

Committee Report

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 5, 2021

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Election Law to which was referred
HB 555,**

**AN ACT relative to prisoners' voting rights. Having
considered the same, report the same with the
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Election Law
Bill Number:	HB 555
Title:	relative to prisoners' voting rights.
Date:	March 5, 2021
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill proposes to amend the list of reasons why a voter is using the absentee ballot to include a provision specific to incarcerated persons. This bill establishes no new rights. Convicted felons have lost their right to vote. Accordingly, while felons currently serving their sentences cannot vote, other incarcerated people, such as those awaiting trial, retain their right to vote. This bill only clarifies that people incarcerated in a penal institution in their own community, and not convicted of or serving a sentence for a felony, may vote by absentee ballot. The problem this bill seeks to fix is that the absentee ballot request form does not acknowledge this specific situation so prisoners in this situation have no correct option presented on the form to declare why they are requesting an absentee ballot. The current options for voting absentee are very specific and limited. They include being outside of the home community, being ill, being at a place of employment during polling hours or caring for ill people or children. The amendment proposed by this bill would add a category which allows a voter to declare that they are confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial. The committee agreed that it would be best to update the absentee ballot request form to allow for persons in this particular situation to be accurate and honest about why they need to vote by absentee ballot.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR


Election Law

HB 555, relative to prisoners' voting rights. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien for Election Law. This bill proposes to amend the list of reasons why a voter is using the absentee ballot to include a provision specific to incarcerated persons. This bill establishes no new rights. Convicted felons have lost their right to vote. Accordingly, while felons currently serving their sentences cannot vote, other incarcerated people, such as those awaiting trial, retain their right to vote. This bill only clarifies that people incarcerated in a penal institution in their own community, and not convicted of or serving a sentence for a felony, may vote by absentee ballot. The problem this bill seeks to fix is that the absentee ballot request form does not acknowledge this specific situation so prisoners in this situation have no correct option presented on the form to declare why they are requesting an absentee ballot. The current options for voting absentee are very specific and limited. They include being outside of the home community, being ill, being at a place of employment during polling hours or caring for ill people or children. The amendment proposed by this bill would add a category which allows a voter to declare that they are confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial. The committee agreed that it would be best to update the absentee ballot request form to allow for persons in this particular situation to be accurate and honest about why they need to vote by absentee ballot. **Vote 20-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Archived: Thursday, April 22, 2021 11:18:24 AM
From: [Miriam Simmons](#)
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 9:43:42 AM
To: [Miriam Simmons](#)
Subject: HB 285 CR Email
Response requested: No
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[HB 285 Maj - KPO.docx](#) 

From: Barbara Griffin <Barbara.Griffin@leg.state.nh.us>
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 11:11 AM
To: [Miriam Simmons](#) <miriam.simmons@leg.state.nh.us>
Subject: Re: committee reports!!!!!!!!!!!!

Miriam

This should be my revised and approved report

From: Katherine Prudhomme Obrien <KPO@leg.state.nh.us>
Sent: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:31 AM
To: Barbara Griffin <Barbara.Griffin@leg.state.nh.us>

Hi Miriam,
Here is one of the reports you need:

HB 555

This bill establishes no new voting rights for prisoners. Felons currently serving their sentences cannot vote in NH, other incarcerated people such as those awaiting trial, retain their right to vote. This bill only clarifies that people incarcerated in a penal institution in their own community, and not convicted of or serving a sentence for a felony, may vote by absentee ballot as is currently their legal right. The problem this bill seeks to fix is that the absentee ballot request form does not acknowledge this specific situation, leaving prisoners not convicted of felonies who want to vote absentee, with no correct option presented on the form to declare about why they are requesting an absentee ballot. The current options for voting absentee are very specific and limited. They include being outside of the home community, being ill or being at a place of employment during polling hours or caring for ill people or children. The committee agreed that it would be best to update the absentee ballot request form to allow for the persons addressed in this bill to be accurate and honest about why they need to vote by absentee ballot.

I'll get back to you with HB285 next...

HB 555

This bill proposes to amend the absentee voter form list of reasons why the voter is using the absentee ballot to include certain incarcerated persons. This bill establishes no new rights. Convicted felons have lost their right to vote. Accordingly, while felons currently serving their sentences cannot vote other incarcerated people such as those awaiting trial retain their right to vote. This bill only clarifies that people incarcerated in a penal institution in their own community, and not convicted of or serving a sentence for a felony, may vote by absentee ballot. The problem this bill seeks to fix is that the absentee ballot request form does not acknowledge this specific situation so prisoners in this situation have no correct option presented on the form to declare why they are requesting an absentee ballot. The current options for voting absentee are very specific and limited. They include being outside of the home community, being ill or being at a place of employment during polling hours or caring for ill people or children. The amendment proposed by this bill would add a category which allows a voter to declare that they are confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor or awaiting trial. The committee agreed that it would be best to update the absentee ballot request form to allow for persons in this particular situation to be accurate and honest about why they need to vote by absentee ballot.

