

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB47

Bill as
Introduced

SB 47 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-1042
11/06

SENATE BILL

47

AN ACT modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process.

SPONSORS: Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Rep. Rogers, Merr. 28; Rep. Cote, Hills. 31

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill allows for no-excuse absentee registration and voting, and partial processing of absentee ballots prior to election day.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through~~]
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process.

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

1 1 Absentee Voter Registration. Amend RSA 654:16 and RSA 654:17 to read as follows:

2 654:16 Applicability. Any person who has his *or her* domicile in any town or city in this state
 3 and is qualified to vote therein at the next subsequent election to be held in said town or city except
 4 for the fact that his *or her* name does not appear on the checklist to be used at the election~~—and~~
 5 ~~who is temporarily absent therefrom or who by reason of physical disability is unable to attend a~~
 6 ~~meeting of the supervisors of the checklist,]~~ may cause his *or her* name to be added to such checklist
 7 by applying to the city or town clerk or the secretary of state for a voter registration form provided
 8 for in RSA 654:7 and an appropriate absentee registration affidavit provided for in RSA 654:17.

9 654:17 Absentee Registration Affidavit.

10 I. The absentee registration affidavit shall be prepared by the secretary of state and shall be
 11 in substantially the following form:

12 Affidavit [~~(Absence from town)~~]

13 I, _____ do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth
 14 below, the following:

15 1) That my legal domicile is in the town of _____, New Hampshire, I will be of the age
 16 of 18 years or over on election day and am entitled to vote in the election to be held in said town on
 17 _____, _____ (date), except for the fact that my name does not appear on the checklist
 18 to be used in said town at such election;

19 2) [~~That I do not intend to be present within said town at such time prior to said election as shall~~
 20 ~~enable me personally to appear before the supervisors of the checklist of said town in their regular~~
 21 ~~sessions for the correction of the checklist for said election;~~

22 ~~3) That I am temporarily residing in _____ (city and state or city, province, and country);~~

23 4) That I hereby enclose one of the following as proof of identity and domicile:

24 (a) A copy of a current and valid New Hampshire driver's license or an armed services
 25 identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government that shows my
 26 name and address; or

27 (b) A copy of a current and valid photo identification and a copy of a current utility bill,
 28 bank statement, government check, paycheck, other government document that shows my name and
 29 address, or a letter from the administrator of a nursing home or similar facility affirming that I am a

1 resident of that facility that was provided to me at my request pursuant to the administrator's duty
2 to provide such a letter upon my request;

3 ~~[5]~~ 3) That I acknowledge that if I do not provide a copy of proof of identity and domicile as
4 required by section 4) above, this application may not be approved; and

5 ~~[6]~~ 4) That I hereby make application for the addition of my name to the checklist of said town
6 to be used at said election.

7 _____
8 Signature of Applicant

9 _____
10 Date

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

15 ~~[Affidavit (Physical Disability)]~~

16 ~~I, _____ do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth~~
17 ~~below, the following:~~

18 ~~1) That my legal domicile is in the town of _____, New Hampshire, I will be of the age~~
19 ~~of 18 years or over on election day, and am entitled to vote in the election to be held in said town on~~
20 ~~_____, ___ (date), except for the fact that my name does not appear on the checklist to be~~
21 ~~used in said town at such election;~~

22 ~~2) That I am unable by reason of physical disability personally to appear before the supervisors~~
23 ~~of the checklist of said town in their regular sessions for the correction of the checklist for said~~
24 ~~election;~~

25 ~~3) That I hereby enclose one of the following as proof of identity and domicile:~~

26 ~~_____ (a) A copy of a current and valid New Hampshire driver's license or an armed services~~
27 ~~identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government that shows my~~
28 ~~name and address; or~~

29 ~~_____ (b) A copy of a current and valid photo identification and a copy of a current utility bill, bank~~
30 ~~statement, government check, paycheck, other government document that shows my name and~~
31 ~~address, or a letter from the administrator of a nursing home or similar facility affirming that I am a~~
32 ~~resident of that facility that was provided to me at my request pursuant to the administrator's duty~~
33 ~~to provide such a letter upon my request;~~

34 ~~4) That I acknowledge that if I do not provide a copy of proof of identity and domicile as required~~
35 ~~by section 3) above, this application may not be approved; and~~

36 ~~5) That I hereby make application for the addition of my name to the checklist of said town to be~~
37 ~~used at said election.~~

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Signature of Applicant

Date

~~In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully 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.]~~

II. There shall be printed below each of the foregoing affidavits the following affirmation:

Affirmation

I, _____, the undersigned witness, do hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below, that on the _____ day of _____, ____ (date), the above named, _____, having satisfied me as to his or her identity, signed the foregoing affidavit in my presence, and did before me swear to (or affirm) the truth of the statements therein contained.

Signature of Witness

In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully 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.

2 Absentee Ballots. Amend RSA 656:33 to read as follows:

656:33 [~~Official Absence, Religious Observance, and Disability~~] Absentee Ballots. Prior to any state election, the secretary of state shall prepare, in such quantity as the secretary of state may deem necessary, [~~absence, religious observance, and disability~~] absentee ballots in the same form as nearly as practicable as the official ballot to be used at said election. Said absentee ballots shall have the words "absentee ballot" printed on them and shall be similarly endorsed and printed on paper of the same color as that used for official ballots.

3 Absentee Voting. Amend RSA 657:1 to read as follows:

657:1 [~~Absence, Religious Observance, and Disability~~] Absentee Voting.

~~[I.] Any person who [will be absent on the day of any state election from the city, town, or unincorporated place in which he or she is registered to vote or who cannot appear in public on any election day because of his or her observance of a religious commitment or who is unable to vote there in person by reason of physical disability] is qualified to vote at any state election may vote at such [elections] election as provided in this chapter. [A person who is unable to appear at any time during polling hours at his or her polling place because of an employment obligation shall be~~

1 ~~considered absent for purposes of this chapter. For the purposes of this section, the term~~
 2 ~~"employment" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.~~

3 ~~II. When the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard~~
 4 ~~warning, or ice storm warning for election day applicable to the city, town, or unincorporated place:~~

5 ~~(a) A person who otherwise would have voted in person but has concerns for his or her~~
 6 ~~safety traveling in the storm, shall be considered absent for purposes of this chapter and may vote~~
 7 ~~absentee on the day immediately prior to the election.~~

8 ~~(b) A person who cares for children or infirm adults who reasonably anticipates that~~
 9 ~~school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, who otherwise would have voted in person but will~~
 10 ~~be deterred from voting by the need to care for children or infirm adults, shall be considered absent~~
 11 ~~for purposes of this chapter and may vote absentee on the day immediately prior to the election.~~

12 ~~(c) As required by RSA 652:20, the clerk's office shall be open to receive applications for~~
 13 ~~absentee ballots, to provide voters the opportunity to complete absentee ballots, and to receive~~
 14 ~~returned ballots on the day immediately prior to an election at a minimum from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00~~
 15 ~~p.m. The clerk may designate a deputy clerk or assistant to provide this service, provided the~~
 16 ~~individual has taken the oath of office and has been trained in the requirements for using an~~
 17 ~~absentee ballot and the procedures for issuing and receiving absentee ballots.~~

18 ~~(d) In the event an election is postponed pursuant to RSA 669:1, the provisions of~~
 19 ~~subparagraph (c) shall apply to the day before the date of the originally scheduled election and the~~
 20 ~~day before the date of the postponed election.]~~

21 4 Absentee Voting. Amend RSA 657:4, I to read as follows:

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

27 [~~Absence (Excluding Absence Due to Residence Outside the United States), Religious Observance,~~
 28 ~~and Disability]~~ **Absentee Ballot Application:**

29 I hereby declare that (check one):

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

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

35 [~~I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):~~

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

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

6 ~~_____ I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.~~

7 ~~_____ I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Presidential Primary to be held on _____

