

## 1 HOUSE BILL NO. 606

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSEN

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4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING PROVISIONS FOR THE PAYMENT OF POSTAGE ON  
5 ABSENTEE BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPES; PROVIDING THAT THE COUNTY SHALL PAY THE POSTAGE  
6 IF AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IS RETURNED BY MAIL; SUPERSEDING THE UNFUNDED MANDATE LAWS;  
7 AND AMENDING SECTION 13-13-201, MCA."

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

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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Absentee ballot return postage.** Every absentee ballot return envelope  
12 mailed to electors by county election administrators pursuant to 13-13-214 must provide that the county shall pay  
13 the postage if the ballot is returned by mail.

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15 **Section 2.** Section 13-13-201, MCA, is amended to read:

16 **"13-13-201. Voting by absentee ballot -- procedures.** (1) A legally registered elector or provisionally  
17 registered elector is entitled to vote by absentee ballot as provided for in this part.

18 (2) The elector may vote absentee by:

19 (a) marking the ballot in the manner specified;

20 (b) placing the marked ballot in the secrecy envelope, free of any identifying marks;

21 (c) placing the secrecy envelope containing one ballot for each election being held in the signature  
22 envelope;

23 (d) executing the affirmation printed on the signature envelope; and

24 (e) returning the signature envelope with all appropriate enclosures by regular mail, postage paid as  
25 provided for in [section 1], or by delivering it to:

26 (i) the election office;

27 (ii) a polling place within the elector's county;

28 (iii) pursuant to 13-13-229, the absentee election board or an authorized election official; or

29 (iv) in a mail ballot election held pursuant to Title 13, chapter 19, a designated place of deposit within the  
30 elector's county.

1 (3) Except as provided in 13-21-206 and 13-21-226, in order for the ballot to be counted, each elector  
2 shall return it in a manner that ensures the ballot is received prior to 8 p.m. on election day.

3 (4) A provisionally registered elector may also enclose in the outer signature envelope a copy of the  
4 elector's photo identification showing the elector's name. The photo identification may be but is not limited to a  
5 valid driver's license, a school district or postsecondary education photo identification, or a tribal photo  
6 identification. If the provisionally registered elector does not enclose a photo identification, the elector may  
7 enclose a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, notice of confirmation of voter registration issued  
8 pursuant to 13-2-207, government check, or other government document that shows the elector's name and  
9 current address."  
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11 NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Unfunded mandate laws.** The provisions of [this act] expressly supersede  
12 and modify the requirements of 1-2-112 through 1-2-116.

13 - END -