Rep K Prudhomme-O'Brien

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 555

BILL TITLE: relative to prisoners' voting rights.

DATE: March 5, 2021

LOB ROOM: Remote / Hybrid

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Prudhomme-O'Brien Seconded by Rep. W. MacDonald Vote: 20-0

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB 535

BILL TITLE: Relative to persons voting rights/absentee ballot

DATE: 3/5/21

LOB ROOM: 306

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Richardson O'Brien Seconded by Rep. MacDonald Vote: 20:0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1st year)
- Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: ___ YES ___ NO

Minority Report? ___ Yes ___ No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted: Rep Natalie Wells
Rep Natalie Wells, Clerk



2021 SESSION

Election Law

Bill #: 555 Motion: OTP AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 3-5-21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Griffin, Barbara J. Chairman	✓		
MacDonald, Wayne D. Vice Chairman	✓		
Prudhomme-O'Brien, Katherine J.	✓		
Sweeney, Joe	✓		
Hayward, Peter T.	✓		
Mooney, Maureen C.	✓		
Torosian, Peter E.	✓		
Berry, Ross	✓		
Groen, Fenton	✓		
Qualey, James R.	✓		
Wells, Natalie J. Clerk	✓		
Cote, David E.	✓		
Ward, Gerald W.R.	✓		
Bergeron, Paul R.	✓		
Sandler, Catt	✓		
Hamer, Heidi M.	✓		
Lane, Connie B.	✓		
Freitas, Mary C.	✓		
Hamblet, Joan L.	✓		
Muirhead, Russell	✓		
TOTAL VOTE:	20	0	

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 555

BILL TITLE: relative to prisoners' voting rights.

DATE: February 17, 2021

LOB ROOM: LOB Hybrid **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:52 a.m.

Committee Members: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Andrew Bouldin

Rep. Kenney

Rep. Nutting-Wong

Rep. Bouchard

Rep. Amanda Bouldin

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Representative Andrew Bouldin, Sponsor representing Manchester, Ward 5. This bill passed committee with bipartisan support last year, but died in the Senate. This bill is to allow people who are waiting for trial or have a misdemeanor be allowed to obtain an Absentee Ballot.

- I spoke to Deputy Scanlan and he agrees this is an issue. Last year's bill of this was HB 1751. See further testimony.

Question: Representative Wayne MacDonald – Do you have any idea of what people might be affected?

Answer: I do not have any stats. I assume domiciled in Manchester, jailed in Manchester would be.

Question: Representative Prudhomme-O'Brien – I am proud to say I have not spent anytime in jail. What would happen if a person in jail requests an Absentee Ballot, only spends a few days there, the ballot is delivered to the jail, but the person went home?

Answer: This applies to people serving for a year. They also have the option to take the AB and show up on election day.

Question: How did you become aware of this issue?

Answer: I ran into a person who once served time as a felon.

Question: Representative Paul Bergeron – I do remember the bill last year. On page 2, line 23; "I am confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor". I am wondering about someone who is confined as a felony and waiting for trial?

Answer: Felons do not have the option. I am open to make the wording clear.

Representative Griffin: It would appear a language fix, "and I am not a felon, add that to every example?" **Answer** – I do not understand.

Kara Randolph: I am in support of HB555. I am a member of the NH High School Democrats. This should be a bipartisan issue. This bill clearly outweighs the cost.

Jeanne Hruska: I am the political director of the ACLU. I support this bill and consider it a simple housekeeping bill. It is not about eligibility but AB forms, just want to make sure eligible voters are able to vote.

Question: Representative Mannie Espitia: Do you know the average wait time for bookings, like at Valley Jail time?

Answer: It certainly is extended due to COVID. In theory, someone could miss out on an election.

Cynthia Walker: I support this bill. The high school student clarified what their abilities to get an AB. They are taxpayers too.

Louise Spencer: I think all points have been covered, **and I am in support of this bill.** In my door to door canvassing, these people who were not able to vote because of this, I saw joy that they would be able to participate again. All walks of life have the right to vote and value their voice.