23 (MM/DD/YYYY)

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

25 State Primary to be held on _____

26 (MM/DD/YYYY)

27 General Election

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

29 Republican Party

30 Democratic Party

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

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

34 Please print:

35 Applicant's Name: _____

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

37 Applicant's Voting Domicile (home address):

1 _____
2 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

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

4 _____
5 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

6 Applicant's Phone Number : _____

7 Applicant's Email Address : _____

8 Applicant's Signature: _____

9 Date Signed: _____

10 (MM/DD/YYYY)

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

12 Signature _____

13 Print Name _____ Address _____

14 ~~[If your absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope has the printed name and signature of a~~
15 ~~person who assisted you with voting, your signature will not be compared to your signature on the~~
16 ~~absentee ballot affidavit to verify your identity. Otherwise, if your signatures do not appear to be~~
17 ~~made by the same person, your absentee ballot may not be counted.]~~

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

24 5 Absentee Voting Materials. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 657:7 and RSA 657:7, I
25 and II to read as follows:

26 657:7 ~~[Absence, Religious Observance, and Disability]~~ **Absentee Voting.** Prior to any state
27 election, the secretary of state shall prepare the following forms in such quantity as he *or she* deems
28 necessary:

29 I. ~~[Absence, religious observance, and disability]~~ Absentee ballots as provided in RSA
30 656:33.

31 II. Affidavit envelopes of sufficient size to contain the ballots on which shall be printed the
32 following:

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

36 I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the city or
37 town of _____, New Hampshire, in ward _____; ~~[that I will be unable to appear at~~

1 ~~any time during polling hours at my polling place because I will be working on election day, or I am~~
 2 ~~voting on the Monday immediately prior to the election, the National Weather Service has issued a~~
 3 ~~winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning, and I am elderly or infirm, have a~~
 4 ~~physical disability, or have to care for children or infirm adults, or I will be otherwise absent on~~
 5 ~~election day from said city or town and will be unable to vote in person;]~~ that I have carefully read
 6 (or had read to me because I am blind) the instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein
 7 enclosed, and that I personally marked the ballot within and sealed it in this envelope (or had
 8 assistance in marking the ballot and sealing it in this envelope because I am blind). ~~[For the~~
 9 ~~purposes of this certification, the term "working" shall include the care of children and infirm adults,~~
 10 ~~with or without compensation.]~~

11 (Signature) _____

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

16 ~~[(b) Absence Because of Religious Observance or Physical Disability. A person voting by~~
 17 ~~absentee ballot because of religious observance or physical disability shall fill out and sign the~~
 18 ~~following certificate:~~

19 ~~I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the city or~~
 20 ~~town of _____, New Hampshire, in ward _____; that I will be observing a religious~~
 21 ~~commitment which prevents me from voting in person or that on account of physical disability I am~~
 22 ~~unable to vote in person; that I have carefully read (or had read to me because I am blind) the~~
 23 ~~instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein enclosed, and that I personally marked the ballot~~
 24 ~~within and sealed it in this envelope (or had assistance in marking the ballot and sealing it in this~~
 25 ~~envelope because I am blind).~~

26 (Signature) _____

27 ~~The signature on this affidavit must appear to be executed by the same person who signed the~~
 28 ~~absentee ballot application. A person assisting a disabled or blind voter shall make and sign a~~
 29 ~~statement on this envelope in the space provided acknowledging the assistance. The moderator will~~
 30 ~~not compare the voter's signature on this affidavit with the signature on the absentee ballot~~
 31 ~~application when a person assisting the voter has signed the statement on the affidavit that~~
 32 ~~assistance was provided.~~

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

37 6 Absentee Voting. Amend the subdivision heading preceding RSA 657:12 to read as follows:

1 Procedure for ~~[Absence, Religious Observance, and Disability and Overseas]~~ **Absentee** Voting

2 7 Absentee Voting in Town Elections. Amend RSA 669:26 to read as follows:

3 669:26 Absentee Voting.

4 [I.] Every town which has adopted an official ballot system for town elections as provided in
5 RSA 669:12 or 669:13 shall provide for absentee voting. ~~[Any eligible voter who is absent from such
6 a town on the day of a town election, or who cannot appear in public on election day because of his or
7 her observance of a religious commitment, or who, by reason of physical disability, is unable to vote
8 in person may vote at a town election in accordance with the provisions of this section and RSA
9 669:27-669:29. A person who is unable to appear at any time during polling hours at his or her
10 polling place because of an employment obligation shall be considered absent for purposes of this
11 section and RSA 669:27-669:29. For the purposes of this section, the term "employment" shall
12 include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.~~

13 ~~II. When the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning, blizzard
14 warning, or ice storm warning for election day applicable to the town:~~

15 ~~(a) A person who is elderly or infirm or who has a physical disability, who otherwise
16 would have voted in person but has concerns for his or her safety traveling in the storm, shall be
17 considered absent for purposes of this section and RSA 669:27-669:29 and may vote absentee on the
18 Monday immediately prior to the election.~~

19 ~~(b) A person who cares for children or infirm adults who reasonably anticipates that
20 school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, who otherwise would have voted in person but will
21 be deterred from voting by the need to care for children or infirm adults, shall be considered absent
22 for purposes of this section and RSA 669:27-669:29 and may vote absentee on the Monday
23 immediately prior to the election.~~

24 ~~(c) As required by RSA 652:20, the clerk's office shall be open to receive applications for
25 absentee ballots, to provide voters the opportunity to complete absentee ballots, and to receive
26 returned ballots on the Monday immediately prior to an election at a minimum from 3:00 p.m. to
27 5:00 p.m. The clerk may designate a deputy clerk or assistant to provide this service, provided the
28 individual has taken the oath of office and has been trained in the requirements for using an
29 absentee ballot and the procedures for issuing and receiving absentee ballots.]~~

30 8 Absentee Voting; Procedure by Clerk. Amend RSA 657:18 to read as follows:

31 657:18 Procedure by Clerk. Upon receipt of an outer envelope purporting to contain an official
32 absentee voting ballot, the clerk of the city or town shall, subject to RSA 657:16, attach thereto the
33 application for an absentee ballot submitted by said voter and record the information pursuant to
34 RSA 657:15. All such envelopes shall be preserved unopened until election day **except as provided**
35 **by RSA 659:49-b.**

36 9 Processing of Absentee Ballots. Amend RSA 659:49 to read as follows:

37 659:49 Processing Absentee Ballots.

1 I. Processing of previously received absentee ballots shall begin at 1:00 p.m. unless a
2 different time, that is no earlier than ~~[2 hours]~~ **one hour** after the opening of the polls~~[,]~~ is posted
3 and announced in accordance with paragraph II. The processing of the absentee ballots shall not
4 unnecessarily interfere with normal voting procedures, nor shall the polls be closed at any time for
5 the processing of such ballots during normal polling hours. Absentee ballots which are received after
6 the start time for processing absentee ballots and prior to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the election shall
7 be processed as soon after receipt as possible. Under no circumstances shall absentee ballots be
8 counted prior to the closing of the polls.

9 II. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph I, ~~[upon the written challenges of 10 or~~
10 ~~more voters who are present at the polls no later than 1:00 p.m., the moderator shall postpone the~~
11 ~~processing of all absentee ballots until after the polls close and prior to the counting of all ballots~~
12 ~~east in the election.]~~ the moderator, or his or her designee, shall post the time at which the
13 processing of absentee ballots shall begin at the polling place and one other public location at least
14 24 hours before the polls open. In addition, when the polls open the moderator shall announce the
15 time at which the processing of absentee ballots shall begin.

