
OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5419*****AN ACT CONCERNING CENTRAL COUNTING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires that, within existing resources, absentee ballots cast at any election, primary, or referendum be counted at a central location in each municipality unless the registrars of voters agree to count them at the respective polling places. Under current law, absentee ballots must be counted at the polling places unless the registrars agree to count them centrally.

The bill makes numerous technical and conforming changes (e.g., applying the central counting requirement to primaries in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote). It also retains existing law's procedures for designating the central location and counting absentee ballots for both central locations and polling places. Thus, under the bill, with respect to centrally counted ballots, registrars must, among other things, (1) notify the municipal clerk in writing of the location at least 20 days before the election, primary, or referendum and (2) jointly appoint a central counting moderator and alternate moderator. The bill does not specify what happens if the registrars cannot agree on a location.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 17 Nay 0 (03/23/2018)