Hearing adjourned: 10:52am

Respectfully submitted,
Representative Natalie Wells
Committee Clerk

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* Rep Andrew Baldin
Raia Randolph
Jeanne Huska
Cynthia Walker
Louise Spencer

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # H.B. 555

BILL TITLE:

XX Relative to Prisoner's voting

DATE:

2/17/21

ROOM:

306

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 10:30 AM

Time Adjourned: 11:52 AM

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. B. Griffin, W. MacDonald, Wells, Prudhomme-O'Brien, Sweeney, Hayward, Mooney, Torosian, Berry, Groen, Qualey, Cote, Ward, Bergeron, Sandler, Hamer, Lane, Freitas, Hamblet and Muirhead

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

* Rep Andrew Baldwin

Kaia Randolph

Jeanne Huska

Cynthia Walter

Louise Spencer

ELECTION LAW PUBLIC HEARING

2/17/21

Hb 555 Relative to prisoners' voting rights.

Open: 10:28am

- **Representative Andrew Bouldin**, Sponsor representing Manchester, Ward 5. This bill passed committee with bipartisan support last year, but died in the Senate. This bill is to allow people who are waiting for trial or has a misdemeanor be allowed to obtain an Absentee Ballot. I spoke to Deputy Scanlan and he agrees this is an issue. Last year's bill of this was HB 1751. See further testimony.

Question: Representative Wayne MacDonald – Do you have any idea of what people might be affected?

Answer: I do not have any stats. I assume domiciled in Manchester, jailed in Manchester would be.

Question: Representative Prudhomme-O'Brien – I am proud to say I have not spent anytime in jail. What would happen if a person in jail requests an Absentee Ballot, only spends a few days there, the ballot is delivered to the jail, but the person went home?

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Answer: I ran into a person who once served time as a felon.

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Answer: Felons do not have the option. I am open to make the wording clear.

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Answer: It certainly is extended due to COVID. In theory, someone could miss out on an election.

Cynthia Walker: I support this bill. The high school student clarified what their abilities to get an AB. They are taxpayers too.

Louise Spencer: I think all points have been covered, and I am in support of this bill. In my door to door canvassing, these people who were not able to vote because of this, I saw joy that they would be able to participate again. All walks of life have the right to vote and value their voice.

Adjourned: 11:52am

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Natalie Wells

House Remote Testify

Election Law Committee Testify List for Bill HB555 on 2021-02-17

Support: 152 Oppose: 4 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 6

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>S</u>
Bouldin, Andrew	Andrew.Bouldin@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Hillsborough District 12	Support	Yes (5m)	2
Randolph, Kaia	Kaiamrandolph@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	New Hampshire High School Democrats	Support	Yes (4m)	2
Hruska, Jeanne	Jeanne@aclu-nh.org	A Lobbyist	ACLU-NH	Support	Yes (2m)	2
Walter, Cynthia	cawalter22@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (2m)	2
Spencer, Louise	lpskentstreet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (2m)	2
Atherton, John	JMAtherton.3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	2
Turner, Kayla	kaylajadeturner@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Blair, David	orionblair@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
barnes, ken	kbarnes@kenbarneslaw.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Kraus, Carol	carolekraus@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Garland, Ann	annhgarland@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Caplan, Tony	anthonycaplan1@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Merrimack 6	Support	No	2
Chase, Wendy	wendy.chase@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Maskwa, Donna	donna.maskwa@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
thompson, julie	maple371@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Casino, Joanne	joannecasino@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hamer, Gary	grhamer@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hatcher, Phil	phil.hatcher@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Verschueren, Jim	jd.verschueren@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Richards, Matthew	mricha711@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Raley, Pamela	psralay@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Zboya, Patrice	pzboya654@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Fordey, Nicole	nikkif610@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Kelley, Mary	midgekelly1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hampton, Doris	dandmhamp38@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Baber, Bill	wsbaber@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Baber, Kristine	kmbaber@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hamblet, Joan	joan.hamblet@leg.state.nh.us	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Almy, Susan	susan.almy@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Tentarelli, Liz	LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Podlipny, Ann	apodlipny57@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Dodge, Corinne	corinnedodge@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Dontonville, Roger	rdontonville@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2