16 10 Opening Absentee Ballot Outer Envelopes. Amend RSA 659:49-b to read as follows:

17 659:49-b Opening Absentee Ballot Outer Envelopes. The moderator or the moderator's designee
18 may authorize the opening of absentee ballot outer envelopes on election day **or the Thursday,**
19 **Friday, Saturday, or Monday** prior to the time established for processing absentee ballots in RSA
20 659:49, **but after the corrected checklist has been posted** provided that the opening of the outer
21 envelopes occurs in public with notice of the time and place. ~~[The envelope containing the ballot shall~~
22 ~~not be removed from the outer envelope at such time, and The outer envelope containing the inner~~
23 ~~envelope shall be secured until it is processed pursuant to RSA 659:50.]~~ **After the outer envelope**
24 **has been opened, the affidavit on the inner envelope shall be examined, the voter's name**
25 **shall be announced, an opportunity for a challenge of the ballot shall be given, and a**
26 **notation may be made on the checklist to help facilitate processing of the ballot on election**
27 **day. Notwithstanding RSA 659:51, if absentee ballots are partially processed before**
28 **election day a challenge may not be made after the notation has been made on the**
29 **checklist. The ballot shall remain secure in the unopened affidavit envelope until final**
30 **processing on election day.**

31 11 New Section; Election Procedure; Processing Absentee Ballots; Partial Processing of Absentee
32 Ballots Prior to an Election. Amend RSA 659 by inserting after section 55-a the following new
33 section:

34 659:55-b Partial Processing of Absentee Ballots Prior to an Election.

35 I. The moderator, or his or her designee, may begin the processing of absentee ballots prior
36 to the opening of the polls provided that the clerk shall post, in an appropriate public place and prior
37 to election day, notice of the time and place of the processing. If the moderator chooses to do so it

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1 shall be posted in 2 appropriate public places, one of which shall be the public body's Internet
2 website, if such exists, or shall be printed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city or town at
3 least 48 hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, prior to such meeting. A copy of the notice
4 shall be provided to the secretary of state. The partial processing of absentee ballots prior to an
5 election shall occur on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Monday prior to the date of the election
6 after the posting of the checklist. The moderator shall be assisted by at least 3 other election officers
7 as defined under RSA 652:14. Members of the general public may observe this process. Under no
8 circumstances shall absentee ballots be counted prior to the opening of the polls.

9 II. Once notice of the processing has been posted, all absentee ballots received by the end of
10 the day preceding the posted time for the meeting shall be partially processed. Only one session for
11 the partial processing of absentee ballots may be scheduled prior to an election.

12 III. Except as otherwise provided, the moderator, or his or her designee, shall adhere to the
13 procedures detailed in RSA 659:49-b, RSA 659:50, RSA 659:51, RSA 659:52, RSA 659:53, RSA
14 659:54, RSA 659:54-a, RSA 666:4, and RSA 666:5.

15 12 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Amendments

Amendment to SB 47

1 Amend RSA 657:7, II(a) as inserted by section 5 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

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

6 I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the city or
7 town of _____, New Hampshire~~[- in ward _____]; [that I will be unable to appear at~~
8 ~~any time during polling hours at my polling place because I will be working on election day, or I am~~
9 ~~voting on the Monday immediately prior to the election, the National Weather Service has issued a~~
10 ~~winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning, and I am elderly or infirm, have a~~
11 ~~physical disability, or have to care for children or infirm adults, or I will be otherwise absent on~~
12 ~~election day from said city or town and will be unable to vote in person;]~~ that I have carefully read
13 (or had read to me because I am blind) the instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein
14 enclosed, and that I personally marked the ballot within and sealed it in this envelope (or had
15 assistance in marking the ballot and sealing it in this envelope because I am blind). ~~[For the~~
16 ~~purposes of this certification, the term "working" shall include the care of children and infirm adults,~~
17 ~~with or without compensation.]~~

18 (Signature) _____

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

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair
Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair
Sen Ruth Ward, Member
Sen Donna Soucy, Member
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: January 20, 2021

HEARINGS

Monday	01/25/2021	
(Day)	(Date)	
Election Law and Municipal Affairs	REMOTE	9:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)
9:00 a.m. SB 79-FN	relative to the authority of the moderator to verify the device count.	
9:15 a.m. SB 54	relative to the procedure used to complete and submit applications for absentee ballots and absentee ballots.	
9:45 a.m. SB 47	modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process.	

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: <https://www.zoom.us/j/92828968381>
2. To listen via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
3. Or iPhone one-tap: US: 16465588656, 92828968381# or 13017158592, 92828968381#
4. Webinar ID: [928 2896 8381](https://www.zoom.us/j/92828968381)
5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA>
6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx>

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us or call (603-271-6931).

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

SB 79-FN

Sen. Sherman
Rep. Porter

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. D'Allesandro

Rep. Wuelper

SB 54

Sen. Giuda
Rep. M. Pearson

Sen. Daniels
Rep. Weyler

Rep. Pearl

Rep. W. MacDonald

SB 47

Sen. Soucy
Sen. Whitley
Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. D'Allesandro
Sen. Prentiss
Sen. Sherman

Sen. Watters
Sen. Cavanaugh
Rep. Rogers

Sen. Perkins Kwoka
Sen. Kahn
Rep. Cote

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray
Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Tricia Melillo 271-3077

SB 47, modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process.

Hearing Date: January 25, 2021

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill allows for no-excuse absentee registration and voting, and partial processing of absentee ballots prior to election day.

Sponsors:

Sen. Soucy	Sen. D'Allesandro	Sen. Watters
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	Sen. Whitley	Sen. Prentiss
Sen. Cavanaugh	Sen. Kahn	Sen. Rosenwald
Sen. Sherman	Rep. Rogers	Rep. Cote

Who supports the bill: Please see sign in sheet.

Who opposes the bill: Please see sign in sheet.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Donna Soucy

- This bill would make some updates to the NH Election Laws
- It will allow no excuse absentee registration and voting and will give cities and towns the ability to partially pre-process the absentee ballots prior to election day.
- These changes have already been put to the test with very successful results.
- Due to COVID 19 changes were made for the 2020 Presidential election to make sure every eligible voter could vote in a safe and secure manner, without compromising the integrity of our election process.
- HB 1266 allowed all NH voters to register and vote by absentee in an effort to allay concerns about COVID 19.
- Additionally, because of the increase in absentee ballots, it allowed for partially pre-processing of absentee ballots on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Monday, prior to the election.
- More than 100 cities and towns participated in the pre-processing and based on the feedback from election officials, it was critical to ensure they had accurate and timely results.

- The effect of the changes was clear, despite the public health crisis, by making the changes they did, the voter turnout was record-breaking.
- NH had 814,092 ballots cast which was 85,000 more than the previous record that was set in 2016.
- Of the ballots cast, 261,062 of them were by absentee. That is nearly three times the previous high.
- Having learned important lessons about the process and having listened to local officials, voting is still a challenge for a lot of people, and she thinks we need to move forward and allow everyone to vote absentee.
- She once voted against no excuse absentee legislation believing that NH was not ready to do that.
- After having seen how well it worked in the November election she believes it is a process that needs to move forward.
- The bill will make it permanent for an eligible NH voter to vote by absentee without needing to provide an excuse.
- The current excuses would be eliminated from the statute.
- The pre-processing will have to continue to be a part of this as there will be an increase in absentee ballots to process.
- Under current law, local election officials cannot begin processing the ballots sooner than two hours before the polls open.
- They will still have to follow the same process of posting a notice of the time and place, twenty-four hours in advance.
- Lastly this legislation will allow absentee ballots to be partially pre-processed prior to election day.
- NH stood out as a national example of how to conduct elections.
- People in the state should feel confident in the way NH conducts elections.
- Despite the pandemic they expanded access to Granite Staters across the board.
- By making this an option they can ensure that eligible voters can participate
- NH elections are run by local people. They are our friends and neighbors, and they are committed to run secure and fair elections.
- The right to vote is a cherished right, they need to make sure it is fair, secure, and readily accessible to all of their constituents.
- Senator Gray commented that in the NH Constitution Part 1, Article 11, it speaks of absentee ballots only in certain circumstances and asked if she can provide her position on that before the Committee votes on this bill.
 - Senator Soucy replied that she would be happy to.

