

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 193
Version: As introduced

DATE: January 30, 2013

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Subject: No-excuse absentee voting

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Overview

This bill authorizes any voter, regardless of reason, to vote by absentee ballot. The bill also allows any voter, regardless of reason, to apply for permanent absentee voter status. Permanent absentee voters would automatically be provided an absentee ballot, rather than an absentee ballot application, prior to each eligible election.

Section

- 1 Absentee voting; eligibility.** Permits any eligible voter to vote by absentee ballot, regardless of the voter's reason for doing so.
- 2 Application procedures.** Provides conforming changes to reflect the elimination of the need for a reason to vote by absentee ballot, and the allowance for an ongoing absentee voter to automatically receive an absentee ballot, rather than an absentee ballot application.
- 3 Ongoing absentee status; termination.** Permits any eligible voter, regardless of reason, to apply for ongoing absentee voter status, and requires that these voters automatically receive an actual absentee ballot. Current law requires that these voters automatically receive an absentee ballot application prior to each election. This section requires ballots transmitted to an ongoing absentee voter to be sent by nonforwardable mail.
- 4 Printing and delivery of forms.** Eliminates procedures and timelines for mailing ongoing absentee voters an absentee ballot application form, consistent with the substantive changes made in section 3 of the bill.

Section

- 5** **Explanation of absentee ballot changes.** Requires the appropriate county auditor to mail an explanation of the changes to the ongoing absentee voter process to each voter with ongoing absentee status. To maintain ongoing status, a voter is required to return an application to the county auditor requesting that the status be continued under the new procedures.
- 6** **Repealer.** Repeals section 203B.04, subdivision 5. This subdivision establishes procedures for voters with a permanent illness or disability to request status as a permanent absentee voter. This subdivision is no longer necessary as a result of changes made earlier in the bill.