

## CHAPTER 203B

### ABSENTEE VOTING

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#### 203B.001 ELECTION LAW APPLICABILITY.

The Minnesota election law is applicable to voting by absentee ballot unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

**History:** 1989 c 291 art 1 s 3

#### 203B.10 DELIVERY OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS TO ELECTION JUDGES.

On the day before an election:

(a) The county auditor shall deliver to the municipal clerks within that county the applications for absentee ballots theretofore received and endorsed as provided in section 203B.06, subdivision 5; and

(b) The municipal clerks shall deliver the applications received from the county auditor and the applications for absentee ballots filed with their respective offices and endorsed as provided in section 203B.06, subdivision 5, to the appropriate election judges. Applications received on election day pursuant to section 203B.04, subdivision 2, shall be promptly delivered to the election judges in the precincts or to the judges of an absentee ballot board.

**History:** 1989 c 291 art 1 s 4

#### 203B.12 ELECTION JUDGES TO RECEIVE AND COUNT BALLOTS.

Subdivision 1. **Receipt of return envelopes.** The election judges in each precinct or the judges of an absentee ballot board shall take possession of all return envelopes delivered to them in accordance with section 203B.08.

*[For text of subds 2 to 5, see M.S.1988]*

Subd. 6. **Exception for municipalities or school districts with absentee ballot boards.** In municipalities or school districts with an absentee ballot board, the election judges in each precinct shall receive and process return envelopes and ballot envelopes as provided in this section except that the ballot envelopes from return envelopes marked "Accepted" shall be delivered in an absentee ballot container to the absentee ballot board for the counting of ballots as soon as possible after processing. Other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the governing body of a municipality or the school board of a school district with an absentee ballot precinct may authorize the judges of the absentee ballot precinct to validate ballots in the manner provided in this section. The vote totals provided by the absentee ballot board shall be included in the vote totals on the summary statements of the returns for the precinct in which they were received.

**History:** 1989 c 291 art 1 s 5,6

#### 203B.13 ABSENTEE BALLOT BOARDS.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The governing body of any municipality may by ordinance, or the school board of any school district may by resolution, authorize an absentee ballot board. The board shall consist of a sufficient number of election judges appointed as provided in sections 204B.19 to 204B.22.

Subd. 2. **Duties.** The absentee ballot board may do any of the following:

(a) Receive from each precinct in the municipality or school district all ballot

envelopes marked "Accepted" by the election judges; provided that the governing body of a municipality or the school board of a school district may authorize the board to examine all return absentee ballot envelopes and receive or reject absentee ballots in the manner provided in section 203B.12;

(b) Open and count the absentee ballots, tabulating the vote in a manner that indicates each vote of the absentee voter and the total absentee vote cast for each candidate or question in each precinct; or

(c) Report the vote totals tabulated for each precinct.

**Subd. 3. Compensation of members.** The municipal clerk shall pay a reasonable compensation to each member of the absentee ballot board for services rendered during each election.

**Subd. 3a. Duplicate registration files.** If the election judges of an absentee ballot board are authorized to receive, examine, validate, and count absentee ballots, the county auditor or municipal clerk shall remove from the duplicate registration files the cards of all persons who have applied for absentee ballots at the election and deliver them to the election judges of the absentee ballot board along with the applications for absentee ballots. When a duplicate registration card has been removed from the file for this purpose it shall be replaced with a notification to the election judges that the voter's card has been removed and directing them to contact the election judges of the absentee ballot board if that voter should appear at the polling place for the purpose of voting in person. If contacted by the judges of the precinct, the election judges of the absentee ballot board shall examine the duplicate registration card of the voter to determine if an absentee ballot has been cast. They shall notify the precinct election judges of their findings and, if the absentee ballot has not yet been cast, the voter shall be allowed to vote in person. The election judges of the absentee ballot board shall make a notation on the duplicate registration card that the voter has voted and no absentee ballot shall be counted for that voter.

**Subd. 4. Applicable laws.** Except as otherwise provided by this section, all of the laws applicable to absentee ballots and absentee voters and all other provisions of the Minnesota election law shall apply to an absentee ballot board.

**History:** 1989 c 291 art 1 s 7