Senator Melanie Levesque

- Last year just after the state primary, NH went on lock down due to COVID.
- As legislators, they worked with the secretary of state to ensure every voter was able to cast an absentee ballot if they did not feel safe going to the polls due to COVID.
- They were able to make those temporary changes by passing HB 1266 which expired Dec 30, 2020.
- Many voters who lead busy lives may not have the time to get to the polls but want to exercise their right to vote.
- Allowing them to request an absentee ballot would give them the ability to participate.
- According to NCSL 16 states require voters to provide an “excuse” for why they will not be able to vote on Election Day.

- The other 34 states and Washington, D.C., do not require an excuse from those who wish to vote absentee or by mail.
- Partial preprocessing of ballots is a process election officials from large towns and cities have requested for some time.
- The volume of absentee ballots received in the cities can often lead to late nights counting ballots and concerns about being short staffed.
- Partial Preprocessing would allow the elections officials to get a head start on this work and it is a process that work well in the 2020 election.
- We should be continuously trying to improve by making permanent this practice.

Cordell Johnston – NH Municipal Association

- They support sections 8-11 of the bill and do not have a position on sections 1-7.
- The preprocessing is something moderators have been asking to be able to do for a long time.
- It was very successful this last election and saved a lot of time.
- It is hard to find people to volunteer their time on election day to do the processing.
- He has heard of towns processing ballots until 2:00 in the morning.
- The only concern people have about pre-processing, is if it is not done on election day, it is inconvenient for the residents that want to show up and watch the processing.
- In his town, this past election, they had many people show up to monitor the processing.
- One of the benefits, is that the clerk had time to alert the voters whose absentee ballots were rejected for an error. They were able to come to the polls and cast their vote that otherwise would not have counted.
- He knows that no excuse absentee voting has been a divisive issue and he suspects there is not a majority to pass it.
- If the committee chooses not to support sections 1-7, he will ask that they pass sections 8-11 separately.

Ken Barnes

- Absentee voting is helpful to him and many others.
- There is no reason to have to come up with an excuse to vote absentee.
- For a lot of people who are elderly or disabled, absentee voting is the choice between voting or not.

Olivia Zink – Open Democracy

- No excuse absentee voting is fundamental to anyone who would like to vote.
- This is pro-voter legislation and should be passed.

Tina Guilford – Town Moderator, Derry

- No excuse absentee voting is what the voters want, and they are going to check whatever box they need to.
- She does not believe there is anyone that investigates why someone is voting absentee and voters just check that they will be out of town.
- She thanked the Committee for clearing up the absentee envelope.
- On page 6, line 37, where it asks the voters which ward they live in does not need to be there because voters in Derry do not know what district or ward they are in.

- The ballots are already sorted by District on the outside envelope.
- In Derry, they were given permission by the Secretary of State to pre-process on two days and they did it on Thursday and Friday.
- For larger city and towns, they need the ability to pre-process by district over a number of days.
- Senator Soucy asked if they received a lot of calls with concerns about signing the affidavit for the ballot.
 - Ms. Guilford replied that they did. The affidavit did not say anything about COVID 19, so they had a lot of people that were very confused about which side to sign. She got the sense that voters will do this in the future and not worry about which box they check.

Steven Rand – Open Democracy Action

- They are trying to perfect our democracy by making it easy to vote and hard to cheat.
- Being easy to vote means removing the obstacles to voting.
- He has long thought that giving a reason to vote absentee is an invasion of his privacy or an invitation to lie.
- It does not seem to belong in our system and does not give a feeling of fairness or confidence in our elections.
- It is time to get rid of the excuses all together.

Daniel Healey – Town Clerk, Derry

- Supports Tina Guilford's testimony and agrees with removing the question of which Ward.

David Scanlan – Deputy Secretary of State

- They have split support for this bill.
- There is no question that preprocessing the absentee ballots is very popular with local officials and it worked very well in November.
- The real benefit was, that in the instance an absentee ballot was rejected, there was time to call the voter and have them vote in person.
- The Constitutional Provision provides two excuses for absentee voting and the legislature has added to those reasons over the years.
- Going beyond the Constitutional Provision to allow no excuse absentee voting creates a system where votes can be managed.
- Ballot harvesting where political parties or candidates help people to vote absentee on a large scale is a big concern.
- The current system that we have places the responsibility on the voter to get an absentee ballot and follow through with the process.
- Since the court has said we cannot compare signatures to verify an absentee ballot the no excuse voting opens the door to mishandled votes and a lack of confidence in the voters that the ballots are legitimate. This was a big issue in this past election.
- Voters want to see evidence that an absentee voter is a legitimate voter.
- We have to balance ease of voting with legitimacy of the vote.

Ken Barnes

- He believes we should not be encouraging people to file false information.
- We should not be assuming that people will lie on the affidavit to be able to vote absentee.

Tina Guilford - Moderator, Derry

- She wanted to clarify that she would never encourage people to lie on the affidavit
- She was mentioning that those were the conversations she was hearing in the town offices before the election.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: January 27, 2021

Speakers

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee 1-25-21
Bill SB47

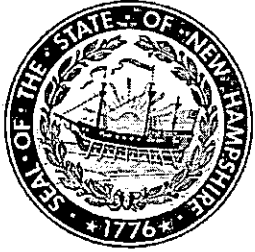
Support: 64 Oppose: 5 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 5

Name	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying
Zink, Olivia	A Lobbyist.	Open Democracy Action	Support	Yes
Barnes, Ken	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Levesque, Melanie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Soucy, Donna	An Elected Official	SD 18 New Hampshire Municipal Association	Support	Yes
Johnston, Cordell	A Lobbyist A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Cotton, Bev	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Coon, Kate	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Tentarelli, Liz	A Member of the Public	League of Women Voters NH	Support	No
Rosenwald, Cindy	An Elected Official	SD 13	Support	No
Wazir, Safiya	An Elected Official A Member of the Public	My Constituents	Support	No
Hatcher, Phil	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
GARFIELD, LYNN	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Murray, Megan	An Elected Official A Member of the Public	Hillsborough District 22	Support	No
Oppel, Thomas	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
McNamee, Brigid	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rogers, Katherine	An Elected Official A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Perencevich, Ruth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Brennan, Nancy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Damon, Claudia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Mattlage, Linda	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No

Name	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying
Doody, Jodi	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Hinebauch, Mel	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Chadwick, Ray	A Member of the Public	Granite State Taxpayers	Oppose	No
Bushueff, Catherine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Schmidt, Jan	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Lane, Connie	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Henry, Sarah	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Schuett, Rep. Dianne	An Elected Official	Merrimack County, Dist. 20	Support	No
Kornhauser, Naomi	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bagshaw, Joseph	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Willing, Maura	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Gilmore, Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Wuelper, Kurt	An Elected Official	Strafford 3	Oppose	No
Corell, Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Pidgeon, Dawna	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Clark, Martha	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Torpey, Jeanne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
See, Alvin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Rardin, Jared	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Weinberg, Sara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Clafin, Kyri	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Tuthill, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Spielman, Kathy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Spielman, jim	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No

Name	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying
Wilke, Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Hatch, Sally	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Garland, Ann	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
MELLER, elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Sherman, Senator Tom	An Elected Official	SD 24	Support	No
Spencer, Louise	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Kinzler, Carol	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rardin, Laurie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Feder, Marsha	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rardin, Marta	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rardin, Brynne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Schaffer, Janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Watters, Senator David	An Elected Official	Myself (SD 4)	Support	No
Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebe	An Elected Official	Myself (SD 21)	Support	No
Sayess, Polina	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Cornell, Patricia	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Kinney, Gail	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Istel, Claudia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Spencer, Robert	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Waterman, Raymond	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
McTigue, Deborah	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Fay, Jean	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Fordey, Nicole	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Pinto, Josie	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Youth Movement	Support	No

Testimony



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



REGISTERING TO VOTE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

This guidance has been revised several times. It was revised on November 7, 2018, to comply with a court order enjoining enforcement of Senate Bill 3 (2017). Do not rely on published versions of the election laws or sections of the Election Procedure Manual that relate to statutes amended by Senate Bill 3. This guidance was updated effective July 2019 to reflect House Bill 1264, as well as (2018)'s changes to the definition of resident and residence for purpose other than the election laws. See *Casey v. N.H. Secy. of State*, 2020 N.H. LEXIS 96, No. 2019-0693, (May 20, 2020). This guidance was also updated on September 1, 2020 to reference absentee registration and accessible electronic absentee registration for persons qualified to register to vote who are blind or have other print disabilities.

