

SENATE THIRD READING
SB 259 (Wahab)
As Amended August 20, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

Makes it a felony for a person with authority to direct a person subject to their supervision or authority to interfere with the delivery of a vote by mail (VBM) ballot. Makes it a misdemeanor for a person who has charge of a VBM ballot to interfere with its delivery to a voter.

Major Provisions

- 1) Makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in county jail for up to six months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both, for a person who has charge of a VBM ballot to willfully interfere or cause interference with its delivery to a voter.
- 2) Makes it a felony, punishable by imprisonment for two, three, or four years, for a person with authority to direct one or more other persons subject to their supervision or authority to interfere with the delivery of a VBM ballot to a voter or to interfere with the return of a voter's completed VBM ballot to the elections official.
- 3) Provides, for the purpose of this bill, that "interference" includes providing unauthorized access to, breaking the chain of custody for, or tampering with a VBM ballot, or failing to return it to the applicable election official after being designated by the voter to return the ballot.
- 4) Contains an urgency clause, allowing this bill to take effect immediately upon enactment. Specifies that the need for the urgency clause is so that the bill will apply to the November 3, 2026, statewide general election.

COMMENTS

As previously approved by policy and fiscal committees in this house, this bill would have prohibited businesses from using certain device-specific data to generate prices offered to consumers through their online devices. Subsequently, this bill was amended on the Assembly Floor to delete the contents of the bill, and to add the current provisions. As a result, prior votes and analyses are not relevant to the current version of this bill. The current version of this bill proposes policy changes that have not been heard in an Assembly or Senate policy committee during this legislative session.

According to the Author

None available.

Arguments in Support

None received to the current version of the bill.

Arguments in Opposition

None received to the current version of the bill.

FISCAL COMMENTS

Unknown. State-mandated local program; contains a crimes and infractions disclaimer.

VOTES

SENATE FLOOR: Votes Not Relevant

YES:

NO:

ABS, ABST OR NV:

ASM PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION: Votes Not Relevant

YES:

NO:

ABS, ABST OR NV:

ASM JUDICIARY: Votes Not Relevant

YES:

NO:

ABS, ABST OR NV:

UPDATED

VERSION: August 20, 2026

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