

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

SENATE BILL NO. 2372
(Senator Dever)
(Representatives Dosch, Meier)

AN ACT to create and enact a new subsection to section 16.1-07-08 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to absent voter's ballots; and to amend and reenact section 16.1-07-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the distribution of absent voter's ballots.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

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

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

Each person requesting an absent voter's ballot under this chapter must be provided a set of instructions, prescribed by the secretary of state, sufficient to describe the process of voting by absent voter's ballot. The voting instructions must contain a statement informing the individual that the individual is entitled to complete the absent voter's ballot in secrecy.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2372.

Senate Vote: Yeas 40 Nays 7 Absent 2

House Vote: Yeas 96 Nays 0 Absent 2

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2001.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State