

HOUSE BILL NO. 251

INTRODUCED BY P. INGRAHAM

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING THE DATE ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE AVAILABLE IN CERTAIN EVEN-NUMBERED YEAR ELECTIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 13-2-304 AND SECTION 13-13-205, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

~~Section 1. Section 13-2-304, MCA, is amended to read:~~

~~"13-2-304. Late registration -- late changes -- nonapplicability for school elections. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3), the following provisions apply:~~

~~(a) An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular registration in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on election day.~~

~~(b) Late registration is closed from noon to 5 p.m. on the day before the election.~~

~~(c) Except as provided in 13-2-514(2)(a), an elector who registers or changes the elector's voter information pursuant to this section may vote in the election only if the elector obtains the ballot from and returns it to the location designated by the county election administrator, subject to the ballot's availability as provided in 13-13-205.~~

~~(2) If an elector has already been issued a ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's voter registration information only if the original voted ballot has not been received at the county election office and if the original ballot that was issued is marked by the issuing county as void in the statewide voter registration database prior to the change.~~

~~(3) The provisions of subsection (1) do not apply with respect to an elector's registration to vote in a school election held pursuant to Title 20."~~

Section 1. Section 13-13-205, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-205. When ballots to be available. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the election



1 administrator shall ensure that ballots are available for voting at least:

2 (a) ~~30~~ 20 25 days prior to an election for those elections held in compliance with 13-1-107(1);

3 (b) 20 days prior to an election for those elections held in compliance with 13-1-104(2) and (3) and
4 13-1-107(2); and

5 (c) ~~30~~ 20 25 days prior to an election held in conjunction with a federal general election in compliance
6 with 13-1-104(1).

7 (2) A ballot requested pursuant to Title 13, chapter 21, must be sent to the elector as soon as the ballot
8 is printed or at least 45 days in advance of an election held in conjunction with a federal primary election, federal
9 general election, or federal special election."

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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