Brown, Claire	clairehonorebrown@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Lightfoot, Jean	JnLightfoot@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Cotton, Bev	bevcott@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Leavitt, Deborah	daleavitt77@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Stinson, Ben	benrkstinson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Heslin, Mary	mlheslin@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bushueff, Catherine	agawamdesigns@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hayden, Sam	hayden.sam@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bolker, Jessica	jabolker@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Rardin, Laurie	rardins@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Schonwald, Virginia	virginia@schonwald.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Near, Jennifer	jmnear@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Perry, Bob	perry4nh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
stonebanks, sandra	sandrastonebanks@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Howard Jr., Raymond	brhowardjr@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Nastasi, Sue	ctcoastmetro@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Ashton, Miriam	miriamashton3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Fedorchak, Gaye	gayevf@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Horrigan, State Rep. Timothy	timothy.horrigan@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Strafford 6	Support	No	2
Harris, Anthony	Felonvote@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Booras, Efstathia	Efstathia.Booras@state.leg.nh.us	An Elected Official	Constituents	Support	No	2
Groetzing, Tonda	groetzing6@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Levesque, cassandra	Barrington, NH cassandra.levesque@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	Loudon, NH wmottsm@worldpath.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Berry, Jake	jberry@new-futures.org	A Lobbyist	New Futures	Support	No	2
Erikson, David	davidrikson@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
sauve, michael	michael.s.sauve@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
McGonagle, Sandra	mcgonagle@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Whitney, Patricia	pjwhitney8@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Lucas, Janet	janluca1953@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Zink, Olivia	olivia@opendemocracy.me	A Lobbyist	Open Democracy Action	Support	No	2
ward, janet	jwardnh@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Nelson, Elizabeth	BethDavid@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Waterman, Raymond	prwaterman@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Waterman, Patricia	prwaterman@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Cote, Lois	lcote06@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Ropp, Elizabeth	arunareiki@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Draper, Barry	bgd@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
DiCicco, Harriet	hfckd1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Pugh, Barbara		A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2

	barbara.pugh@comcast.net					
Emus, Joanne	jremus0322@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Willing, Maura	Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Ackerson, Judith	ackerjack45@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Ackerson, Kenneth	ken.ackerson14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Yacopucci, William	wdycpp@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Orellana, Valerie	valerie.orellana.28@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Pietrovito, Janet	J-jpietrovito@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Kaplan, Susan	sskaplan01@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Gillis, Kim	kgillis@live.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hoffmann, Lauren	lphoffmann@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Austin, Lorna	laustinthyme@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
van der Bijl, Dana	dana@vanderb.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Caddell, Cynthia	Cycaddell@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Zimmer, Julie	juliecorkzim@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Magruder, Joe	joe.magruder@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Kay, Karolyn	kkcampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
DeMark, Richard	demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Frey, Gina	ginagfrey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Adams, Thomas	priorpus@mac.com	A Member of the Public	NH Citizens for Judicial reform	Support	No	2
Frey, Kevin	kevfrey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bixby, Peter	peterbixbynhHouse@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Austin, Suzanne	suzanne321@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Campbell, Karen	klynncampbell50@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Kelly, Fran	Fr.kelly01@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
ambrose, jill	jrose2@gmx.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hope, Lucinda	lmhope46@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Gordon, Laurie	Lmgord23@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Koch, Laurie	kochlj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Heath, Ruth	ruthmheath@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Fraysse, Michael	mikefraysse@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Klee, Patricia	Patricia.Klee@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
ARONSON, LAURA	laura@mlans.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Keating, Bob	rhkkeating@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Mennella, Alexandra	amennella1@protonmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	2
Whittington, Jeanne	jawhittington3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Schissel, Mary	schissell@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
St Germain, Diane	diane.stgermain33@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Perencevich, Ruth	rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Rejwan-Day, Inbal	Rejwanin9588@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2

Spencer, Rob	kentstusa@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Krohn, Suzanne	suzanne.c.krohn@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Krohn, Matthew	makrohn@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Ballentine, John M	mikeb@btine.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Larson, Ruth	ruthlarson@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bouchard, Donald	donaldjbouchard@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Cohen, Leah	leah.cohen11@tufts.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Selig, Loren	zltselig@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Till, Mary	maryforderry@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
woodcock, stephen	slwoodcock116@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Moulton, Candace	candaceleighm@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Telerski, Laura	Laura.Telerski@Leg.State.NH.US	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 35	Support	No	2
Meuse, David	David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Rockingham 29	Support	No	2
Dutzy, Sherry	sherry.dutzy@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Frost, Sherry	sherry.frost@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Wessel, David	dkwessel@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Letellier, Kathleen	Kathleenletellier@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Brickett, Jane	silofarm@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Fargo, Kristina	Kristina.Fargo@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	2
Carr, Ruby	rubygilsoncarr@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Insolia, Janet	jinsolia@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Grassie, Chuck	chuck.grassie@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Strafford 11	Support	No	2
Pinto, Josie	josie@nhyouthmovement.org	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Youth Movement	Support	No	2
Anastasia, Patricia	patti.anastasia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Hinkel, Robert	r.hinkel@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Pedersen, Michael	PedersenUSA@aim.com	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 32	Support	No	2
Coon, Kate	kate2coon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Stevens, Representative Deb	debstevens4ward7@gmail.com	An Elected Official	My 10K constituents	Support	No	2
Huggins, Dallas	dallas.a.huggins@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Reed, Barbara	moragmcp83@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Swan, Kristin	swan.kristin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Farnum, Ellen	Ellenlynnfarnum@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Minihan, Jeremiah	Jeremiah.minihan@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
King, Marcia	mchking@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Mangipudi, Latha	Latha.Mangipudi@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Hills 35	Support	No	2
Beaulieu, Rebecca	rebeccaeb9495@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Lister, Charlotte	lister@gsinet.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bagshaw, Joseph	bagshaw.joseph@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
Bundy, Linda	n_bundy@mcttelecom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2
O'Rorke, Terri		A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2