To be eligible to register and vote in New Hampshire a person must be:

- 18 years of age or older on election day;
- A United States citizen; and
- Domiciled¹[1] in the town or ward where the person seeks to vote.

To register, you will need to provide proof of your identity, age, citizenship, and domicile. Proof can be either by documents or if you do not have documents with you, by affidavit. Documents may be presented in paper or electronic form.

- A driver's license or non-driver ID from any state satisfies proof of identity and age.
- A birth certificate, U.S. Passport/Passcard, or naturalization document satisfies proof of citizenship.

Note: A New Hampshire Real ID compliant driver's license is NOT proof of U.S. Citizenship.

If you do not have these, you can prove your identity, age, and/or citizenship, by signing a Qualified Voter Affidavit, under oath, in front of an election official.

You will also need to prove that you are domiciled in the town or ward where you intend to vote. Proof can be either by documents or if you do not have documents with you, by affidavit. The law requires a document that "manifests an intent to maintain a single continuous

¹ "The fundamental idea of domicile is home." *Felker v. Henderson*, 78 N.H. 509, 511 (1917). More information regarding what the term "domicile" means is found on page 3 of this document.

presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating in democratic self-government.” RSA 654:1².

There are many types of documents that will satisfy this requirement. A court order has enjoined enforcement of statutes that list examples of satisfactory documents. However, the documents listed in those statutes were recognized by election officials prior to the adoption of Senate Bill 3. The following documents are examples of satisfactory proof of domicile:

- A New Hampshire driver’s license or non-driver ID showing your current domicile address;
- A document from the school that you attend, showing that you live in campus housing. A document issued by the school that has your name and the address where you live satisfies the requirement. Many colleges and universities provide students with satisfactory documents already. Students may also use a smart phone or other electronic device to show the election official a page from the college or university’s official student electronic records website, which lists the student’s dorm assignment or off-campus residence address. Some universities have established an on-line web page resource specifically for this purpose. Consult your school officials if you are unsure how to find and display this information from your school’s system.
- A note signed by a school official, including a Resident Assistant or other person with supervisory responsibility for your dorm, satisfies the requirement under RSA 654:1, I-a.
- A rental agreement, lease, or similar document that shows your name and the address of your domicile. The document must show that you are domiciled at the address on Election Day.
- A document showing that you own the place you are domiciled at, such as a deed, property tax bill, or other similar document that has your name and address.
- A New Hampshire resident motor vehicle registration, driver’s license, or non-driver photo ID showing your domicile address.
- A voter photo ID issued by the NH Division of Motor Vehicles at no cost to you.
 - To obtain a photo ID card that can only be used for voting purposes, ask your town or city clerk or the Secretary of State’s office for a voucher and present it to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
 - Information on the documents you will need to present to the DMV is available here:
<https://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/dmv/forms/documents/dsmv634b.pdf>
- A document showing that you enrolled a dependent minor child in a public school that serves the town or ward of your domicile.
- Any state or federal tax form, other government form, or government issued identification that shows your name and your domicile address.

² RSA 654:1 was not amended by Senate Bill 3.

- Any form from the US Post Office showing your name and the physical address where you are domiciled (not a P.O. Box). The confirmation you received by e-mail or US mail when you reported your new address to the Post Office satisfies the requirement.
- A public utility bill, such as such as an electric, telephone, water, gas, or other utility bill, with your name and domicile address on it.
- A note from a homeless shelter or other service provider located in the town or ward where you will vote that confirms they will receive US mail sent to you at that address.
- You may also use any other document that shows manifestation of your intent to make the place you claim your voting domicile.

If you have any questions about what will be sufficient proof of domicile, you may call or visit your town or city clerk's office. Look up your clerk's address and contact information here: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/ClerkDetails.aspx>

If you do not have any document proving your domicile, you can prove domicile by signing a Domicile Affidavit.

If you have documents to establish your qualifications, please bring them when you register. If you do not have documents or forget to bring them:

- YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE;
- YOU WILL BE ABLE TO VOTE; and
- YOU WILL USE A REGULAR ELECTION DAY BALLOT THAT IS COUNTED ON ELECTION DAY.³

If you have any questions about the process of registering to vote, do not hesitate to ask at the town/city clerk's office or the supervisors of the checklist at the polls on Election Day. Your local election officials are there to help you.

Absentee Voter Registration

You may register to vote by absentee (by mail) if one of the following is true:

- You are concerned about exposure to infection from COVID-19 or exposing others. See attached COVID-19 Related Registration and Voting Instructions;

³ Citizens of New Hampshire who moved here from another state may have experienced casting a provisional ballot in their prior state when they failed to bring documentation of their qualifications or Photo ID to the polls. New Hampshire does not use a provisional ballot. Everyone who satisfies the requirements to register votes a ballot counted on election day. New Hampshire does not have a durational residency requirement – you can move into New Hampshire, establish your voting domicile on election day, register and vote. New Hampshire has election day voter registration at the polling place.

- You will be absent from the town or city on the dates/times when the Supervisors of the Checklist meet to receive voter registration applications. The supervisors are required to meet on a date 6 to 13 days before the September 8, 2020 primary and again before the November 3, 2020 general election;
 - o Absence includes an employment obligation that prevents you from attending a session of the supervisors. The term “employment” includes the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.
- You cannot appear in public because of observance of a religious commitment;
- You are unable to vote in person by reason of a physical disability; or
- You are a victim of domestic violence, have an active protective order, or are participating in the Attorney General’s address confidentiality program.

If any of the above circumstances applies to you, please access the 2020 Absentee Voter Registration Requirements And Instructions for a step-by-step guide regarding how to register absentee at the following website:

<https://sos.nh.gov/media/upfnijty/absentee-registration-requirements-and-instructions-2020-08-08-covid-ada.pdf>

Accessible Electronic Absentee Voter Registration

If you meet the State's requirements and qualifications to register to vote and are unable to register to vote in person because of a print-based physical disability (e.g., blindness), you may register through an accessible electronic absentee voter registration process. To do this, you should request an Accessible Absentee Voter Registration Affidavit and an Accessible Standard Voter Registration form directly from your city or town clerk. The Application for an Accessible Electronic Absentee Ballot also has a selection on it that permits you to request the forms necessary for absentee electronic voter registration to be sent to you. You may download the Application for an Accessible Electronic Absentee Ballot from the following website: <https://sos.nh.gov/elections/voters/register-to-vote/absentee/accessible-voting/>

More Detailed Information regarding Registering to Vote

What is “domicile”?

“The fundamental idea of domicile is home.” *Felker v. Henderson*, 78 N.H. 509, 511 (1917).

“An inhabitant's domicile for voting purposes is that one place where a person, more than any other place, has established a physical presence and manifests an intent to maintain a single continuous presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating

in democratic self-government. A person has the right to change domicile at any time, however a mere intention to change domicile in the future does not, of itself, terminate an established domicile before the person actually moves.” RSA 654:1, I.

