## SECOND REGULAR SESSION

## SENATE BILL NO. 860

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HEGEMAN.

Read 1st time January 13, 2020, and ordered printed.

4836S.01I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.277, 115.279, 115.283, and 115.637, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to elections, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 115.277, 115.279, 115.283, and 115.637, RSMo, are

- 2 repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections
- 3 115.277, 115.279, 115.283, and 115.637, to read as follows:
  - 115.277. 1. (1) Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of
- 2 this section, any registered voter of this state may cast an absentee
- B ballot in person at a location designated by the election authority for
- 4 all candidates and issues for which such voter is eligible to vote at the
- 5 polling place without providing a reason for the need to vote absentee.
- 6 (2) Except as provided in subsections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this section, any
- 7 registered voter of this state may [vote by] cast an absentee ballot by mail for
- 8 all candidates and issues for which such voter [would be] is eligible to vote at
- 9 the polling place if such voter expects to be prevented from going to the polls to
- 10 vote on election day due to:
- 11 [(1)] (a) Absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election
- 12 authority in which such voter is registered to vote;
- 13 [(2)] **(b)** Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability,
- 14 including a person who is primarily responsible for the physical care of a person
- 15 who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;
- 16 [(3)] (c) Religious belief or practice;
- 17 [(4)] (d) Employment as an election authority, as a member of an election
- 18 authority, or by an election authority at a location other than such voter's polling

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

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20 [(5)] (e) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for voting are retained;

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- 21 [(6)] (f) Certified participation in the address confidentiality program 22 established under sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of safety concerns.
- 23 2. Any covered voter, as defined in section 115.275, who is eligible to register and vote in this state may vote in any election for federal office, 2425 statewide office, state legislative office, or statewide ballot initiatives by 26 submitting a federal postcard application to apply to vote by absentee ballot or 27 by submitting a federal postcard application at the polling place even though the 28 person is not registered. A federal postcard application submitted by a covered 29 voter pursuant to this subsection shall also serve as a voter registration 30 application under section 115.908 and the election authority shall, if satisfied 31 that the applicant is entitled to register, place the voter's name on the voter 32registration file. Each covered voter may vote by absentee ballot or, upon submitting an affidavit that the person is qualified to vote in the election, may 33 vote at the person's polling place. 34
- 35 3. Any interstate former resident[, as defined in section 115.275,] may 36 vote by absentee ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors.
- 4. Any intrastate new resident, as defined in section 115.275, may vote by absentee ballot at the election for presidential and vice presidential electors, 39 United States senator, representative in Congress, statewide elected officials and statewide questions, propositions and amendments from such resident's new jurisdiction of residence after registering to vote in such resident's new jurisdiction of residence.
- 43 5. Any new resident [, as defined in section 115.275,] may vote by absentee ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors after registering to vote in 44 such resident's new jurisdiction of residence. 45
- 115.279. 1. Application for an absentee ballot may be made by the applicant in person, or by mail, or for the applicant, in person, by his or her 3 guardian or a relative within the second degree by consanguinity or affinity. The election authority shall accept applications by facsimile transmission and by electronic mail within the limits of its telecommunications capacity.
- 6 2. Each application shall be made to the election authority of the jurisdiction in which the person is or would be registered. Each application shall be in writing and shall state the applicant's name, address at which he or she is or would be registered, his or her reason for voting an absentee ballot, if casting

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an absentee ballot pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 115.277, the address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is requested, 11 and for absent uniformed services and overseas applicants, the applicant's email 12address if electronic transmission is requested. If the reason for the applicant 13 voting absentee is due to the reasons established under paragraph (f) of 14 subdivision [(6)] (2) of subsection 1 of section 115.277, the applicant shall state 15 the voter's identification information provided by the address confidentiality 16 program in lieu of the applicant's name, address at which he or she is or would 17 be registered, and address to which the ballot is to be mailed, if mailing is 18 requested. Each application to vote in a primary election shall also state which 19 ballot the applicant wishes to receive. If any application fails to designate a 20 21ballot, the election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the 22application, notify the applicant by mail that it will be unable to deliver an 23 absentee ballot until the applicant designates which political party ballot he or 24 she wishes to receive. If the applicant does not respond to the request for political party designation, the election authority is authorized to provide the 25 26 voter with that part of the ballot for which no political party designation is required. 27

