates in more than one party will prevent your partisan ballot from being counted.

If you make an error when marking your ballot, you may request a new ballot from the election official from whom you received your ballot. If you cannot request a new ballot for any reason, completely erase any errors and remark your ballot.

- Step 4. Fold each ballot so that it fits within the tan ballot secrecy envelope. Do not put any identifying marks on the ballot.
- Step 5. Place all voted ballots in the tan ballot secrecy envelope and seal the envelope. Do not write on the tan ballot secrecy envelope.
- Step 6. Place the tan ballot secrecy envelope into the white ballot return envelope and seal the envelope.
- Step 7. Print your name and address and sign your name on the back of the white ballot return envelope. The name, address, and signature of your witness are required as well.
- Step 8. Return your ballot to the address on the white ballot return envelope in one of the following ways:
 - a. by mail so it will be delivered by election day;

621

- b. in person no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day; or
- c. by having someone else return your ballot by 3:00 p.m. on election day (this person cannot be a candidate and cannot return ballots for more than three voters).

Note: Follow these instructions carefully. An improperly completed ballot, or statement of voter or witness, will invalidate your votes. If you have any questions, please call

Subp. 4. **Instructions for military and overseas voters.** The following instructions must be sent to military and overseas absentee voters voting under Minnesota Statutes, sections 203B.16 to 203B.27:

INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSENTEE VOTERS

Follow these instructions carefully.

Step 1. Mark the ballots in secrecy. Mark your votes in the manner shown or explained at the top of the ballots. Follow the instructions under each office that tell you how many votes can be cast and do not cast more votes than instructed. Casting more votes than instructed for an office will prevent your votes from being counted for that office.

FOR PRIMARY VOTERS ONLY: Carefully follow the instructions on the ballot. If you are voting in a partisan primary, you may only vote for candidates of one party. Voting for candidates in more than one party will prevent your partisan ballot from being counted.

If you make an error when marking your ballot, you may erase any errors and remark your ballot or you may request a new ballot from the county auditor from whom you received your ballot. If you are disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballots, you may have someone assist you. Do not permit any other individual to observe the marking of the ballot.

- Step 2. Fold each ballot so that it fits within the tan ballot secrecy envelope. Do not put any identifying marks on the ballot.
- Step 3. Place all completed ballots in the tan ballot secrecy envelope and seal the envelope. Do not write on the tan ballot secrecy envelope. Do not permit other individuals to see your ballot before sealing the ballot envelope.
- Step 4. Place the tan ballot secrecy envelope into the white ballot return envelope and seal the envelope.
- Step 5. Write your military identification number or passport number on the back of the white ballot return envelope. If you cannot provide your military identification number or passport number on the return ballot envelope, you must have the signature and certification of a commissioned officer of the armed forces or any official authorized to administer oaths under federal law or the law of the state of Minnesota or other place where the oath is administered.
- Step 6. Print your name and your present or last address in Minnesota. Date and sign your name on the back of the white ballot return envelope.
- Step 7. Return your ballot to the address on the white ballot return envelope by mail or expedited delivery service so it will be delivered by no later than election day.

Statutory Authority: MS s 14.388; 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125; 203B.14 **History:** 17 SR 351; 23 SR 459; 25 SR 616; 29 SR 155

8210.0600 STATEMENT OF ABSENTEE VOTER.

Subpart 1. Form. Except as provided in subpart 4, the statement of absentee voter for persons voting under Minnesota Statutes, sections 203B.04 to 203B.15, must be printed in the form shown in subpart 1a.

Subp. 1a. Statement of absentee voter form.

↓TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER↓ VOTER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)					
VOTER'S ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT)					
I certify that on election day I will meet a ballot.	all the legal requirements to vote by absentee				
VOTER'S SIGNATURE	DATE				
↓ TO BE COMPLI I certify that the voter	ETED BY WITNESS↓				
 showed me the blank ballots be marked the ballots in secrecy of unable to mark the ballots, the marked as directed by the vote: enclosed and sealed the ballots envelope; registered to vote by filling out voter registration card in the ballots provided proof of residence as NAME OF WITNESS (PLEASE PRINT) 	or, if physically ballots were r; in the secrecy and enclosing a allot envelope; and indicated below.				
ADDRESS OF WITNESS (PLEASE PR	INT)				
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	DATE				
TITLE OF WITNESS (IF AN OFFICIAL	 L)				
↓PROOF OF RESIDE Witness - please check one:	NCE USED BY VOTER↓				
() MN Driver's License/Permit/ID Card receipt with current address. Number: () Utility bill plus a MN Driver's License/ID Card, U.S. particular particular properties of the card with picture, or student ID card Number:	assport, U.S. military				