“A student of any institution of learning may lawfully claim domicile for voting purposes in the New Hampshire town or city in which he or she lives while attending such institution of learning if such student's claim of domicile otherwise meets the requirements of RSA 654:1, I.” RSA 654:1, I-a.

“A voter can have only one domicile for voting purposes.” RSA 654:2, I.

“RSA 654:1, I, like common law domicile, requires physical presence and the intent to make one’s place of physical presence one’s home (that “one place where a person, more than any other place, has established a physical presence and manifests an intent to maintain a single, continuous presence for domestic, social, and civil purposes relevant to participating in democratic self-government”).” *Casey v. N.H. Secy. of State*, __ N.H. __, slip op. at 6 (May 20, 2020).

Under New Hampshire law, the terms “domicile” and “residence” are equivalent. Thus, by establishing your domicile in New Hampshire, you may also trigger certain other state law residency obligations, including the obligation to obtain a New Hampshire driver’s license and/or motor vehicle registration. For more information on this, please visit <https://sos.nh.gov/elections/information/faqs/voter-registration-motor-vehicle-law/>

Disclaimer

The complete election laws are available on-line; however, a court order has enjoined enforcement of all provisions of law that were amended by Senate Bill 3 (2017). The on-line election laws currently show the enjoined language. The on-line law should not be relied upon without referring to the court’s injunction and Senate Bill 3 to determine the current law. Therefore, the on-line election laws do not reflect the law presently being applied for voter registration.

FAIR ELECTIONS CENTER

PROTECTING THE VOTE FOR ALL AMERICANS

January 25, 2021

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
New Hampshire Senate
Chair James Gray
Vice Chair Regina Birdsell

Dear Chair Gray, Vice Chair Birdsell, and Members of the Committee:

I write on behalf of Fair Elections Center in support of SB 47, which is currently scheduled for a hearing before the Committee on Monday, January 25, 2021. SB 47 would modernize elections and voting in New Hampshire by allowing any voter to register and vote absentee. We respectfully request that this letter be entered into the record as written testimony.

Fair Elections Center is a national, nonpartisan voting rights and election reform 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. Its mission is to use litigation, education, and advocacy to remove barriers to registration and voting, particularly those disenfranchising underrepresented and marginalized communities, and to improve election administration. The Center and its predecessor, Fair Elections Legal Network, have been helping Granite Staters exercise their right to vote since 2010.

Under current statute, New Hampshire voters may vote by absentee ballot only for specific reasons. The reasons include; being absent from the voter's city or town, a religious observance, disability or illness, and employment commitments (including caregiving) during the entire time the polls are open.¹ While absentee ballots may also be available when a weather emergency impacts an election, such an option is not guaranteed in any given situation. Similarly, the ability to register to vote by mail (absentee) is extremely limited, and is restricted to individuals who meet the state's

¹ See, e.g., RSA 657:4, RSA 669:26.

requirements and qualifications and are unable to register in person because of physical disability, religious beliefs, military service, or because of temporary absence.²

In New Hampshire in 2020, ballot modernization in light of the COVID-19 pandemic provided eligible voters safe and secure access to be able to vote. By encouraging voters to vote from home, states including New Hampshire helped mitigate risks associated with the current pandemic while also modernizing and maintaining the security of their election process.

The 2020 General Election showed both nationally and in New Hampshire that making it easier to cast a ballot benefits voters of all political persuasions and is not a fundamentally partisan issue. At least 34 states—including New Hampshire—eased voting restrictions for the General Election due to COVID-19.³ Two-thirds of the voting-eligible population subsequently voted in the election,⁴ the highest turnout since 1900,⁵ with New Hampshire seeing a record turnout of over 75 percent.⁶ President Trump won more votes than any other sitting president in U.S. history, while President Biden won more votes than any other presidential candidate.⁷ Both chambers of the New Hampshire legislature changed party hands⁸ and the Republican caucus picked up 16 seats in the 117th United States Congress.⁹ In sum, as one commentator put it, the 2020 General Election dispelled the myth that higher turnout favors one major political party over the other.¹⁰

² See, e.g., RSA 654:16 and RSA 654:17.

³ Sarah Swann, *These 34 states are making voting easier, if only for this fall*, THE FULCRUM (Sep. 24, 2020), <https://thefulcrum.us/voting/how-to-vote>.

⁴ *2020 November General Election Turnout Rates*, U.S. ELECTIONS PROJECT, <http://www.electproject.org/2020g> (last updated Dec. 7, 2020).

⁵ *National General Election VEP Turnout Rates, 1789-Present*, U.S. ELECTIONS PROJECT, <http://www.electproject.org/national-1789-present> (last visited Jan. 15, 2021).

⁶ U.S. Elections Project, *supra* note 4.

⁷ See “Compare National Data by Year (Table),” *Presidential General Election Results Comparison – National*, DAVE LEIP’S ATLAS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, <https://uselectionatlas.org/RESULTS/> (last visited Jan. 15, 2021).

⁸ Tim Storey and Wendy Underhill, *2020 Legislative Election Results: It’s Status Quo in the States*, NAT’L CONF. OF ST. LEGIS. (Nov. 5, 2020), <https://www.ncsl.org/blog/2020/11/05/2020-legislative-election-results-its-status-quo-in-the-states.aspx>.

⁹ *Party Breakdown, 117th Congress House Lineup*, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PRESS GALLERY, <https://pressgallery.house.gov/member-data/party-breakdown> (last visited Jan. 15, 2020); Jennifer E. Manning, CONG. RES. SERV., R45583, *MEMBERSHIP OF THE 116TH CONGRESS: A PROFILE 1* (2020).

¹⁰ David Weigel, *The Trailer: Democrats won the White House and lost a myth about turnout*, WASHINGTON POST (Nov. 8, 2020), <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/11/08/trailer-democrats-won-white-house-lost-myth-about-turnout/>.

Making the option to register and vote absentee without a specific excuse permanent for all voters allows our elections to be flexible and responsive to exigencies and emergencies without compromising security. No American should have to choose between their right to vote or their health and the health of their families, during a pandemic or otherwise.

Of course, modernizing absentee voting and registration would not *require* all eligible voters to vote a mail ballot or register by mail; it means only that they would have the option to do so. And expanding these options has significant logistical benefits: as more voters use absentee ballots and advance registration, fewer voters need register and cast their vote at the polls—alleviating some of the pressure on election administrators in high-volume elections on Election Day. A more robust vote-by-mail and mail registration system will make our elections more resilient, more secure, and more accessible.

Particularly in light of the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, we must fortify our democratic institutions through policies that help all eligible voters participate in the electorate. SB 47 would bring New Hampshire closer to that goal.

Thank you for allowing Fair Elections Center to share its expertise on this matter and to express its support for SB 47. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at mkantercohen@fairelectionscenter.org or (202) 331-0114.

Sincerely,

Michelle E. Kanter Cohen
Senior Counsel
Fair Elections Center
1825 K St. NW, Ste. 450
Washington, D.C. 20006

From: Greg Crete <gregcrete@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 9:30 PM

To: Ruth Ward <Ruth.Ward@leg.state.nh.us>; Regina Birdsell <Regina.Birdsell@leg.state.nh.us>; James Gray <James.Gray@leg.state.nh.us>; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka <Rebecca.PerkinsKwoka@leg.state.nh.us>; Donna Soucy <Donna.Soucy@leg.state.nh.us>; Lou D'Allesandro <dalas@leg.state.nh.us>

Subject: SB47

Senators,

I am writing to you today to encourage you to vote against SB47, AN ACT modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process. It appears this legislation would encourage absentee voting - a practice which both parties have agreed is problematic.

"Absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud." A quote from former President Carter when he discussed the 2005 report of the Commission on Federal Election Reform.

