

Fifty-seventh  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**SENATE BILL NO. 2372**

Introduced by

Senator Dever

Representatives Dosch, Meier

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 16.1-07-08 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to absent voter's ballots; and to amend and reenact section  
3 16.1-07-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the distribution of absent voter's  
4 ballots.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 16.1-07-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
7 amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **16.1-07-04. When ballots furnished proper officials.** The county auditor, or any  
9 other officer required by law to prepare any general, special, or primary state election ballots or  
10 any county election ballots, shall prepare, have printed, and deliver to the county auditor at  
11 least forty days ~~prior to~~ before the holding of any general, special, or primary state election a  
12 sufficient number of absent voter ballots for the use of all voters likely to require such ballots for  
13 that election. In city or school elections the auditor or clerk of the city, the business manager of  
14 the school district, or any other officer required by law to prepare city or school election ballots,  
15 shall prepare and have printed and available for distribution to the public at least twenty days  
16 ~~prior to~~ before the holding of any city or school election a sufficient number of absent voter  
17 ballots for the use of all voters likely to require such ballots for that election. Officers authorized  
18 to distribute absent voter's ballots under this chapter shall ensure all ballots used as absent  
19 voter's ballots are secure at all times and accessible only to those persons under the officer's  
20 supervision for distribution.

21 **SECTION 2.** A new subsection to section 16.1-07-08 of the 1999 Supplement to the  
22 North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

23 Each person requesting an absent voter's ballot under this chapter must be  
24 provided a set of instructions, prescribed by the secretary of state, sufficient to

- 1            describe the process of voting by absent voter's ballot. The voting instructions
- 2            must contain a statement informing the individual that the individual is entitled to
- 3            complete the absent voter's ballot in secrecy.