	Previous registration in the same precinct. Student ID. Number:
():	Notice of Late Registration from county auditor or
	municipal clerk. Registered voter in the precinct who vouched for absentee
٠.,	voter's residence in the precinct.
1	(Please complete the next three lines.)
	VOUCHER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)
	VOUCHER'S ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT)
	VOUCHER'S SIGNATURE
threa CON capi	two lines of a statement of absentee voter before mailing it to the absent voter by ting the name and address of the absent voter or by attaching a mailing label Subp. 3. Printing specifications. The statement shall be printed on the right-hand e-fourths of the back of the absentee ballot return envelope. The words "TO BE MPLETED BY VOTER" shall be printed in no smaller than 12-point type in tal letters. The remainder of the statement shall be printed in no smaller than point medium type.
not alter only	Subp. 4. Alternative statement. As an alternative, a county auditor may print two crent versions of the statement. One version must be provided to absentee voters previously registered to vote and must be printed as prescribed in subpart 1. An anate version may be printed in the form shown in subpart 4a and must be provided to absentee voters who are registered to vote at the time of application. The ement must be printed to the specifications of subpart 3.
	Subp. 4a. Alternative statement of absentee voter form.
	↓TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER↓
VO	TER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)
VO	TER'S ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT)

↓ TO BE COMPLETED BY WITNESS↓

I certify that on election day I will meet all the legal requirements to vote by absentee

DATE

I certify that the voter

VOTER'S SIGNATURE

ballot.

- showed me the blank ballots before voting;
- marked the ballots in secrecy or, if physically unable to mark the ballots, the ballots were marked as

8210.0600 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

directed by the voter; and enclosed and sealed the ballots in the secrecy envelope.

NAME OF WITNESS (PLEASE PRINT)	
ADDRESS OF WITNESS (PLEASE PRINT)	
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	DATE
TITLE OF WITNESS (IF AN OFFICIAL)	

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125; 203B.14

History: 8 SR 1348; 17 SR 351; 23 SR 459; 25 SR 616

8210.0700 ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE AS PROVIDED BY MINNE-SOTA STATUTES, SECTIONS 203B.04 TO 203B.15.

Subpart 1. Form. The absentee ballot return envelope for persons casting an absentee ballot under Minnesota Statutes, sections 203B.04 to 203B.15, must be printed according to the specifications in subpart 2.

- Subp. 2. **Printing specifications.** The absentee ballot return envelope must be printed according to the following specifications:
 - A. The envelope must be no smaller than 10-3/8 inches by 4-1/2 inches.
- B. The words and numbers printed on the left-hand end of the envelope must be in no smaller than 12-point bold type.
- C. The words "ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE" printed across the face of the envelope must be in no smaller than 18-point bold type in capital letters.
 - D. The envelope must be white in color with black ink.
- E. The flap on one end of the back side of the envelope may be printed as follows:

"FOR OFFICE USE ONLY"

() ACCEPTED

() REJECTED

Subp. 3. Mailing address. County auditors and municipal clerks shall cause a mailing address to be printed on each return envelope that they mail or deliver to an absent voter. The address block shall be located in the lower right one-quarter of the envelope. A return envelope may be addressed to the county auditor, to the municipal clerk, or to the election judges of the precinct in which the absent voter is eligible to vote.

When an auditor has the duty to address envelopes for a municipality and the envelopes are to be addressed to the election judges, the clerk shall notify the auditor of the proper mailing address of each polling place in the municipality. The clerk shall immediately notify the auditor of every change in the initial notification.

