



SB257 - Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request - Departmental)

Election Law - Notice to Permanent Absentee Voters

Purpose:

1. Clarifies the time period when to send a notice to a voter on the permanent mail-in ballot list.
2. Allows more methods to contact a voter if the written notice is returned.

Comments:

The State Board of Elections supports the legislation. The proposed bill (1) clarifies the time period to send a written notice to a voter on the permanent mail-in ballot list and (2) allows alternate methods to contact a voter if the first notice is returned.

Currently, the law requires SBE to send notices out to Permanent Absentee voters, not less than 75 days before ballots are sent out, using a list of those voters as of 90 days before the upcoming election.

The existing language is unclear. For example: if the 2026 Primary is held on 6/30/26, ballots will begin being sent out 5/16/26 (per Federal law), which means the notices have to go out on 3/2/26 (75 days before ballots go out) using a list as of 4/1/26 (90 days before election)

This bill clarifies the notification timelines while still adhering to the intent of the original bill.

Thank you and we look forward to your favorable passage of this bill.

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