- 3. [Except as provided in subsection 3 of section 115.281,] All applications for absentee ballots received prior to the sixth Tuesday before an election shall be stored at the office of the election authority until such time as the applications are processed in accordance with section 115.281. No application for an absentee ballot received in the office of the election authority by mail, by facsimile transmission, by electronic mail, or by a guardian or relative after 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday immediately prior to the election shall be accepted by any election authority. No application for an absentee ballot submitted by the applicant in person after 5:00 p.m. on the day before the election shall be accepted by any election authority, except as provided in subsections 6, 8 and 9 of this section.
- 4. Each application for an absentee ballot shall be signed by the applicant or, if the application is made by a guardian or relative pursuant to this section, the application shall be signed by the guardian or relative, who shall note on the application his or her relationship to the applicant. If an applicant, guardian or relative is blind, unable to read or write the English language or physically incapable of signing the application, he or she shall sign by mark, witnessed by the signature of an election official or person of his or her own choosing. Any

46 person who knowingly makes, delivers or mails a fraudulent absentee ballot 47 application shall be guilty of a class one election offense.

- 5. (1) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, any resident of the state of Missouri who resides outside the boundaries of the United States or who is on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or members of their immediate family living with them may request an absentee ballot for both the primary and subsequent general election with one application.
- (2) The election authority shall provide each absent uniformed services voter and each overseas voter who submits a voter registration application or an absentee ballot request, if the election authority rejects the application or request, with the reasons for the rejection.
- (3) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, if a standard oath regarding material misstatements of fact is adopted for uniformed and overseas voters pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the election authority shall accept such oath for voter registration, absentee ballot, or other election-related materials.
- (4) Not later than sixty days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for federal office, each election authority which administered the election shall submit to the secretary of state in a format prescribed by the secretary a report on the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to, and returned by, absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the election. The secretary shall submit to the Election Assistance Commission a combined report of such information not later than ninety days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for federal office and in a standardized format developed by the commission pursuant to the Help America Vote Act of 2002. The secretary shall make the report available to the general public.
- 72 (5) As used in this section, the terms "absent uniformed services voter" 73 and "overseas voter" shall have the meaning prescribed in 52 U.S.C. Section 74 20310.
  - 6. An application for an absentee ballot by a new resident shall be submitted in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in the election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides. The application shall be received by the election authority no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election. Such application shall be in the form of an affidavit, executed in duplicate in the presence of the election authority or any authorized officer of the election authority, and in substantially the following form:

82	"STAT	TE OF
83	COUN	NTY OF, ss.
84	I,	, do solemnly swear that:
85	(1)	Before becoming a resident of this state, I resided at
86		(residence address) in (town, township, village or city) of
87		;
88	(2)	I moved to this state after the last day to register to vote in such
89		general presidential election and I am now residing in the county
90		of, state of Missouri;
91	(3)	I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in
92		the presidential election to be held November, (year);
93	(4)	I hereby make application for a presidential and vice presidential
94		ballot. I have not voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot
95		at such election.
96	Signe	d
97	(Applicant)	
98		
99	(Residence Address)	
100	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,	
101		_
102	Signed	
103	(Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"	
104	7. The election authority in whose office an application is filed pursuant	
105	to subsection	n 6 of this section shall immediately send a duplicate of such
106	application to the appropriate official of the state in which the new resident	
107	applicant last resided and shall file the original of such application in its office.	
108	8. An application for an absentee ballot by an intrastate new resident	
109	shall be mad	e in person by the applicant in the office of the election authority in
110	the election jurisdiction in which such applicant resides. The application shall	
111	be received by the election authority no later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the	
112	election. Such application shall be in the form of an affidavit, executed in	
113	duplicate in the presence of the election authority or an authorized officer of the	
114	election authority, and in substantially the following form:	
115	"STATE OF	
116	COUNTY OF, ss.	
117	I,, do solemnly swear that:	

