

1 SENATE BILL NO. 148

2 INTRODUCED BY B. BENNETT

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING AN ELECTOR WHO REGISTERED LATE TO RETURN
5 THE ELECTOR'S ABSENTEE BALLOT TO A POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY; AND AMENDING
6 SECTION 13-2-304, MCA."

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

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10 **Section 1.** Section 13-2-304, MCA, is amended to read:11 **"13-2-304. Late registration -- late changes.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), the following
12 provisions apply:13 (a) An elector may register or change the elector's voter registration information after the close of regular
14 registration as provided in 13-2-301 and vote in the election if the election administrator in the county where the
15 elector resides receives and verifies the elector's voter registration information prior to the close of the polls on
16 election day.

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

18 (c) Except as provided in 13-2-514(2)(a) and subsection (1)(d) of this section, an elector who registers
19 or changes the elector's voter information pursuant to this section may vote in the election ~~only~~ if the elector
20 obtains the ballot from ~~and returns it to~~ the location designated by the county election administrator.21 (d) With respect to an elector who registers late pursuant to this section for a school election conducted
22 by a school clerk, the elector may vote in the election only if the elector obtains from the county election
23 administrator a document, in a form prescribed by the secretary of state, verifying the elector's late registration.
24 The elector shall provide the verification document to the school clerk, who shall issue the ballot to the elector
25 and enter the verification document as part of the official register.26 (e) An elector who registers late and obtains a ballot pursuant to this section may return the ballot as
27 follows:28 (i) before election day, to a location designated by the county election administrator or school clerk if the
29 election is administered by the school district; or30 (ii) on election day, to any polling place in the county where the elector is registered to vote or, if the ballot

1 is for a school election, to any polling place in the school district where the election is being conducted.

2 (2) If an elector has already been issued a ballot for the election, the elector may change the elector's
3 voter registration information only if the original voted ballot has not been received at the county election office,
4 or received by the school district if the district is administering the election, and if the original ballot that was
5 issued is marked by the issuing county as void in the statewide voter registration system, or by the school district
6 if the district is administering the election, prior to the change."

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