Subp. 4. [Repealed, 20 SR 2787]

Subp. 5. [Repealed, 20 SR 2787]

- Subp. 6. [Repealed, 20 SR 2787]
- Subp. 7. Ward and precinct number. The official mailing or delivering absentee ballots to an absent voter shall, before doing so, fill in the absent voter's ward and precinct number in the spaces provided on the left-hand end of the return envelope.
- Subp. 8. Return address. A county auditor or municipal clerk may affix the return address to the upper left-hand corner of the return envelope.
- Subp. 9. Marks approved by United States Postal Service. Marks approved by the United States Postal Service to identify ballot materials may be printed on the absentee ballot return envelope.
- Subp. 10. Sample envelope layout. The secretary of state shall provide samples of the layout of the front and the back of the envelope.

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125; 203B.14

History: 8 SR 1348; 17 SR 351; 17 SR 1279; 19 SR 593; 20 SR 2787; 23 SR 459; 25 SR 616

8210.0800 ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE AS PROVIDED BY MINNE-SOTA STATUTES, SECTIONS 203B.16 AND 203B.17.

- Subpart 1. Form. The absentee ballot return envelope for military and overseas voters must be printed according to the specifications in subpart 2.
- Subp. 2. **Specifications.** The specifications in items A to I apply to envelopes prepared pursuant to subpart 1.
- A. The envelope may not be more than 11-1/2 inches in length nor less than 5-1/2 inches in length.
- B. The envelope may not be more than 6-1/8 inches in width nor less than 3-1/2 inches in width.
- C. In the upper right-hand corner, a postage symbol and box shall be imprinted:

U.S. Postage Paid 39 USC 3406

- D. The words PAR AVION must be printed in 12-point bold type in capital letters one-half inch below the postage box.
- E. The words "OFFICIAL ABSENTEE BALLOTING MATERIAL --FIRST CLASS MAIL" must be printed in 18-point bold type and inside a box.
- F. The envelope must be white in color with Pantone 194 U red ink or darker used for all printing.
- G. County auditors or municipal clerks must address the return envelope as provided in part 8210.0700, subpart 3.
- H. Facing identification marks (FIM) must be positioned as specified in United States postal service instructions for facing identification marks.
- I. Marks approved by the United States Postal Service to identify ballot materials may be printed on the absentee ballot envelopes.
- Subp. 3. **Affidavit of eligibility.** On the back of the absentee return envelope provided for in Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.21, an affidavit of eligibility must be printed on the right-hand three-fourths of the envelope in the form shown in subpart 3a.
 - Subp. 3a. Form of affidavit of eligibility.

↓TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER↓

VOTER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

VOTER'S PRESENT OR LAST ADDRESS IN MINNESOTA (PLEASE PRINT)

8210.0800 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

CITY O	R TOWN (PLEASE PRINT)	
COUNT	Y (PLEASE PRINT)	
I certify	that	
•	the information above is corr I have not cast and will not control ballot in this election; I personally marked the enclosity without exhibiting it to any of which, in case of my physical for me under my personal did I am qualified to vote the enclosity (check category that applied	ast any other osed ballot(s) ther person, or disability, was marked rection; and closed ballot(s)
	() a member of the armed forces;	() a spouse or dependent of a member of the armed forces;
	() a citizen of the U.S. temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the U.S.;	() a citizen of the U.S. permanently residing outside the territorial limits of the U.S.
* Militar	ry identification or passport num	nber:
VOTER	'S SIGNATURE	DATE
	No witness is required if you p	LETED BY WITNESS \(\psi\) provide your military identification or passport ation or passport number on your application.
SIGNAT	TURE OF WITNESS	DATE
		rice of witness authorized to administer oaths or below the rank of sergeant or its equivalent.)
the layou	p. 4. Sample envelope layout. That of the front and the back of the tutory Authority: MS s 203B.04; tory: 8 SR 1348; 23 SR 459	

8210.1000 EXPERIMENTAL FORMS.

The secretary of state may provide for the experimental use of alternate forms on a trial basis.

