

**BALLOT SECURITY AMENDMENTS**

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jani Iwamoto**

House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill requires an election officer to provide a means of covering ~~Ŝ→ [a voter's signature on an affidavit to ensure that the signature for]~~ certain information provided with ~~←Ŝ~~ a ballot ~~Ŝ→~~ to ensure that the information ~~←Ŝ~~ is not visible during mailing.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

► requires an election officer to provide a means of covering ~~Ŝ→ [a voter's signature on an affidavit to ensure that the signature for]~~ certain information provided with ~~←Ŝ~~ a ballot ~~Ŝ→~~ to ensure that the information ~~←Ŝ~~ is not visible during mailing.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**20A-3-306**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 255

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **20A-3-306** is amended to read:

**20A-3-306. Voting ballot -- Returning ballot.**

(1) (a) Except as provided by Section **20A-1-308**, to vote a mail-in absentee ballot, the absentee voter shall:



28 (i) complete and sign the affidavit on the envelope;  
29 (ii) mark the votes on the absentee ballot;  
30 (iii) place the voted absentee ballot in the envelope;  
31 (iv) securely seal the envelope; and  
32 (v) attach postage, unless voting in accordance with Section 20A-3-302, and deposit  
33 the envelope in the mail or deliver it in person to the election officer from whom the ballot was  
34 obtained.

35 (b) Except as provided by Section 20A-1-308, to vote an absentee ballot in person at  
36 the office of the election officer, the absent voter shall:

- 37 (i) complete and sign the affidavit on the envelope;
- 38 (ii) mark the votes on the absent-voter ballot;
- 39 (iii) place the voted absent-voter ballot in the envelope;
- 40 (iv) securely seal the envelope; and
- 41 (v) give the ballot and envelope to the election officer.

42 (2) Except as provided by Section 20A-1-308, an absentee ballot is not valid unless:

43 (a) in the case of an absentee ballot that is voted in person, the ballot is:

44 (i) applied for and cast in person at the office of the appropriate election officer before  
45 5 p.m. no later than the Tuesday before election day; or

46 (ii) submitted on election day at a polling location in the political subdivision where  
47 the absentee voter resides;

48 (b) in the case of an absentee ballot that is submitted by mail, the ballot is:

49 (i) clearly postmarked before election day, or otherwise clearly marked by the post  
50 office as received by the post office before election day; and

51 (ii) received in the office of the election officer before noon on the day of the official  
52 canvass following the election; or

53 (c) in the case of a military-overseas ballot, the ballot is submitted in accordance with  
54 Section 20A-16-404.

55 (3) An absentee voter may submit a completed absentee ballot at a polling location in a  
56 political subdivision holding the election, if the absentee voter resides in the political  
57 subdivision.

58 (4) An absentee voter may submit an incomplete absentee ballot at a polling location

59 for the voting precinct where the voter resides, request that the ballot be declared spoiled, and  
60 vote in person.

61 (5) ~~After January 1, 2021,~~ ~~an~~ election officer shall provide a means  
61a of covering a voter's signature on an  
62 affidavit for a ballot, and any accompanying email address, to ensure that the signature  
62a ~~for a ballot is~~ , and any accompanying email address, are not visible during mailing.