

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Mail balloting

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Overview

This bill permits all non metro-area townships, regardless of size, and cities with fewer than 1,000 registered voters to conduct local and state elections by mail. Current law limits use of vote-by-mail procedures to municipalities that are not within a metropolitan county and have fewer than 400 voters. The bill also expands the authorization for an individual precinct in any municipality to be designated a mail balloting precinct.

When an election is conducted using mail balloting, the only physical polling location on election day is the office of the municipal clerk, where voters may cast their ballot using accessible voting equipment, and/or deposit their ballot in a secure box (if they have not returned the ballot by mail).

The bill also appropriates money to develop a tracking system for mail balloting in the statewide voter registration system.

Section

- 1 Authorization.** Expands the authorization for municipalities to conduct mail balloting by permitting this procedure for towns of any size, and cities with fewer 1,000 voters, if the town or city is not located within a metropolitan county.

This section additionally allows the governing body of any municipality to designate an individual precinct for mail balloting if the precinct has fewer than 100 registered voters. Current law permits this designation in precincts with fewer than 50 voters.

- 2 Appropriation.** Appropriates money in fiscal year 2014 for the secretary of state to develop

Section

functionality within the statewide voter registration system to facilitate processing and tracking of mail ballots.