William Barr recently said: "People trying to change the rules to this, to this methodology -- which, as a matter of logic, is very open to fraud and coercion -- is reckless and dangerous and people are playing with fire."

This country is divided and trust in the voting process is very low. As of December 22, 2020 Rasmussen, finds 39% think the increased voting by mail led to unprecedented voter fraud in the 2020 election. 62% of Republicans, 17% of Democrats and 28% that don't associate with a party, think the election was likely stolen.

Please do not support legislation that will further divide us. Make voting more secure so people can have faith in the process. Support legislation encouraging in-person voting to increase participation.

Please find links to sources below.

Thanks,

Greg Crete

SB 47

To the Senate Election Law Committee:

SB 47 would make permanent the changes made for 2020 elections expanding access to absentee voting and allowing for pre-processing of absentee ballots. Having so recently experienced one of the smoothest, most transparent, and successful elections here in our state using absentee voting and preprocessing of these ballots, SB 47 makes eminent good sense. Hopefully, widespread vaccination will curtail the pandemic, but there is no date certain of when that will be the case. Absentee voting and pre-preprocessing have both proven their efficacy and worth. Indeed, using these options even beyond the pandemic makes sense.

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB 47.

Janet Ward
82 Watchtower Road
Contoocook, NH 03229

Tricia Melillo

From: Katherine Rogers <katbeep@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Tricia Melillo
Subject: Written Testimony in favor of SB 47

Rep Katherine Rogers Testimony Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee on SB 47

Monday Jan 25, 2021 9:45 AM

Mr Chairman and Members of the Committee I am Rep Katherine Rogers and I represent Merr #28, Concord's East Side.

SB 47 allow any voter who is qualified to vote at any state election to by means of an absentee ballot. Otherwise known as No-Excuse Absentee Voting.

Just what does SB 47 Do for the people of New Hampshire?

- provides flexible alternatives for voters and enables them to participate.
- allows eligible voters to cast their ballot before Election Day without an excuse. These methods give voters viable alternatives to Election Day, enabling them to cast their vote and become active citizens.
- Under current law, only voters who have an excuse may obtain an absentee ballot. Without an excuse, voters are unable to obtain absentee ballots and cannot vote early, forcing them either to vote on Election Day or choose not to vote. Without the option of No-Excuse Absentee voting, countless voters are unable to have their voices heard; **OR THEY COULD JUST LIE**
- Census reports from the 2012 Presidential Election reveal that a majority of non-voters were "too busy" to make it to the polls. No-Excuse Absentee voting will help those eligible voters who are unable to make it to the polls on Election Day due to work, family, or transportation difficulties become part of the electorate.
- In 2018 34 states plus the District of Columbia offered some form of Early or No-Excuse Absentee Voting. More than 50% of voters in these states favor these methods. In the 2012 election, nearly 25% of all ballots cast were by Early Voting or by Absentee, another 3 states, Colorado, Oregon and Washington use all mail voting.
- Providing voters with flexible alternatives to casting their ballots widens the base of participation and fosters a democratic environment in which people can exercise their right to vote and make important decisions.
- Absentee ballots already allow voters with an excuse – like travel or sickness – to vote using a mail-in ballot. But why should voters need an excuse to cast an absentee ballot? A policy of "No Excuse Absentee Ballots" allows anybody to request an absentee ballot for any reason – if they are unexpectedly called into a job, unexpected illness of themselves or a loved one, to save time, to avoid the lines, work around a busy work a childcare schedule, anything including fear of the ramifications of a pandemic as we saw in the most recent election.
- 30 States already provide No Excuse Absentee Ballots to any voter that requests one, and in Oregon and Washington, it's the only way to vote.
- The downside to no-excuses absentee ballots is that voters don't enjoy the "zone of privacy" of the ballot box. When voting at home it's possible for spouses, relatives, and others to look over a voter's shoulder while they vote and "make sure they do the right thing." Voting too early before the election also makes it possible that voters do not have the full information that comes with a campaign.

But What About Fraud?

- Nationwide there were **only 7 documented cases of absentee voting fraud in all of 2012.**
- Since Oregon went to All Mail Voting in **2000, only 33 cases** of alleged voter fraud (or around .0005%).
- The chance for voter suppression is far greater than the chance for voter fraud

How does No-Excuse Absentee Voting Work?

Absentee voting is conducted by mail-in paper ballot prior to the day of the election.

States typically require that a voter fill out an application to receive an absentee ballot.

Many states help facilitate this process by making absentee ballot applications available online for voters to print and send, and **five states (Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota and Utah) permit a voter to submit an application entirely online.** Arizona has some counties that have online absentee ballot applications, and in Detroit, Michigan voters can request an absentee ballot through a smartphone app.

While all states offer some version of absentee voting, there is quite a lot of variation in states' procedures. For instance, some states offer "no-excuse" absentee voting, allowing any registered voter to request an absentee without requiring that the voter state a reason for his/her desire to vote absentee. Some states also allow a time frame before the election for voters to appear at the elections office or other designated location in person to request, fill out and cast an absentee ballot in on stop. Still other states permit voters to vote absentee only under a limited set of circumstances.

While the Secretary of State changed his interpretation of the definition of disability for the last election to allow fear of the Covid-19 virus so that people could more easily vote absentee last year I believe that changing the statute to be a clear "no excuse" absentee vote is far superior method.

It is time for NH to move into the twenty first century and allow our residents to increase their already high participation rate in elections - busy schedules, the mobility of our citizens and their interest in their government demand that we make voting more accessible. No-Excuse Absentee voting in a first step in doing that please vote Ought to Pass on SB 47.

Tricia Melillo

From: Ray Chadwick <rfchadwick@juno.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Tricia Melillo
Cc: dmc2015@comcast.net; danmcguire@gmail.com
Subject: Senate Bill 47

Committee Members

Granite State Taxpayers supports election laws that make our system of elections easy to understand, resistant to fraud, and available exclusively to residents of New Hampshire.

We oppose SB 47 to provide unlimited absentee voting. The primary, and expected, method of voting should remain as voting in person. This allows for voter identification and integrity in ballot processing. Even during the height of the pandemic, people were willing and able to appear in public, and stand in socially distant lines, with masks, to purchase groceries and other necessities. The in person voting process was no different.

in contrast, absentee ballots are available to any person on the checklist without proof that the individual requesting the ballot is indeed still at the relevant address or is indeed the same person.

SB 47 will expand that loophole and degrade the integrity of our electoral system.

Thank you for your attention and your work on behalf of the citizens of New Hampshire.

Ray

Ray Chadwick, Chairman
Granite State Taxpayers
101 Powder Hill Road
Bedford, NH 03110
1-603-566-9129
www.GraniteStateTaxpayers.org

Ray Chadwick
101 Powder Hill Road
Bedford, NH 03110
1-603-566-9129

January 24, 2021

Re: SB 47, modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process.

To: Mr. Chair Sen. Gray and the members of the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

First, I have to sheepishly admit that I confused two bills having public hearings tomorrow and mistakenly indicated on the committee's online form that I was opposed to SB 47. In fact, I strongly support it. I apologize for the confusion!

SB 47 would make permanent voting provisions put in place in 2020 to cope with the pandemic, namely no-excuse absentee registration and voting, and partial processing of absentee ballots prior to election day. These provisions were incredibly successful, with the November election having a record-setting number of voters. Moreover the Granite State Poll showed that a very high percentage of voters (98% for absentee, 99% for in person) said they found voting to be easy, or very easy, in 2020.

I expect that opponents of this bill will cite concerns about election fraud. President Trump made unsupported claims about voting fraud that led to the attack on the U.S. Capitol. We should not repeat this in New Hampshire.

For example, in the public hearing Friday for HB 86, the sponsors of that bill made unsubstantiated claims about election fraud. Rep. Silber implied that vacationers and other seasonal visitors to New Hampshire were voting illegally in our elections. He went on to claim that a large number of letters following up on election-day registration affidavits are not returned and neither the Attorney General nor the Secretary of State take any action. Rep. Abramson stated that it is estimated that there are 20,000 to 30,000 people voting illegally in each New Hampshire election, but did not cite who exactly is making the estimate, nor what data the estimate is based upon.