	terrio21@yahoo.com					
Bunker, Lisa	lisabunkernh@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself and the town of Exeter	Support	No	2
Fay, Maura	maurafay@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	2

Testimony

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:54:09 AM
From: 51rusty.nail.rr@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:08:44 PM
To: ~House Election Law Committee
Subject: HB-555: An ACT relative to prisoners' voting rights
Importance: Normal

Dear members of the House Committee on Election Law:

My name is John Garrison, and I am a registered voter who lives at 194 Elm Street in Lancaster, New Hampshire.

First off, this Bill does not, in my opinion, suggest any changes that change a prisoner's right to vote, nor changes to improve their access to a ballot.

I am writing to oppose the changes proposed by House Bill 555 because existing New Hampshire Law currently provides clear direction regarding how voters confined in penal Institutions may register to vote and it also allows alleged criminals access to absentee ballots:

- Title LVIII, Chapter 654 Voters and Checklists, Section 654:2-a Eligibility, clearly states in Paragraph I: "The domicile for voting purposes of a person confined in a penal institution shall be the town or city in New Hampshire in which such person had his or her domicile immediately prior to such confinement..." it goes on the say in Paragraph III: "In completing a voter registration form, as specified in RSA 654:7, a person confined in a penal institution shall list the address of his or her domicile in the address section, and the address of the penal institution in the mailing address section.
- Title LVIII, Chapter 657 Absentee Voting, Section 657:4 Application, already allows individuals to mark that they are entitled to vote by absentee ballot because they will be absent from the Town/City where they are domiciled and will be until after the election without having to provide a specific, personal, and potentially embarrassing specific reason.
- Finally, Chapter 657, Section 657:4 provides a place for the applicant to provide the address of their domicile AND address to mail the ballot to, when different from the domicile.

The sponsors of this bill have presented no argument that supports the need for change in their submittal, nor do they provide any argument supporting a valid need for change..


Sincerely,

John A. Garrison

John A. Garrison

PO Box 310
194 Elm Street
Lancaster, NH 03584-0310
☎ 443-966-2997
✉ 51rusty.nail.rr@gmail.com

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" - Fred Rogers

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:54:09 AM
From: [Andrew Bouldin](#)
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:29:59 AM
To: ~House Election Law Committee
Subject: HB 555 Information
Importance: Normal
Attachments:
[HB555 Info Packet.pdf](#) 

Honorable Members of the Election Law Committee,

Attached is a packet of information which I will be referencing this morning in my introductory remarks on HB 555. I will be giving these remarks in person because I am in the LOB today for my own committee's hearings.

Thank you,

Rep. Andrew Bouldin
Hillsborough District 12 (Manchester Ward 5)
Cell: 603-397-7526

Archived: Monday, April 12, 2021 9:54:10 AM

From: [Liz Tentarelli](#)

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 2:09:21 PM

To: [~House Election Law Committee](#)

Subject: HB555 re suggested language change on abs. ballot application for incarcerated

Importance: Normal

Attachments: [testimony HB 555 abs ballots for incarcerated 2-17-21.pdf](#) ;

Attached is a response to questions raised in today's hearing on HB555, the bill that adds sensible language to the absentee ballot application.

