

Bill History
Session Year 2026
Substitute for Raised H.B. No. 5001

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Introducer(s):

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING ABSENTEE VOTING FOR ALL AND VARIOUS OTHER REFORMS TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS.

Statement of Purpose: To (1) remove the statutory restrictions on eligibility for absentee voting, (2) allow municipalities to provide by charter for quadrennial municipal elections, (3) authorize the Secretary of the State to recommend changes to procedures for in-person voter registration of disabled individuals, (4) permit assistant municipal clerks running for municipal clerk to perform their official duties on the day of an election, (5) provide for jointly temporarily relieving the registrars of voters of a municipality, (6) allow for Attorney General involvement in matters relating to subpoenas, warrants, other requests and alleged interference at elections, (7) permit the use of high-speed voting tabulators for recanvasses, (8) replace certain references to the Federal Election Commission with references to the Election Assistance Commission, (9) allow seventeen-year-olds who will attain the age of eighteen by the day of an election to vote early or by absentee at such election, (10) address applicability and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance of party rules filed with the Secretary, (11) provide for electronic ballot delivery and return for certain absentee voters, (12) amend the retrieval requirement for absentee ballots from drop boxes, (13) modify the availability time of primary petitions for certain municipal candidates, (14) amend the reasons for which, and the process by which, municipal clerks may be removed from office, (15) amend deadlines for the submission of municipal election returns and the conduct of post-election audits, (16) implement the recommendations of the risk-limiting audits working group, (17) authorize the State Elections Enforcement Commission to also investigate violations of elections-related regulations and not just violations of elections-related statutes, and (18) repeal a training requirement for registrars of voters.

Bill History:

03-06-2026 REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON Government Administration and Elections Committee
03-09-2026 PUBLIC HEARING 03/13
03-23-2026 JOINT FAVORABLE SUBSTITUTE
03-23-2026 FILED WITH LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
04-02-2026 REFERRED TO OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS 04/08/26-5:00 PM

04-09-2026 REPORTED OUT OF LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE
04-09-2026 FAVORABLE REPORT, Tabled FOR THE CALENDAR, HOUSE
04-09-2026 HOUSE CALENDAR NUMBER 348
04-09-2026 FILE NUMBER 528
04-14-2026 REFERRED BY HOUSE TO COMMITTEE ON Appropriations Committee

Co-sponsor(s):

Sen. Derek Slap, 5th Dist.	Rep. Matt Blumenthal, 147th Dist.
Rep. Anne M. Hughes, 135th Dist.	Rep. Nick Gauthier, 38th Dist.
Rep. Geraldo C. Reyes, 75th Dist.	Rep. Josh Elliott, 88th Dist.
Rep. John Santanella, 58th Dist.	Rep. Amy Morrin Bello, 28th Dist.
Rep. Marcus Brown, 127th Dist.	Rep. Gregory Haddad, 54th Dist.
Rep. Laurie Sweet, 91st Dist.	Rep. Hector Arzeno, 151st Dist.
Rep. Sarah Keitt, 134th Dist.	Rep. Kate Farrar, 20th Dist.