

# House Bill 43 – Election Reform



Presentation to House State Affairs Committee  
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# HB 43

“An act relating to elections; relating to voters; relating to the crime of unlawful interference with voting; and providing for an effective date.”



# Goals

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- Address current voting barriers
- Clarify voter registration process
- Maintain election integrity

# Key Changes

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- Voter registration deadline
- Early and In-person absentee voting
- Witness signature requirement
- Mailed ballot postage
- Ballot Curing

# Voter Registration

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## CURRENT LAW

To vote, a person must register according to AS 15.07

Registration deadline is 30 days before an election.

Individual registering within 30 days preceding an election is not eligible to vote.

- Same day voter registration for presidential election.
- Methods: questioned ballot, in person absentee ballot, or vote by-mail.

## HB 43 PROPOSED CHANGES

Allows voters to register to vote within 30 days of elections.

# Early and In-person Absentee Voting

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## CURRENT LAW

Qualified voters have access to early voting at designated centers 15 days prior and through Election Day.

## HB 43 PROPOSED CHANGES

Extends in person absentee voting period from 15 days to 30 days.

Restricts Division of Elections from rejecting ballots solely because the voter's information is not on the official registration.

Changes "absentee voting station" to "early voting station"

# Witness Signature Requirement

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## CURRENT LAW

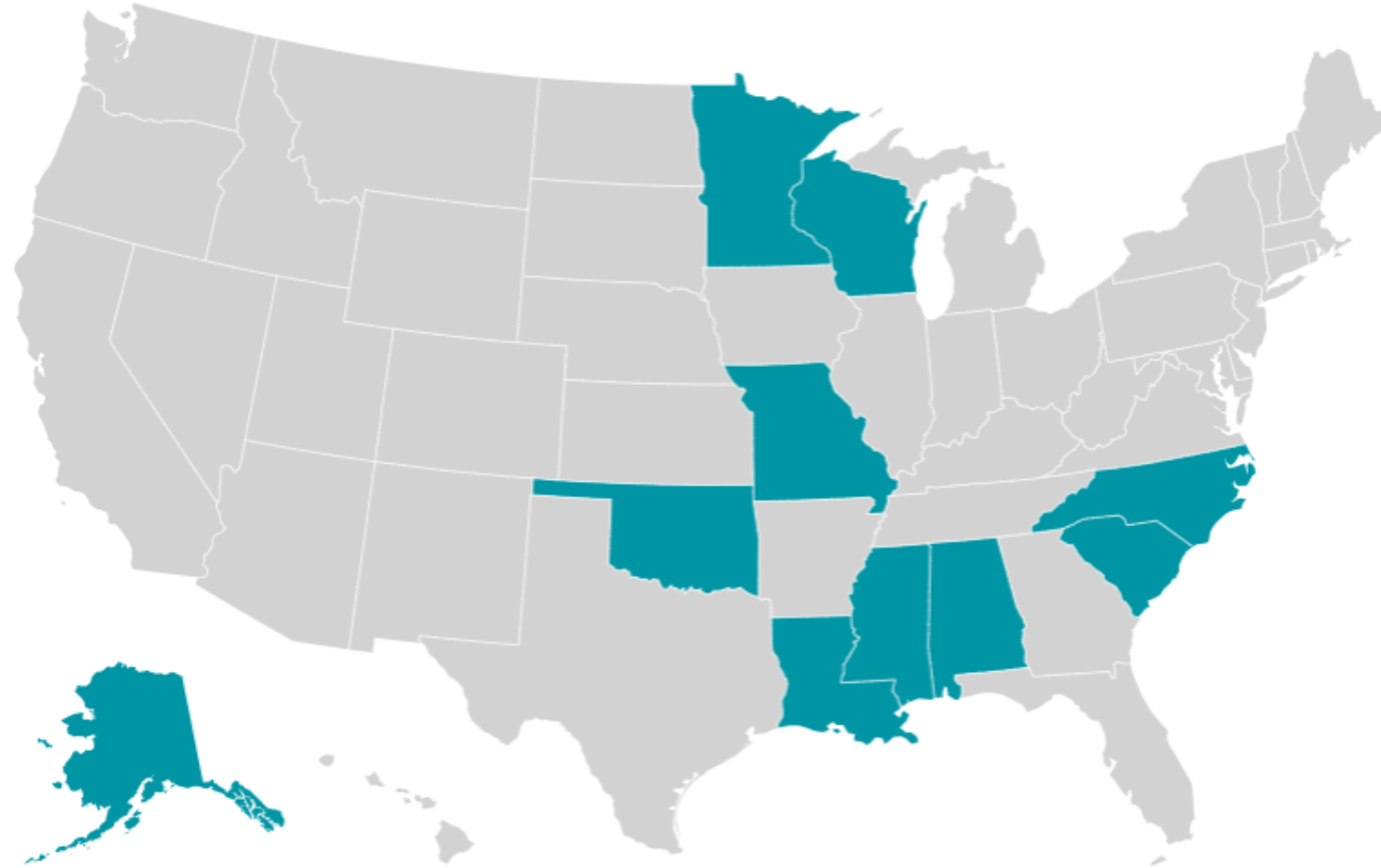
Absentee ballot by mail must have voter's ballot certification on the envelope signed by the voter and a witness. AS 15.30.030; AS 15.20.203(b); AS 15.20.081(d).