TITLE LXIII ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 654 VOTERS AND CHECKLISTS

Eligibility

Section 654:2-a

654:2-a Voters Confined in Penal Institutions. –

- I. The domicile for voting purposes of a person confined in a penal institution shall be the town or city in New Hampshire in which such person had his or her domicile immediately prior to such confinement, even though such person no longer maintains a domicile in said town or city and even though his or her intent to return thereto is uncertain. The domicile for voting purposes of a person confined in a penal institution shall not include the municipality where the person is confined unless the person was domiciled in that municipality prior to confinement. If the person was domiciled immediately prior to confinement in the municipality where the person is confined, the person shall be considered absent for purposes of voter registration and absentee voting during the period of confinement.
- II. A person confined in a penal institution whose domicile is in a town or city in New Hampshire shall be eligible to vote in state elections and shall exercise that right by absentee ballot provided:
- (a) The person complies with all other applicable requirements and qualifications of the state of New Hampshire, including, but not limited to, the requirement that an absentee voter take the steps necessary to have his or her name placed on the voter checklist no later than 10 days before an election and the requirement that the absentee voter take the steps necessary to make sure that his or her ballot is received by the town or city clerk from whom it was sent by 5:00 p.m. on election day. A person confined in a penal institution shall use the mail to comply with all applicable requirements and qualifications.
 - (b) The person is not registered to vote or eligible to vote in any other state or election district of a state or in any territory or possession of the United States.
 - (c) The person is not a citizen of another state.
- III. In completing a voter registration form, as specified in RSA 654:7, a person confined in a penal institution shall list the address of his or her domicile in the address section, and the address of the penal institution in the mailing address section.

Source. 1999, 228:1. 2003, 289:63, eff. Sept. 1, 2003.

TITLE LXIII ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 654 VOTERS AND CHECKLISTS

Eligibility

Section 654:5

654:5 Disqualification for Felony. – A person sentenced for a felony shall forfeit his rights as provided in RSA 607-A:2.

Source. 1979, 436:1, eff. July 1, 1979.

TITLE LIX

PROCEEDINGS IN CRIMINAL CASES

CHAPTER 607-A

UNIFORM ACT ON STATUS OF CONVICTED PERSONS

Section 607-A:2

607-A:2 Rights Lost. –

I. (a) A person sentenced for a felony, from the time of his or her sentence until his or her final discharge, may not:

(1) Vote in an election, but if execution of sentence is suspended with or without the defendant being placed on probation or he or she is paroled after commitment to imprisonment, the correctional facility shall provide the offender written notice that he or she may vote during the period of the suspension or parole; or

(2) Seek the nomination of a political party or become a candidate for or hold public office.

(b) In this paragraph, "final discharge" means the release of a prisoner from incarceration. A person who is on probation or parole shall be considered to be finally discharged for the purpose of this section.

II. A public office held at the time of sentence is forfeited as of the date of the sentence if the sentence is in this state or, if the sentence is in another state or in a federal court, as of the date a certification of the sentence from the sentencing court is filed in the office of secretary of state, who shall receive and file it as a public document. An appeal or other proceeding taken to set aside or otherwise nullify the conviction or sentence does not affect the application of this section, but if the conviction is reversed the defendant shall be restored to any public office forfeited under this chapter from the time of the reversal and shall be entitled to the emoluments thereof from the time of the forfeiture.

Source. 1967, 289:1, eff. Aug. 26, 1967. 2015, 99:1, eff. Aug. 4, 2015. 2019, 170:2, eff. Sept. 8, 2019.



Town/City of _____
Application for Town/City Election Absentee Ballot-RSA 657:4

Absence due to Religious Observance and Disability
 (Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Voters Residing Outside the U.S. use the federal post card application)

For Official Use Only
 Voter Not registered

Voter ID # _____

Date Returned: ____/____/____

Date Mailed: ____/____/____

Date Requested: ____/____/____

Last Name: _____
 First Name: _____

I. I hereby declare that (check one):

- I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.
- I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability, and request that the forms necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

II. I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

- I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled.
- I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.
- I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.
- I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

For use only on the Monday immediately prior to the election:

I cannot appear at my polling place on election day because the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning for election day applicable to my city, town, or unincorporated place and either (check one):

- I am elderly or infirm or I have a physical disability, and would otherwise vote in person but I have concerns for my safety traveling in the storm.
- I anticipate that school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, and would otherwise vote in person but will need to care for children or infirm adults.

Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24

III. I am requesting an official absentee ballot for the following election (check only one):

- Town/City Election to be held on:
- State Special Election to be held on:

Turn Over – You Must Complete the back side
Page 1 of 2



IV. Applicant's Name (Please Print):

Last Name First Name Middle Name (Jr., Sr., II,III)

Applicant's Voting Domicile (**home**) Address:

Street Number Street Name Apt/Unit City/Town Ward Zip Code

Mail the ballot to me at this address (**if different than the above home address**)

Street or PO Box # Street name Apt/Unit City/Town State Zip Code

Applicant's Phone Number: (_____) _____ - _____
(Cell phone or number where you can be contacted prior to and on election day is preferred)

Applicant's Email Address: _____@_____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot. Any person who witnesses and assists a voter with a disability in executing this form shall print and sign his or her name in the space provided on the application form.