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.08; 203B.09

History: 8 SR 1348

PROCEDURES

8210.2100 MAILING OR DELIVERING ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES.

Except as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.11, an absent voter who receives absentee ballots by mail or in person may cause the absentee ballot return envelope to be returned by any of the following methods:

- A. causing the envelope to be mailed to the address on it;
- B. delivering the envelope in person to the county auditor or municipal clerk from whom the ballots were received; or
- C. designating an agent who shall deliver in person the sealed envelope to the county auditor or municipal clerk from whom the ballots were received. An agent shall be at least 18 years old. No individual may be designated as the agent of more than three absent voters in any one election.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 203B.08; 203B.09*

History: 17 SR 1279

8210.2200 DUTIES OF COUNTY AUDITOR OR MUNICIPAL CLERK UPON RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE.

- Subpart 1. **Personal delivery.** Absentee ballot return envelopes that are delivered in person by an absent voter must be received by the county auditor or municipal clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day. Absentee ballot return envelopes that are delivered in person by an agent must be received by the county auditor or municipal clerk by 3:00 p.m. on election day.
- Subp. 2. **Inspecting for seal.** Before accepting an absentee ballot return envelope that is hand delivered by an absent voter or an agent, the county auditor or municipal clerk shall inspect the envelope to verify that it is sealed and that the absent voter's certificate is properly completed.

When an absent voter hand delivers an envelope which is unsealed or has an improperly completed absent voter's certificate, the absent voter shall be allowed to seal the envelope and correct or complete the certificate.

When an agent hand delivers a sealed envelope with an improperly completed absent voter's certificate, the agent may return the envelope to the absent voter for correction or completion.

When an agent hand delivers an envelope that is not sealed or which the auditor or clerk has reason to believe has been tampered with, the envelope shall not be accepted. The auditor or clerk shall write "rejected" across the absentee ballot return envelope and shall write the reason for rejection on the envelope. The absentee ballot return envelope shall be retained by the auditor or clerk in the auditor's or clerk's office. A notice of nonacceptance shall be mailed to the absent voter promptly, stating the date of nonacceptance, the name and address of the agent, and the reason for nonacceptance. A replacement ballot notice may be sent in place of the notice of nonacceptance. The absent voter may apply for replacement absentee ballots.

Subp. 3. Recording name and address. When an absentee ballot return envelope is hand delivered to the county auditor or municipal clerk by an agent, the agent shall, on a record maintained by the auditor or clerk, print the agent's name and address, the name and address of the absent voter whose ballot the agent is delivering, and sign his or her name. The agent shall show to the auditor or clerk identification which contains the agent's name and signature.

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125

History: 8 SR 1348; 17 SR 1279; 23 SR 459; 25 SR 616

8210.2300 RETAINING BALLOTS.

A county auditor or municipal clerk who receives an absentee ballot return envelope in person from an absent voter or an agent may deposit the envelope in the mail or retain it in the office as provided in part 8210.2400. However, on receiving the return envelope on the day before election day, the auditor or clerk shall retain the return envelope in the auditor's or clerk's office as provided in part 8210.2400 and deliver the return envelope to the polling place on election day.

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.08; 203B.09

History: 17 SR 1279

8210.2400 SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES.

The county auditor or municipal clerk shall establish measures for safeguarding absentee ballot return envelopes received prior to election day.

- A. An auditor or clerk intending to deposit return envelopes in the mail shall do so promptly upon receipt of the return envelope from the absent voter or agent.
- B. The auditor or clerk shall establish a record of absentee ballot return envelopes which are retained in the office. The record shall state the absent voter's name, address, and precinct number; the agent's name, if any; and the date the ballot was received by the auditor or clerk.
- C. All retained envelopes shall be placed in a locked, secure location after being dated, stamped, and recorded. The envelopes shall not be removed from this location or handled until election day, except as necessary in an emergency or to process ballots as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.13.
- D. A part-time municipal clerk who receives return envelopes shall notify the auditor prior to each election of the safeguarding procedures which the clerk plans to follow, and the procedures shall be subject to the auditor's approval.
- E. On election day all absentee ballot return envelopes retained by the county auditor or municipal clerk shall be removed from the place of safekeeping and compared with the record required by this rule to ensure that all envelopes are accounted for. Any discrepancy shall be reported to the secretary of state promptly. Each return envelope shall then be delivered to the polling place in the precinct where the absent voter resides.

