Bill Summary 1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.: SB 634
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Bill Analysis

SB 634 requires ballots for all elections to be distributed by mail beginning with the 2022 election cycle. The Secretary of the State Election Board shall promulgate rules and regulations related to distribution, deposit, and form of the ballots. The measure requires locations allowing the deposit of ballots to stay open for a minimum of eight hours and to close no earlier than 7:00 p.m.

The ballot will be mailed no sooner than twenty days and no later than fourteen days before the election. The ballot must be mailed to persons without regular access to the United States Postal Service no sooner than twenty days and no later than eighteen days before the election. Overseas ballots must be mailed at least twenty-nine days before the election. During primaries, the Secretary must mail ballots to the voters registered with the relevant party twenty-one days before the election. Independents may receive a primary ballot if they request a ballot and the party allows independents to participate in the primary.

Each ballot is required to contain a warning related to voting multiple times. The voter may return the ballot to the secretary of the county election board by mail or in person. The ballot must be returned in the envelope. Replacement ballots may be issued in certain circumstances. A person waiting in line to return a ballot on election day or waiting in line to vote is considered to have begun the act of voting.

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