



AN ACT REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT TO POST ABSENTEE LISTS AT POLLING LOCATIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 13-13-233 AND 13-13-234, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Section 1. Section 13-13-233, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-233. Issuing and recording absentee ballots -- certificate to election judges. (1) Absentee ballots must be official numbered paper ballots beginning with ballot number 1 and following consecutively according to the number of applications for absentee ballots.

(2) The election administrator shall keep a record of all absentee ballots issued.

(3) ~~When the election administrator delivers the voted absentee ballots pursuant to 13-13-232(1),~~
~~the~~ The election administrator shall keep a record of the following information subject to the appropriate retention schedule also provide a certificate stating:

(a) the ballot numbers of the absentee ballots mailed or transmitted pursuant to 13-13-214, 13-21-106(3)(a), and 13-21-224, delivered pursuant to 13-13-229, or marked in person pursuant to 13-13-222;

(b) the number of ballots to be reserved for late absentee voting pursuant to 13-13-211(2); and

(c) the names of the electors within the precinct to whom the ballots were provided.

(4) ~~The chief election judge shall post in a conspicuous location at the polling place a list of the names of electors appearing on the certificate required under subsection (3)."~~

Section 2. Section 13-13-234, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-234. Duty of election judges -- pollbook. (1) The election judges, at the opening of the polls, shall:

- (a) note on the pollbook opposite the appropriate ballot numbers the fact that the ballots were issued as absentee ballots; and
- (b) reserve the numbers for electors who may vote late under 13-13-211(2).

(2) The election judges shall insert only the name of the elector entitled to each particular number according to the certificate provided by the election administrator pursuant to 13-13-233(3) and the number of the elector's ballot."

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 167, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2025.

HOUSE BILL NO. 167

INTRODUCED BY J. DARLING, W. MCKAMEY, S. VANCE

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