Statutory Authority: MS s 203B.04; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125

History: 17 SR 1279; 23 SR 459

8210.2500 MAIL PICKUP.

Each municipal clerk shall communicate with the United States postal service facility serving the municipality with regard to the handling of absentee ballot return envelopes received by the post office on election day after the last regular mail delivery has commenced. The municipal clerk shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that all return envelopes received by the post office before 4 p.m. on election day are delivered before the closing of the polls to the election judges in the precinct where the absent voter resides.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 203B.08; 203B.09*

History: 17 SR 1279

MAIL BALLOTS

8210.3000 MAIL BALLOTING.

Subpart 1. **Scope.** This part applies to mail balloting conducted under Minnesota Statutes, sections 204B.45 and 204B.46. Except as otherwise provided in this part, parts 8210.0200 to 8210.2500 also apply to mail balloting. In unorganized territory, the county auditor shall perform the duties specified for the municipal clerk.

Subp. 2. Authorization. The municipal governing body, school board, or county board may authorize mail balloting by resolution adopted no later than 45 days prior to

the first election at which mail balloting will be used. If mail balloting is adopted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.45, the resolution remains in effect for all subsequent state and county elections until revoked. Revocation of the resolution may occur no later than 45 days before the next affected election. Authorization to conduct a special election pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.46, expires after completion of the election.

- Subp. 3. Notice. The municipal clerk or school district clerk shall notify the county auditor of the adoption or discontinuance of mail balloting no later than two weeks after adoption or revocation of the resolution. The county auditor shall send a similar notice to the secretary of state for elections authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.45. The county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk shall post notice of mail ballot procedures at least six weeks before each election. Notice of mail ballot procedures must include:
 - A. the name or description of the municipality or unorganized territory;
 - B. the date of the election and the dates that ballots will be mailed;
- C. a statement that each voter registered by the 21st day before the election will be mailed a ballot;
 - D. the times, places, and manner in which voted ballots can be returned;
- E. an explanation of how an eligible voter who is not registered may apply for a ballot and how a registered voter who will be absent from the precinct may apply to receive the ballot at a temporary address;
 - F. the place and time for counting of ballots; and
- G. the name and address or telephone number of the official or office where additional information can be obtained.

Before the first election at which mail balloting will be used or discontinued, notice must also be given by one or more of the following means: publication in a newspaper of general circulation, posting of notice at public locations within each precinct, dissemination of information through the media or at public meetings, or mailed notice to registered voters.

Subp. 4. Mailing ballots. The county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk shall mail ballots to the voters registered in the municipality or unorganized territory. A ballot mailing must be sent to each registered voter no earlier than 20 or later than 14 days prior to the election. No ballot may be mailed to a challenged voter. A challenged voter may apply for an absentee ballot.

The mail balloting process for voters whose registrations are incomplete under Minnesota Statutes, section 201.061, subdivision 1a, or 201.121, must be administered as if the voter were not registered to vote.

Ballots must be sent by nonforwardable mail. Ballots for eligible voters who reside in health care facilities may be delivered as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.11. The ballot mailing must be addressed to the voter at the voter's residence address as shown on the registration file unless the voter completes an absentee ballot request as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.04 or 203B.16.

A return envelope, a ballot secrecy envelope, and instructions for marking and returning mail ballots must be included with the ballots. The instructions may include a telephone number or electronic mail address which voters can call or write for help in mail voting. At the request of the secretary of state, a survey card that the voter can return to the secretary of state must also be included. The ballot return envelope must be printed with the mail voter's certificate. The ballot return envelope must be addressed for return to the county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk that is conducting the election. First class postage must be affixed to the return envelope.

8210,3000 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Subp. 4a. Form of instructions to mail voters.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MAIL BALLOT VOTERS

Follow these instructions carefully.

Before you vote you must have a witness.

Step 1. Locate one of the following individuals to serve as your witness:

- a. anyone who is registered to vote in Minnesota including your spouse or another relative who meets this qualification;
 - b. a notary public; or
 - c. any person having authority to administer oaths.
 - Step 2. Show your witness the unmarked ballots.
- Step 3. Mark the ballots in secrecy. If you are disabled or otherwise unable to mark the ballots, you may ask your witness to assist you. Mark your votes in the manner shown or explained at the top of the ballots. Follow the instructions under each office that tell you how many votes can be cast and do not cast more votes than instructed. Casting more votes than instructed for an office will prevent your votes from being counted for that office.

