

SUMMARY OF VOTING BILLS

SB 203/AB 192* – Secure delivery of absentee ballots:

- Would limit options to obtain and return absentee ballots.
- Prohibits any individual from helping more than one non-family member to return their absentee ballot.
- Limits who can return a voter's absentee ballot to the voter's immediate family or legal guardian, with very limited exceptions.

SB 206/AB 180* - Status as an indefinitely confined voter for purposes of receiving absentee ballots automatically

- Would limit rights of voters who certify as "indefinitely confined".
- Voters would be required to provide statements under oath.
- Voters under 65 would need to have their statements signed by their doctors. A false statement would be a felony.
- Voters would need to renew their status every two years. Currently, they receive an absentee ballot for every election for as long needed.

SB 209/AB 177* - Returning absentee ballots to the office of the municipal clerk

- Will limit drop boxes for absentee ballots to a drop box authorized by the municipal clerk that is attached to a building where the municipal clerk's office is permanently located. Prohibits the use of any other drop box for the delivery of an absentee ballot.
- Requires drop boxes to be tamper-resistant and moisture-resistant, include a slot that is only large enough to allow for the insertion of an absentee ballot, satisfy the accessibility requirements under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, and be emptied once each day at 9 a.m. by the clerk or deputy clerk in public view.
- Requires the clerk to publish notice of the location of the drop box and the days on which it is available for receiving absentee ballots.

SB 212/AB 198* - Defects on Absentee Ballots

- Prohibits a municipal clerk from correcting a defect on the completed absentee ballot certificate envelope.
Example: *a witness for your absentee ballot forgets to complete their address. Currently the clerk may look up the address or contact the voter for information.*
- If there is a defect on the absentee ballot certificate envelope, the clerk must return the ballot to the voter and post a notification on the elector's voter information page on MyVote website.
- Concerns:

- Many voters don't have internet or device to access MyVote; they would be unaware of the problem, and not able to correct it.
- Mail is slow. There may not be time to return the ballot to the voter and for the voter to send it back by the deadline.