

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 5483

05/19/2024 Authored by Murphy
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; modifying penalties related to the solicitation, collection,
1.3 acceptance, or delivery of certain absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications;
1.4 amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 203B.03, as amended.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 203B.03, as amended by Laws 2023, chapter
1.7 62, article 4, sections 32 and 33, is amended to read:

1.8 203B.03 PROHIBITIONS; PENALTIES.

1.9 Subdivision 1. Violation. (a) No individual shall intentionally:

- 1.10 (1) make or sign any false certificate required by this chapter;
1.11 (2) make any false or untrue statement in any application for absentee ballots;
1.12 (3) apply for absentee ballots more than once in any election with the intent to cast an
1.13 illegal ballot;
1.14 (4) exhibit a ballot marked by that individual to any other individual;
1.15 (5) do any act in violation of the provisions of this chapter for the purpose of casting an
1.16 illegal vote in any precinct or for the purpose of aiding another to cast an illegal vote;
1.17 (6) use information from absentee ballot or early voting materials or records for purposes
1.18 unrelated to elections, political activities, or law enforcement;
1.19 (7) provide assistance to an absentee or early voter except in the manner provided by
1.20 section 204C.15, subdivision 1;

2.1 (8) solicit the vote of an absentee voter while in the immediate presence of the voter
2.2 during the time the individual knows the absentee voter is voting; ~~or~~

2.3 (9) alter an absentee ballot application after it has been signed by the voter, except by
2.4 an election official for administrative purposes; or

2.5 (10) solicit, collect, accept, or deliver absentee ballots as a voter's agent in excess of the
2.6 number permitted by section 203B.08, subdivision 1, including but not limited to soliciting,
2.7 collecting, or accepting an absentee ballot for the purpose of delivering it to an absentee
2.8 ballot drop box.

2.9 (b) Before inspecting information from absentee ballot or early voting materials or
2.10 records, an individual shall provide identification to the public official having custody of
2.11 the material or information.

2.12 Subd. 1a. **Prohibited methods of compensation.** (a) No individual may be compensated
2.13 for the solicitation, collection, ~~or acceptance,~~ or delivery of absentee ballots or absentee
2.14 ballot applications from voters for submission to the county auditor or other local election
2.15 official in a manner in which payment is calculated by multiplying (1) either a set or variable
2.16 payment rate, by (2) the number of applications solicited, collected, or accepted.

2.17 (b) No individual may be deprived of compensation or have compensation automatically
2.18 reduced exclusively for failure to solicit, collect, ~~or accept,~~ or deliver a minimum number
2.19 of absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications.

2.20 (c) No individual may receive additional compensation for collecting or delivering a
2.21 certain number of absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications.

2.22 ~~(d) Violation of this subdivision is a petty misdemeanor.~~

2.23 Subd. 2. **Penalty.** A violation of this section is a felony.

2.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.