118	(1)	Before becoming a resident of this election jurisdiction, I resided at	
119		(residence address) in (town, township, village or	
120		city) of;	
121	(2)	I moved to this election jurisdiction after the last day to register to	
122		vote in such election;	
123	(3)	I believe I am entitled pursuant to the laws of this state to vote in	
124		the election to be held (date);	
125	(4)	I hereby make application for an absentee ballot for candidates and	
126		issues on which I am entitled to vote pursuant to the laws of this	
127		state. I have not voted and shall not vote other than by this ballot	
128		at such election.	
129	Signe	d	
130	(Appl	icant)	
131			
132	(Resid	lence Address)	
133	Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of,		
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135	Signed		
136	(Title and name of officer authorized to administer oaths)"		
137	9. An application for an absentee ballot by an interstate former resident		
138	shall be received in the office of the election authority where the applicant was		
139	formerly reg	istered by 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday immediately prior to	
140	the election, unless the application is made in person by the applicant in the		
141	office of the election authority, in which case such application shall be made no		
142	later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.		
	115.28	83. 1. Each ballot envelope shall bear a statement on which the	
2	voter shall st	tate the voter's name, the voter's voting address, the voter's mailing	
3	address and,	if casting an absentee ballot pursuant to subdivision (2) of	
4	subsection	${f 1}$ of section ${f 115.277},$ the voter's reason for voting an absentee	
5	ballot. If th	e reason for the voter voting absentee is due to the reasons	
6	established	under paragraph (f) of subdivision [(6)] (2) of subsection 1 of	
7	section 115.	277, the voter shall state the voter's identification information	
8	provided by the address confidentiality program in lieu of the applicant's name		
9	voting addre	ess, and mailing address. On the form, the voter shall also state	
10	under penalt	ies of perjury that the voter is qualified to vote in the election, that	
11	the voter has	not previously voted and will not vote again in the election, that the	

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voter has personally marked the voter's ballot in secret or supervised the marking of the voter's ballot if the voter is unable to mark it, that the ballot has been placed in the ballot envelope and sealed by the voter or under the voter's supervision if the voter is unable to seal it, and that all information contained in the statement is true. In addition, any person providing assistance to the absentee voter shall include a statement on the envelope identifying the person providing assistance under penalties of perjury. Persons authorized to vote only for federal and statewide officers shall also state their former Missouri residence.

2. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of section 115.277 who are registered voters shall be in substantially the following form:

23	"State of Missouri		
24	County (City) of		
25	I, (print name), a registered voter of County (City o		
26	St. Louis, Kansas City), hereby state under penalties of perjury		
27	that I am qualified to vo	te at this election; I have not voted and	
28	will not vote other than by this ballot at this election. I furthe		
29	state that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret or that I an		
30	blind, unable to read or write English, or physically incapable o		
31	marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated		
32	below marked the ballot at my direction; all of the information		
33	on this statement is, to th	ne best of my knowledge and belief, true.	
34			
35	Signature of Voter	Signature of Person	
36		Assisting Voter	
37		(if applicable)	
38	Signed	Subscribed and sworn	
39	Signed	to before me this	
40	Address of Voter	day of,	
41	<del></del>		
42			
43	Mailing addresses	Signature of notary or	
44	(if different)	other officer	
45		authorized to	
46		administer oaths"	
47	3. The statement for pers	sons voting absentee ballots pursuant to	

3. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 115.277 who are registered voters

