

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 714
Version:	CS
Request No.:	1734
Author:	Sen. Jech
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Bill Analysis

The CS for SB 714 requires that absentee ballots must be received by appropriate election officials than 5:00 p.m. on the third Monday preceding an election. The measure also provides for voters to return an absentee ballot in-person during the regular business hours of the county election board. The measure prohibits any person other than the voter to whom the absentee ballot was issued to return or submit the ballot except for the spouse of the voter with the voter's permission. Additionally, the measure adds the Monday and Sunday preceding the election day to the list of days the county election board may deliver requested absentee ballots. In the event of a pandemic or other emergency preventing the delivery of ballots to patients in a nursing home or veterans center, the secretary of the county election board may authorize the absentee voting board to deliver the absentee ballots to designated officials at the nursing facility or veterans center.

Additionally, the measure requires the acting absentee board to shall complete a training program prescribed by the Secretary of the State Election Board. The measure requires agents requesting a ballot on behalf of an incapacitated person to provide his or her legal name and address of residence to the secretary of the county election board and provides for the expected or likely confinement for childbirth on election day to be sufficient cause to qualify as "physically incapacitated." Persons who are physically blind or visually impaired may request an electronically delivered absentee ballot be delivered electronically after signing an affidavit affirming their inability to vote in person. Such ballots may be marked by the voter on his or her personal computer. Voters who spoiled a ballot are authorized by the measure to request a new absentee ballot after signing an affidavit.

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