

polls. In the case of the mail-in absentee ballot being delivered to a precinct official, the official must then contact the county clerk, who must remove the name from the list of person who were sent mail-in absentee ballots and then inform the official that the person may vote in the precinct. Currently, an absentee ballot must be cancelled at least seven days prior to election day.

The bill allows a person who requested but did not receive a mail-in absentee ballot, or who is not otherwise able to return it, to appear at the precinct and affirm such fact to the election officer, who would then contact the county clerk. The clerk would remove the name from the absentee ballot list and inform the election officer that the person may vote.

The bill also deletes various references in the early voting statute to a “voting machine,” thus giving the clerk the option of permitting early voting by paper ballot.

HB 205 would have a minimal fiscal impact on county clerk offices.

The Secretary of State has already established an online portal that could be used to apply for a mail-in absentee ballot. Because of the additional absentee ballots that might be processed, the bill may require county clerks to hire additional personnel during the times that ballots are requested and received. However, allowing Intelligent Mail barcodes instead of postal forms may make the process less burdensome. Allowing qualified voters to request a mail-in ballot application through an online portal may streamline the request process, allowing for reduced processing costs. HB 205 would require additional training for county clerk office employees.

Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions

Part II, above, relates to the bill as introduced.

Data Source(s): LRC staff; Secretary of State; State Board of Elections

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