I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he/she has a disability.

Signature _____ Print Name _____

Mail/fax/or hand deliver this completed form to your local City/Town Clerk.

For local clerk addresses and fax numbers: <https://app.sos.nh.gov> – Click on “Clerk Information Search” tab.

Visit the web site: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/AbsenteeBallot.aspx> to track your absentee ballot. You may verify receipt of your application, obtain the date when your absentee ballot was mailed to you, the date the clerk receives your completed absentee ballot, and after the election learn if your absentee ballot was rejected/not counted and why. Contact your clerk if you have questions regarding the information on the “Voter Information Look-up / Absentee Ballot Search” site.

For Official Use Only:

Voter Verified

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE – STATE ABSENTEE BALLOT

Absence from City or Town. A person voting by absentee ballot because of absence from the city or town in which he or she is entitled to vote shall fill out and sign the following certificate: I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the city or town of _____, New Hampshire, in ward ____; that I will be unable to appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because I will be working on election day or I am voting on the Monday immediately prior to the election, the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning, and I am elderly or infirm, have a physical disability, or have to care for children or infirm adults, or I will be otherwise absent on election day from said city or town and will be unable to vote in person. For the purposes of this certification, the term “working” shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

Absence Because of Religious Observance or Physical Disability. A person voting by absentee ballot because of religious observance or physical disability shall fill out and sign the following certificate: I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the city or town of _____, New Hampshire in ward ____; that I will be observing a religious commitment which prevents me from voting in person or that on account of physical disability I am unable to vote in person.

I certify that I have carefully read (or had read to me because I am blind) the instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein enclosed, and that I personally marked the ballot within and sealed it in this envelope (or had assistance in marking the ballot and sealing it in this envelope because I am blind).

Signature _____

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Print Name _____

A person assisting a disabled or blind voter shall make and sign a statement on this envelope in the space provided acknowledging the assistance.

I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he/she has a disability.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposely providing false information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

Feb. 17, 2021

Re: HB 555 amending absentee ballot application to include those incarcerated

To: Chair Rep. Griffin and members of the Election Law committee

From: Liz Tentarelli Email: LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com

I would like to respond to questions raised in today's hearing on HB555, speaking from my experience with the League of Women Voters NH, in which I answer questions from the public in the weeks before elections, and from my experience as a member of the Citizens Advisory Board to the NH Correctional Facility for Women.

Felons: Someone who is incarcerated for a felony may not vote. However, those voting rights are restored after release. A felony offender on parole may register and vote. Upon completion of the sentence and/or parole, the offender may register and vote.

Other offenders: People incarcerated for misdemeanors may vote absentee from the county houses of correction, and that is what the bill tries to address. People awaiting trial who are not released on bail nor released on their own recognizance—in other words they are being held at the county houses of correction until their trial or plea agreement—are also entitled to vote.

The suggestion to add wording to the absentee ballot application to the effect “I am not a felon” will cause unnecessary confusion and will, in effect, disenfranchise some. Many people, including those who at one time were convicted of a felony, would read that to mean “I have never been convicted of a felony.” In law, these two statements are not equivalents.

We understand that the felony offender's voting rights are restored upon release. If, in the future, that same individual is incarcerated for a misdemeanor or is incarcerated while awaiting trial, he or she needs to understand that voting is still his/her right. Employers and the general public may, unfortunately, eternally regard that person as a felon, and in fact the person may consider him/herself a felon. But for purposes of voting, that is not true.

I suggest keeping the wording as it is in the bill. Adding a qualification about felony will cause unnecessary confusion.

Bill as
Introduced

HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0761

11/05

HOUSE BILL **555**

AN ACT relative to prisoners' voting rights.

SPONSORS: Rep. Andrew Bouldin, Hills. 12; Rep. Kenney, Straf. 6; Rep. Nutting-Wong, Hills. 32; Rep. Bouchard, Hills. 11; Rep. Amanda Bouldin, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill amends the absentee voter application form and absentee voting affidavits to make clear that certain persons confined to penal institutions may vote by absentee ballot.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to prisoners' voting rights.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Voters and Checklists; Voters Confined in Penal Institutions. Amend RSA 654:2-a, III to read
2 as follows:

3 III. In completing a voter registration form, as specified in RSA 654:7, **or an absentee**
4 **ballot application, as specified in RSA 657:4, I**, a person confined in a penal institution shall list
5 the address of his or her domicile in the address section, and the address of the penal institution in
6 the mailing address section.

