

SENATE BILL NO. 333
INTRODUCED BY C. JUNEAU

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ABSENTEE VOTING IN PERSON AT ALTERNATIVE SITES WITHIN A COUNTY; AND AMENDING SECTION 13-13-222, MCA."

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

Section 1. Section 13-13-222, MCA, is amended to read:

"13-13-222. ~~Marking ballot before election day~~ Absentee voting in person -- alternative sites. (1)

As soon as the official ballots are available pursuant to 13-13-205, the election administrator shall permit an elector to apply for, receive, and mark an absentee ballot before election day by appearing in person at the office of the election administrator and marking the ballot in a voting station area designated by the election administrator.

(2) (a) Subject to the provisions of this subsection (2), an election administrator may provide an alternate site for absentee voting in person upon the request of a municipality, nonprofit community organization, community organization, tribal college, or other postsecondary educational institution within the county.

(b) The requesting entity must be able to provide, at no cost to the county, adequate space for the security of the ballots and the privacy of the voter and shall pay for the travel expenses of the election administrator and staff.

(c) An alternative site:

(i) may not be less than 15 miles away from the election administrator's office or from another alternative site; and

(ii) must be open for voting for not less than 6 hours.

(d) The election administrator may not approve more than five alternative sites within the county for the election.

(e) The election administrator shall provide reasonable public notice of the dates, times, and locations for absentee voting in person at alternative sites within the county.

(f) To vote absentee in person at an alternative site pursuant to this subsection (2), the elector must be legally registered.

(2)(3) The provisions of this chapter apply to voting and handling ballots under this section.

~~(3)~~(4) If the ballot is marked before the election administrator pursuant to subsection (1), the election administrator shall deal with it as provided in 13-13-231."

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

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