49	shall be in substantially the following form:		
50	"State of Missouri		
51	County (City) of		
52	I, (print name), a registered voter of County (City of St		
53	Louis, Kansas City), declare under the penalties of perjury that I expec		
54	to be prevented from going to the polls on election day due to (check one)		
55	absence on election day from the jurisdiction of the election		
56	authority in which I am registered;		
57	incapacity or confinement due to illness or physica		
58	disability, including caring for a person who is incapacitated		
59	or confined due to illness or disability;		
60	religious belief or practice;		
61	employment as an election authority or by an election		
62	authority at a location other than my polling place;		
63	incarceration, although I have retained all the necessary		
64	qualifications for voting;		
65	certified participation in the address confidentiality		
66	program established under sections 589.660 to 589.68		
67	because of safety concerns.		
68	I hereby state under penalties of perjury that I am qualified to vote at this		
69	election; I have not voted and will not vote other than by this ballot at this		
70	election. I further state that I marked the enclosed ballot in secret or tha		
71	I am blind, unable to read or write English, or physically incapable of		
72	marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated below marked		
73	the ballot at my direction; all of the information on this statement is, to		
74	the best of my knowledge and belief, true.		
75			
76	Signature of Voter Signature of Person		
77	Assisting Voter		
78	(if applicable)		
79	Signed Subscribed and sworn		
80	Signed to before me this		
81	Address of Voterday of,		
82			
83			
84	Mailing addresses Signature of notary or		

85	(if different)	other officer	
86		authorized to	
87		administer oaths"	
88	[3.] 4. The statement for per	sons voting absentee ballots pursuant to the	
89	provisions of subsection 2, 3, 4, or 5 of	of section 115.277 without being registered	
90	shall be in substantially the following form:		
91	"State of Missouri		
92	County (City) of		
93	I, (print name), declare	e under the penalties of perjury that I am a	
94	citizen of the United States ar	nd eighteen years of age or older. I am not	
95	adjudged incapacitated by any	y court of law, and if I have been convicted	
96	of a felony or of a misdemean	nor connected with the right of suffrage, I	
97	have had the voting disabiliti	es resulting from such conviction removed	
98	pursuant to law. I hereby state under penalties of perjury that I am		
99	qualified to vote at this election	on.	
100	I am (check one):		
101	a resident of the	e state of Missouri and a registered voter in	
102	County	and moved from that county to	
103	County, Missou	ri, after the last day to register to vote in	
104	this election.		
105	an interstate for	rmer resident of Missouri and authorized to	
106	vote for preside	ntial and vice presidential electors.	
107	I further state under penaltie	s of perjury that I have not voted and will	
108	not vote other than by this ballot at this election; I marked the enclosed		
109	ballot in secret or am blind, unable to read or write English, or physically		
110	incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated		
111	below marked the ballot at m	ny direction; all of the information on this	
112	statement is, to the best of my	y knowledge and belief, true.	
113		Subscribed to and	
114	Signature of Voter	sworn before me this	
115		day of	
116		,	
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119	Address of Voter	Signature of notary or	
120		other officer	

121		authorized to		
122		administer oaths		
123				
124	Mailing Address (if different)			
125				
126	Signature of Person	Address of Last		
127	Assisting Voter	Missouri Residence		
128		(if applicable)"		
129	[4.] 5. The statement for persons voting a	[4.] 5. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots who are entitled		
130	to vote at the election pursuant to the provision	to vote at the election pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2 of section		
131	115.137 shall be in substantially the following form:			
132	"State of Missouri			
133	County (City) of			
134	I, (print name), declare under the pe	I, (print name), declare under the penalties of perjury that I expect		
135	to be prevented from going to the polls on	election day due to (check one):		
136	absence on election day from	the jurisdiction of the election		
137	authority in which I am dire	ected to vote;		
138	incapacity or confinement	due to illness or physical		
139	disability, including caring fo	or a person who is incapacitated		
140	or confined due to illness or	disability;		
141	religious belief or practice;			
142	employment as an election	authority or by an election		
143	authority at a location other	than my polling place;		
144	incarceration, although I ha	ave retained all the necessary		
145	qualifications of voting;			
146	certified participation in	the address confidentiality		
147	program established under	sections 589.660 to 589.681		
148	because of safety concerns.			
149	I hereby state under penalties of perjury th	at I own property in the		
150	district and am qualified to vote at this ele	ction; I have not voted and will		
151	not vote other than by this ballot at this	election. I further state that I		
152	marked the enclosed ballot in secret or that	I am blind, unable to read and		
153	write English, or physically incapable of	marking the ballot, and the		
154	person of my choosing indicated below man	eked the ballot at my direction;		
155	all of the information on this statement is	s, to the best of my knowledge		
156	and belief, true.			