FOR PRIMARY VOTERS ONLY: Carefully follow the instructions on the ballot. If you are voting in a partisan primary, you may only vote for candidates of one party. Voting for candidates in more than one party will prevent your partisan ballot from being counted.

If you make an error when marking your ballot you may request a new ballot from the election official from whom you received your ballot. If you cannot request a new ballot for any reason, completely erase any errors and remark your ballot.

- Step 4. Fold each ballot so that it fits within the tan ballot secrecy envelope. Do not put any identifying marks on the ballot.
- Step 5. Place all voted ballots in the tan ballot secrecy envelope and seal the envelope. Do not write on this envelope.
- Step 6. Place the tan ballot secrecy envelope into the white ballot return envelope and seal the envelope.
- Step 7. Print your name and address and sign your name on the back of the white ballot return envelope. The name, address, and signature of your witness are required as well.
- Step 8. Return your ballot to the address on the white ballot return envelope by mail so it will be delivered by election day or in person or through your designated agent no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day.

If you have questions, please call (...) ...-....

Subp. 4b. Form of mail voter's certificate.

↓ TO BE COMPLETED BY VOTER ↓

VOTER'S NAME (PLEASE PRINT)				
VOTER'S ADDRESS (PLEASE PRIN	NT)			
I certify that on election day I will mee	t all the legal requirements to vote.			
VOTER'S SIGNATURE	DATE			

↓ TO BE COMPLETED BY WITNESS↓

I certify that the voter

- showed me the blank ballots before voting;
- marked the ballots in secrecy or, if physically unable to mark the ballots, the ballots were marked as directed by the voter; and
- enclosed and sealed the ballots in the secrecy envelope.

NAME OF WITNESS (PLEASE PRINT)		
ADDRESS OF WITNESS (PLEASE PRINT)		
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS	DATE	
TITLE OF WITNESS (IF AN OFFICIAL)		

Subp. 4c. [Repealed, 25 SR 616]

Subp. 5. Nonregistered eligible voters. An eligible voter who was not registered on the 21st day prior to the election may apply for and receive an absentee ballot. Absentee voting in precincts using mail balloting must be conducted under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 203B, except that the time for applying for, receiving, and returning absentee ballots is extended until 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. The instructions to absentee voters must be those specified in part 8210.0500, subpart 2. The statement of absentee voter must be that specified in part 8210.0600, subpart 1a, or 8210.0800, subpart 3a. The absentee ballot return envelope must be as specified in part 8210.0700 or 8210.0800.

Subp. 6. Replacement ballots. A voter who has spoiled a ballot may request a replacement ballot from the official conducting the election by completing a replacement mail ballot affidavit. The spoiled ballot must be returned to the official who issued the ballot, either by mail or in person, before a replacement ballot can be issued. The election official must put the returned ballot in a spoiled ballot envelope. A replacement ballot may also be issued to a voter who signs an affidavit stating that the voter did not receive or lost the ballot mailed to the voter. The election official shall stamp or mark on all replacement ballot return envelopes the words "REPLACE-MENT BALLOT" and shall maintain a record of all replacement ballots issued.

Subp. 6a. Form of replacement mail ballot affidavit.

	REPLACEMENT MAIL BALLOT AFFIDAVIT OF
	(print or type legal name of voter)
	(print or type legal address)
I certify that	at
• I am a re	sident and eligible voter in
	(name of township or territory)

- I am requesting a replacement ballot because I spoiled, lost, or did not receive the ballot mailed to me;
- if I spoiled the ballot, I have returned the spoiled ballot to the official who issued the ballot or that it is enclosed with this affidavit;

8210.3000 ABSENTEE BALLOTS

- if I receive both ballots or find the first ballot, I will destroy the unused ballot and will vote only once; and
- I understand that voting twice is a felony punishable by not more than five years imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.

(date)	(legal signature of voter)

Subp. 7. Undeliverable ballots. Ballots returned by the post office as undeliverable to the voter at the address of registration must be securely retained. If the auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk is able to verify the voter's residence at that address, the ballot may be reissued. A ballot undeliverable to the voter at the address of registration must be considered a returned notice of verification as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 201.12, and the voter's registration must be challenged. The official conducting the election shall maintain a record of all undeliverable ballots.

