



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL SUMMARY

Absentee Ballot Tracking HF 692

Status of Bill: House Calendar
Committee: State Government (22-0)
Research Analyst: Brian Guillaume, brian.guillaume@legis.iowa.gov

Lead Democrat: Rep Hunter
Floor Manager: Rep. Jacobsen

Summary

This legislation removes the intelligent mail barcode reference in the Iowa code and allows for Absentee Ballots to be counted with a postal service barcode that can be traced to the date of entry in the federal mail system, and makes the tracking of ballots this way a mandate on the counties.

The legislation defines “postal service barcode” as a barcode purchased by the sender and supplied by the United States postal service that is used to sort and track letters and flat packages and is printed on an absentee ballot return envelope at the direction of the commissioner before the envelope is sent to the voter.

County auditors are now required to use this technology and must alert the Secretary of State prior to October 1, 2020 for an Election taking place in 2020 after that date.

Absentee ballots will be counted if they arrive before the canvass of the Election on Monday if the ballot was put in the mail and can be traced into the Federal mail system on the Monday before the Election.

County auditors are required to file a report regarding absentee ballot tracking and counting for each general election no later than December 1 following the election.

Guillaume, Brian [LEGIS][G:\Caucus Staff\bguillaume\State Government\2019 Session\Bill Summaries\Absentee Ballot Tracking.docx\March 13, 2019\8:30 AM