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157		Subscribed and sworn	
158		to before me this	
159	Signature of Voter	day of	
160			
161			
162			
163	Address	Signature of notary or	
164		other officer	
165		authorized to	
166		administer oaths	
167			
168	Signature of Person		
169	Assisting Voter		
170	(if applicable)"		
171	[5.] 6. The statement for persons providing assistance to absentee voter		
172	shall be in substantially the following form:		
173	"The voter needed assistance in marking the ballot and signing above		
174	because of blindness, other physical disability, or inability to read or to		
175	read English. I marked the ballot enclosed in this envelope at the voter's		
176	direction, when I was alone with the voter, and I had no other		
177	communication with the voter as to how he or she was to vote. The voter		
178	swore or affirmed the voter affidavit above and I then signed the voter's		
179	name and completed the other voter information above. Signed under the		
180	penalties of perjury.		
181	Reason why voter needed as		
182	ASSISTING PERSON SIGN HERE		
183	1 (signature of assis	ting person)	
184	2 (assisting person's	name printed)	
185	3 (assisting person's	residence)	
186	4 (assisting person's	home city or town)."	
187	[6.] 7. Notwithstanding ar	y other provision of this section, any covered	
188	voter as defined in section 115.902	or persons who have declared themselves to	
189	be permanently disabled pursuant	to section 115.284, otherwise entitled to vote,	
190	shall not be required to obtain a no	tary seal or signature on his or her absentee	
191	ballot.		
192	[7.] 8. Notwithstanding an	ny other provision of this section or section	

193 115.291 to the contrary, the subscription, signature and seal of a notary or other 194 officer authorized to administer oaths shall not be required on any ballot, ballot 195 envelope, or statement required by this section if the reason for the voter voting 196 absentee is due to the reasons established pursuant to **paragraph** (b) of 197 subdivision (2) of subsection 1 of section 115.277.

- 198 [8.] **9.** No notary shall charge or collect a fee for notarizing the signature 199 on any absentee ballot or absentee voter registration.
- 200 [9.] 10. A notary public who charges more than the maximum fee 201 specified or who charges or collects a fee for notarizing the signature on any 202 absentee ballot or absentee voter registration is guilty of official misconduct.
  - 115.637. The following offenses, and any others specifically so described by law, shall be class four election offenses and are deemed misdemeanors not connected with the exercise of the right of suffrage. Conviction for any of these offenses shall be punished by imprisonment of not more than one year or by a fine of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars or by both such imprisonment and fine:
- 7 (1) Stealing or willfully concealing, defacing, mutilating, or destroying any 8 sample ballots that may be furnished by an organization or individual at or near 9 any voting place on election day, except that this subdivision shall not be 10 construed so as to interfere with the right of an individual voter to erase or cause 11 to be erased on a sample ballot the name of any candidate and substituting the 12 name of the person for whom he or she intends to vote; or to dispose of the 13 received sample ballot;
- 14 (2) Printing, circulating, or causing to be printed or circulated, any false 15 and fraudulent sample ballots which appear on their face to be designed as a 16 fraud upon voters;
- 17 (3) Purposefully giving a printed or written sample ballot to any qualified 18 voter which is intended to mislead the voter;
- 19 (4) On the part of any candidate for election to any office of honor, trust, 20 or profit, offering or promising to discharge the duties of such office for a less sum 21 than the salary, fees, or emoluments as fixed by law or promising to pay back or 22 donate to any public or private interest any portion of such salary, fees, or 23 emolument as an inducement to voters;
- 24 (5) On the part of any canvasser appointed to canvass any registration 25 list, willfully failing to appear, refusing to continue, or abandoning such canvass 26 or willfully neglecting to perform his duties in making such canvass or willfully

