

SB0379/893724/1

BY: Senator Ready

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 379
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “**Ballots** –” insert “**Signature Verification**,”; in the same line, after “**Processing**” insert a comma; in line 3, after the first “of” insert “requiring a local board to verify a signature on a return envelope or ballot/return envelope in a certain manner;”; in line 12, after “Section” insert “9–303,”; and in line 17, after “Section” insert “9–310.1 and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 22, insert:

“9–303.

(a) The State Board shall establish guidelines for the administration of absentee voting by the local boards.

(b) The guidelines shall provide for:

(1) the application process;

(2) late application for absentee ballots;

(3) ballot security, including storage of returned ballots;

(4) determining timeliness of receipt of applications and ballots, including applications and ballots for overseas voters;

(5) the canvass process;

(6) notice of the canvass to candidates, political parties, campaign organizations, news media, and the general public;

(7) observers of the process;

(8) review of voted ballots and envelopes for compliance with the law and for machine tabulation acceptability;

(9) standards for disallowance of ballots during the canvass;

(10) storage and retention of ballots following canvass and certification;

[and]

(11) the permanent absentee ballot list; AND

(12) VERIFICATION OF SIGNATURES ON ABSENTEE BALLOT ENVELOPES.

(c) The State Board shall:

(1) in consultation with the local boards, assess the guidelines before each primary election; and

(2) revise the guidelines if indicated.

9-310.1.

EACH LOCAL BOARD SHALL VERIFY THE SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER ON THE RETURN ENVELOPE OR BALLOT/RETURN ENVELOPE BY COMPARING THE SIGNATURE WITH THE VOTER'S REGISTRATION RECORD IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD."

On page 4, in line 15, strike "or"; and in line 18, after the second "ballot" insert "**OR**

(IV) THE LOCAL BOARD IS UNABLE TO VERIFY THE VOTER'S SIGNATURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-310.1 OF THIS ARTICLE".