If we have learned anything during the past weeks it should be that loose talk can have serious consequences. I was disappointed that no one on the House Election Law committee publicly challenged the claims of Rep. Silber and Rep. Abramson. However, Deputy Secretary of State Scanlan did state unequivocally in the same hearing that there was no evidence of wide-spread, orchestrated fraud.

We should celebrate the great success of our November election turnout and should make permanent the changes that helped drive that turnout. And we should not tolerate unsupported and dangerous claims of fraud by opponents of this bill. We need to strengthen our democracy by encouraging high voter participation, not continue to tear it apart by making false claims about fraud.

I urge you to vote Ought To Pass on SB 47.

Thank you.

Phil Hatcher
Dover, NH
603-988-8034
phil.hatcher@gmail.com

Testimony on SB47
Hon. Melanie Levesque
January 25, 2021

Mr. Chair and members of the Election Law Committee my name is Melanie Levesque from Brookline NH. I am offering testimony in support of SB47, a bill that puts into law temporary changes made last year regarding absentee ballots and preprocessed ballots.

Last year just after the state primary, NH went on lockdown due to COVID. As legislators we worked with the secretary of state to ensure every voter was able to cast an absentee ballot if they did not feel safe going to the polls due to COVID. We were able to make those temporary changes by passing HB 1266 which expired Dec 30, 2020. I thank Senator Sherman and Representative Bergeron for their work to bring this to fruition and Senator Soucy for sponsoring this bill.

We have an opportunity to be forward thinking and to be prepared for the future should another emergency arise. We know how to do this, and it works well.

Many people enjoy going to the polls to cast their ballot it is patriotic and casting our vote is our civic duty. Still others who lead busy lives may not have the time to get to the polls but want to exercise their right to vote. Allowing them to request an absentee ballot would give them the ability to participate.

According to NCSL 16 states require voters to provide an "excuse" for why they will not be able to vote on Election Day. Some of these states do provide early in-person voting.

The other 34 states and Washington, D.C., do not require an excuse from those who wish to vote absentee or by mail. Five states conduct elections entirely by mail (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington) Please note this bill does not remove the requirement to request a ballot. That is still part of the process.

Partial preprocessing of ballots is a process election official from large towns and cities have requested for some time. The volume of absentee ballots received in the cities can often lead to late nights counting ballots and concerns about being short staffed. Partial Preprocessing would allow the elections officials to get a head start on this work.

Again, it is a process that work well in the 2020 election. We should be continuously trying to improve by making permanent this practice.

Mr. Chair and member of the committee it is our job as election officials to make voting safe, easy, fair, and more transparent for voters. After all voting is a constitutional right. I urge you to vote out to pass on SB47 and help us improve the voting process in NH.

Thank you,

Hon. Melanie Levesque
Brookline

Tricia Melillo

From: Steve & Sue <russellpottery@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 22, 2021 4:09 PM
To: James Gray; Tricia Melillo
Subject: SB 47
Attachments: registering-to-vote-in-new-hampshire-sept2020 (5) (1).pdf

Tried to use the website to submit email to the entire committee - but not working. When you copy it add "%" to each member.

So please review and send this email to the rest of the committee.

This is Sue Russell, Supervisor of the Checklist Newbury.

Seems that **SB 47** for Absentee Voter Registration does not include the complete list of proof of domicile in the legislation. Information from SOS's website has a complete list. Please see attached.

SB47 states: " (a) A copy of a current and valid New Hampshire driver's license or an armed services identification or other photo identification issued by the United States government that shows my name and address; or (b) A copy of a current and valid photo identification and a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, other government document that shows my name and address, or a letter from the administrator of a nursing home or similar facility affirming that I am a resident of that facility that was provided to me at my request pursuant to the administrator's duty to provide such a letter upon my request;"

Information currently from the SOS website about voter registration states the following"

"There are many types of documents that will satisfy this requirement. A court order has enjoined enforcement of statutes that list examples of satisfactory documents. **However, the documents listed in those statutes were recognized by election officials prior to the adoption of Senate Bill 3.**

The following documents are examples of satisfactory proof of domicile:

- A New Hampshire driver's license or non-driver ID showing your current domicile address;
- A document from the school that you attend, showing that you live in campus housing. A document issued by the school that has your name and the address where you live satisfies the requirement. Many colleges and universities provide students with satisfactory documents already. Students may also use a smart phone or other electronic device to show the election official a page from the college or university's official student electronic records website, which lists the student's dorm assignment or off-campus residence address. Some universities have established an on-line web page resource specifically for this purpose. Consult your school officials if you are unsure how to find and display this information from your school's system.
- A note signed by a school official, including a Resident Assistant or other person with supervisory responsibility for your dorm, satisfies the requirement under RSA 654:1, I-a.
- A rental agreement, lease, or similar document that shows your name and the address of your domicile. The document must show that you are domiciled at the address on Election Day.
- A document showing that you own the place you are domiciled at, such as a deed, property tax bill, or other similar document that has your name and address.
- A New Hampshire resident motor vehicle registration, driver's license, or non-driver photo ID showing your domicile address.
- A voter photo ID issued by the NH Division of Motor Vehicles at no cost to you. o To obtain a photo ID card that can only be used for voting purposes, ask your town or city clerk or the Secretary of State's office for a voucher and present it to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- A document showing that you enrolled a dependent minor child in a public school that serves the town or ward of your domicile.

- Any state or federal tax form, other government form, or government issued identification that shows your name and your domicile address.

Any form from the US Post Office showing your name and the physical address where you are domiciled (not a P.O. Box). The confirmation you received by e-mail or US mail when you reported your new address to the Post Office satisfies the requirement.

- A public utility bill, such as an electric, telephone, water, gas, or other utility bill, with your name and domicile address on it.
- A note from a homeless shelter or other service provider located in the town or ward where you will vote that confirms they will receive US mail sent to you at that address.
- You may also use any other document that shows manifestation of your intent to make the place you claim your voting domicile.

Seems that SB47 needs to be further amended as it doesn't allow for all the proofs that a person would be able to submit to show domicile.

Voter registration can be difficult enough and having two sets of lists of proofs of domicile depending on how you register to vote - seem to allow one group (in person) many more options to prove domicile; including signing a affidavit - and another group (absentee registration) more restrictive options to prove domicile.

Sincerely

Sue Russell, Supervisor of the Checklist
Newbury, NH

Voting Sheets

**Senate Election Law
& Municipal Affairs Committee
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD
2021 Session**

Bill # SB 47

Hearing date: 1-25-2021

Executive Session date: _____

Motion of: ITL Vote: 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: _____ Vote: _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: _____ Vote: _____

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen Birdsell

Notes: _____

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Monday, March 8, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **SB 47**

AN ACT

modifying the absentee voter registration process,
absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot
voting process.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

IS INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

BY A VOTE OF: 3-2

Senator Regina Birdsell
For the Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of SB47

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: modifying the absentee voter registration process, absentee ballot application, and absentee ballot voting process.

Official Docket of SB47.:

Date	Body	Description
1/13/2021	S	Introduced 01/06/2021 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 3
1/21/2021	S	Remote Hearing: 01/25/2021, 09:45 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; SC 8
3/9/2021	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 03/18/2021; SC 15
3/18/2021	S	Inexpedient to Legislate, RC 14Y-10N , MA === BILL KILLED ===; 03/18/2021; SJ 8

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 47

Senate Committee: ELMA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

- amendment # 03715 - amendment # _____

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

- amendment # _____ - amendment # _____

Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}

Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

as amended by the senate as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Committee Aide

8/4/21
Date

Senate Clerk's Office [Signature]