If the ballot is returned by the post office with notification of the voter's new address within the county, municipality, school district, or unorganized territory holding the mail election, the auditor or clerk shall resend a ballot to the voter along with a voter registration card, an absentee ballot return envelope as provided in part 8210.0600, subpart 1a, and a notice explaining the need and the procedure to register at the voter's new address. The auditor or clerk shall keep a list of individuals who are sent the second mailing and will provide a copy of that list to the election judges for use in processing the returned ballots. The list of voters sent the second mailing will take the place of the absentee ballot request form specified in part 8210.0200.

Subp. 8. Returning ballots. Mail ballots may be returned to the official conducting the election by mail, in person, or by designated agent. The official conducting the election must accept ballots returned in person, or by designated agent, until 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election. An individual shall not be the designated agent of more than three absentee voters in one election.

Subp. 9. Polling place and election judges. The only polling place required for mail balloting is the office of the election official conducting the election. The number of voting stations set up in the office of the official conducting the election must be sufficient to accommodate the number of voters expected to vote in person on election day. On election day, the official conducting the election shall provide one or more secure drop boxes where voters can deposit return envelopes containing ballots. The governing body of the jurisdiction conducting the election shall designate a suitable location where the election judges can meet on election day to receive and count ballots. The location must be open for public observation of the counting of ballots. The governing body of the jurisdiction conducting the election shall appoint election judges as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 204B.19 to 204B.21. For state elections, the county auditor shall appoint election judges for mail ballot precincts and shall apportion the cost of the election judges among the precincts voting by mail in that election. The county auditor may delegate the authority to appoint election judges for precincts voting by mail in state elections to the municipal clerk. During the day of the election at least two election judges must be present at the office of the official conducting the election to accept mail ballots delivered in person and to process persons registering on election day. Additional judges may be appointed as needed. If the ballots are to be counted by hand and there are more than two questions or one office to be voted on, at least one judge must be appointed for the counting of ballots for every 500 persons from whom ballots are expected to be returned.

Subp. 10. Receiving and counting ballots. On or before election day, the election judges shall receive from the county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk, returned ballots, applications for absentee ballots, affidavits for replacement ballots, and the list of voters sent a second mailing of the ballot. The judges shall arrange to receive from the election official any additional ballots received in the mail or returned by a voter prior to 8:00 p.m. on election day. Ballots must be transported to the

location where ballot processing and counting will occur in a sealed transfer case by two or more election judges. During the receiving and counting of ballots, the ballots must at all times remain in the custody of two or more election judges.

Prior to 8:00 p.m. on election day, the election judges may examine the return envelopes, mark them "accepted" or "rejected" and remove the ballot envelopes from the "accepted" return envelopes. The election judges may check any list of registered voters provided by the county auditor or contact the county auditor to determine whether a witness who did not provide an address is a registered voter and therefore an eligible voter. The ballot envelopes must be placed unopened in a locked ballot box or other sealed container. At 8:00 p.m. on election day, the election judges shall open the ballot box, remove the ballots from the ballot envelopes, and count the ballots.

Subp. 11. Challenges. Challengers appointed under Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.07 may be present while the election judges are examining and accepting or rejecting the return envelopes. Challenges must be made and determined as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204C.13, subdivision 6.

Subp. 12. Costs. The governing body authorizing mail balloting shall pay the costs of the mailing. Costs of mailing include postage costs and the costs of printing required envelopes, instructions, affidavits, and mailing labels. Other expenses must be paid as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.32.

Subp. 13. Alternate forms. The secretary of state may authorize the alternate use of envelopes and other forms related to mail elections.

Statutory Authority: MS s 14.388; 203B.08; 203B.09; 203B.125; 203B.14; 204B.45 History: 12 SR 2142; 17 SR 8; 17 SR 351; 19 SR 593; 20 SR 2787; 23 SR 459; 25 SR 616: 29 SR 155

8210.3005 [Repealed, 23 SR 459] 8210.3010 [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.3015** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9910** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9915** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9916** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9917** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9918** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] 8210.9920 [Repealed, 23 SR 459] 8210.9925 [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9930** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9935** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9940** [Repealed, 19 SR 593] **8210.9945** [Repealed, 23 SR 459] 8210.9950 [Repealed, 23 SR 459] **8210.9955** [Repealed, 23 SR 459]