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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1186

02/01/2023 Authored by Nash, Scott and Pfarr
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to elections; providing requirements related to certain mailings containing
1.3 an absentee ballot application or sample ballot sent by or on behalf of a committee
1.4 or other private organization; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.5 chapter 211B.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **[211B.075] ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS DISTRIBUTED BY**

1.8 **COMMITTEES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Required statement.** (a) Any mailing sent by or on behalf of a committee

1.10 or other private organization that includes an absentee ballot application or a sample ballot

1.11 designed to encourage voting at an election must include a statement that:

1.12 (1) the mailing is not an official communication from a unit of government;

1.13 (2) the application or ballot has not been included at the request of a government official;

1.14 and

1.15 (3) if a sample ballot is enclosed, that the sample ballot is not an official ballot that may

1.16 be cast by the voter.

1.17 (b) The statement required by this section must be printed in a typeface and format

1.18 designed to be clearly visible at the time the mailing is opened. The mailing envelope must

1.19 include markings to clearly distinguish it from official election mail sent by a unit of

1.20 government.

1.21 Subd. 2. **Absentee ballot application may not be preprinted with voter registration**

1.22 **information.** An absentee ballot application sent by or on behalf of a committee or other

2.1   private organization to a potential voter must not be preprinted with the voter's name, address,

2.2   or any other registration information required to be provided by the voter at the time the

2.3   application is submitted.