## HB 43 PROPOSED CHANGES

Eliminates witness requirement for mail-in ballots. Sec. 11, 18, 20.

## Absentee/mail-in voting witness requirements for the November 5, 2024, general election

States shaded in blue require either witness or notary signatures on returned absentee/mail-in ballots. Hover over a state for more details.



Source: [National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

**BALLOT**PEDIA



# Postage-paid return

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## CURRENT LAW

AS 15.20.081 focuses on the process for requesting and submitting absentee ballots.

No specific statutory language regarding pre-paid postage.

## HB 43 PROPOSED CHANGES

Requires postage-paid return envelope with prescribed voter's certificate on it. Sec. 11 and 23.

# States with Postage Prepaid Election Mail

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- |               |                  |                   |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Arizona    | 8. Maryland      | 15. Rhode Island  |
| 2. California | 9. Massachusetts | 16. Virginia      |
| 3. Delaware   | 10. Minnesota    | 17. Washington    |
| 4. Hawaii     | 11. Missouri     | 18. West Virginia |
| 5. Idaho      | 12. Nevada       | 19. Wisconsin     |
| 6. Indiana    | 13. New Mexico   |                   |
| 7. Iowa       | 14. Oregon       |                   |

# Ballot Curing

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HB 43 - **Section 22** introduces a new section, AS 15.20.222, which establishes a procedure for curing ballots rejected due to missing signatures or insufficient voter identification.

Ballot curing measures include efforts to contact the voter, explain the deficiency, and allow them to provide the necessary information to have their ballot counted

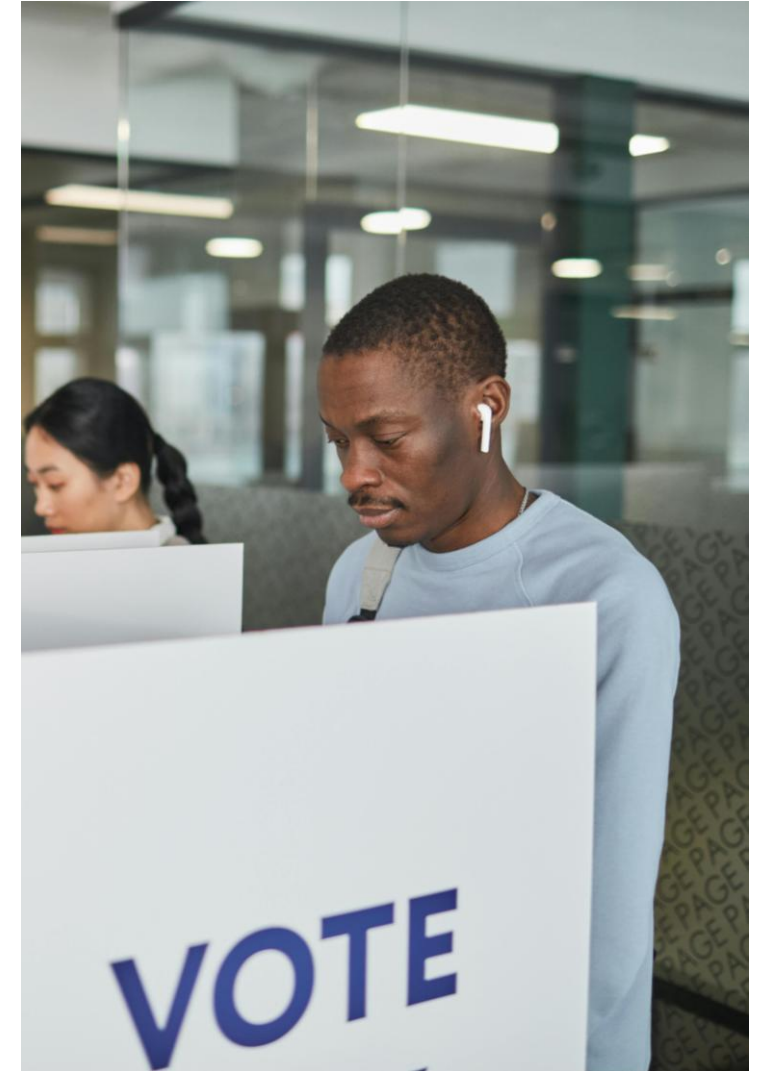
# HB 43

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Modernizes voter registration processes

Expands access to absentee and early voting

Enhances consistency and accessibility for all voters





# Thank you

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