7 2 Absentee Voting; Forms. Amend RSA 657:4, I to read as follows:

8 I. Prior to any state election, the secretary of state shall prepare the appropriate application
9 forms for absentee ballots worded in substantially the following form. The secretary of state shall
10 insert the names of all parties qualified as set forth in RSA 652:11 in the list of parties on the
11 application form. The secretary of state shall prepare the application forms in such quantity as he or
12 she deems necessary:

13 Absence (Excluding Absence Due to Residence Outside the United States), Religious Observance,
14 and Disability:

15 I hereby declare that (check one):

16 I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.

17 I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next
18 election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability, and request that the forms
19 necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

20 I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

21 I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place
22 where I am domiciled.

23 ***I am confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial.***

24 I am requesting a ballot for the presidential primary election and I may be absent on the
25 day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled, but the date of
26 the election has not been announced. I understand that I may only make such a request 14 days
27 after the filing period for candidates has closed, and that if I will not be absent on the date of the
28 election I am not eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

29 I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.

30 I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.

HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 _____ I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an
2 employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment shall include the
3 care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

4 For use only on the Monday immediately prior to the election: I cannot appear at my polling
5 place on election day because the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning,
6 blizzard warning, or ice storm warning for election day applicable to my city, town, or
7 unincorporated place and either (check one):

8 _____ I am elderly or infirm or I have a physical disability, and would otherwise vote in person
9 but I have concerns for my safety traveling in the storm.

10 _____ I anticipate that school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, and would otherwise
11 vote in person but will need to care for children or infirm adults.

12 Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by
13 absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24.

14 I am requesting an official absentee ballot for the following election (check one):

15 _____ Presidential Primary to be held on _____

(MM/DD/YYYY)

17 (The date may appear as blank when the date is not known.)

18 _____ State Primary to be held on _____

(MM/DD/YYYY)

20 _____ General Election

21 For primary elections, I am a member of or I am now declaring my affiliation with the (check
22 one):

23 _____ Republican Party

24 _____ Democratic Party

25 _____ (name of any party determined by the secretary of state to have achieved official status
26 under RSA 652:11)

27 and am requesting a ballot for that party's primary.

28 Please print:

29 Applicant's Name:

30 _____

31 (Last) (First) (Middle) (Sr., Jr., II., III)

32 Applicant's Voting Domicile (home address):

33 _____

34 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

35 Mail the ballot to me at this address (if different than the home address):

36 _____

37 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED
- Page 3 -

1 Applicant's Phone Number : _____

2 Applicant's Email Address : _____

3 Applicant's Signature: _____

4 Date Signed: _____

5 (MM/DD/YYYY)

6 I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he or she has a disability.

7 Signature _____ Print Name _____

8 If your absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope has the printed name and signature of a
9 person who assisted you with voting, your signature will not be compared to your signature on the
10 absentee ballot affidavit to verify your identity. Otherwise, if your signatures do not appear to be
11 made by the same person, your absentee ballot may not be counted.

12 The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot. Any person who witnesses and
13 assists a voter with a disability in executing this form shall print and sign his or her name in the
14 space provided on the application form. The moderator will not compare the voter's signature on the
15 application with the signature on the absentee ballot affidavit when a person assisting the voter has
16 signed the statement on the absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope that assistance was
17 provided.

18 3 Absentee Voting; Absentee Ballots and Related Materials; Absence, Religious Observance, and
19 Disability. Amend RSA 657:7, II(a) to read as follows:

20 (a) Absence from City or Town. A person voting by absentee ballot because of absence
21 from the city or town in which he or she is entitled to vote shall fill out and sign the following
22 certificate:

23 I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the
24 city or town of _____, New Hampshire, in ward _____; that I will be unable to appear
25 at any time during polling hours at my polling place because I will be working on election day, or I
26 am voting on the Monday immediately prior to the election, the National Weather Service has issued
27 a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning, and I am elderly or infirm, have a
28 physical disability, or have to care for children or infirm adults, ***or I am confined to a penal***
29 ***institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial***, or I will be otherwise absent on election
30 day from said city or town and will be unable to vote in person; that I have carefully read (or had
31 read to me because I am blind) the instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein enclosed, and
32 that I personally marked the ballot within and sealed it in this envelope (or had assistance in
33 marking the ballot and sealing it in this envelope because I am blind). For the purposes of this
34 certification, the term "working" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without
35 compensation.

36 (Signature) _____

HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 4 -

1 In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false
2 information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence
3 of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to
4 vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

5 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.