27 neglecting any duties lawfully assigned to him or her;

- (6) On the part of any employer, making, enforcing, or attempting to enforce any order, rule, or regulation or adopting any other device or method to prevent an employee from engaging in political activities, accepting candidacy for nomination to, election to, or the holding of, political office, holding a position as a member of a political committee, soliciting or receiving funds for political purpose, acting as chairman or participating in a political convention, assuming the conduct of any political campaign, signing, or subscribing his or her name to any initiative, referendum, or recall petition, or any other petition circulated pursuant to law;
- (7) On the part of any person authorized or employed to print official ballots, or any person employed in printing ballots, giving, delivering, or knowingly permitting to be taken any ballot to or by any person other than the official under whose direction the ballots are being printed, any ballot in any form other than that prescribed by law, or with unauthorized names, with names misspelled, or with the names of candidates arranged in any way other than that authorized by law;
- (8) On the part of any election authority or official charged by law with the duty of distributing the printed ballots, or any person acting on his or her behalf, knowingly distributing or causing to be distributed any ballot in any manner other than that prescribed by law;
- (9) Any person having in his or her possession any official ballot, except in the performance of his or her duty as an election authority or official, or in the act of exercising his or her individual voting privilege;
- (10) Willfully mutilating, defacing, or altering any ballot before it is delivered to a voter;
- (11) On the part of any election judge, being willfully absent from the polls on election day without good cause or willfully detaining any election material or equipment and not causing it to be produced at the voting place at the opening of the polls or within fifteen minutes thereafter;
- (12) On the part of any election authority or official, willfully neglecting, refusing, or omitting to perform any duty required of him or her by law with respect to holding and conducting an election, receiving and counting out the ballots, or making proper returns;
- 61 (13) On the part of any election judge, or party watcher or challenger, 62 furnishing any information tending in any way to show the state of the count to

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63 any other person prior to the closing of the polls;

- 64 (14) On the part of any voter, except as otherwise provided by law, 65 allowing his or her ballot to be seen by any person with the intent of letting it be 66 known how he or she is about to vote or has voted, or knowingly making a false 67 statement as to his or her inability to mark a ballot;
- 68 (15) On the part of any election judge, disclosing to any person the name 69 of any candidate for whom a voter has voted;
- 70 (16) Interfering, or attempting to interfere, with any voter inside a polling 71 place;
  - (17) On the part of any person at any registration site, polling place, counting location or verification location, causing any breach of the peace or engaging in disorderly conduct, violence, or threats of violence whereby such registration, election, count or verification is impeded or interfered with;
  - (18) Exit polling, surveying, sampling, electioneering, distributing election literature, posting signs or placing vehicles bearing signs with respect to any candidate or question to be voted on at an election on election day inside the building in which a polling place is located or within twenty-five feet of the building's outer door closest to the polling place, or, on the part of any person, refusing to remove or permit removal from property owned or controlled by such person, any such election sign or literature located within such distance on such day after request for removal by any person;
  - (19) Stealing or willfully defacing, mutilating, or destroying any campaign yard sign on private property, except that this subdivision shall not be construed to interfere with the right of any private property owner to take any action with regard to campaign yard signs on the owner's property and this subdivision shall not be construed to interfere with the right of any candidate, or the candidate's designee, to remove the candidate's campaign yard sign from the owner's private property after the election day;
  - (20) On the part of any initiative or referendum petition circulator, gathering signatures within one hundred feet of a polling place for any statewide ballot measure, as that term is defined in section 116.010, that is approved for circulation pursuant to chapter 116.

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