

SENATE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 812  
AN ACT

To repeal sections 115.277, 115.283, 115.285, 115.291, 115.302, 115.652, and 116.160, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof six new sections relating to elections.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Sections 115.277, 115.283, 115.285, 115.291,  
2 115.302, 115.652, and 116.160, RSMo, are repealed and six new  
3 sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections  
4 115.277, 115.283, 115.285, 115.291, 115.652, and 116.160, to  
5 read as follows:

115.277. 1. Except as provided in subsections 2, 3,  
2 4, and 5 of this section, any registered voter of this state  
3 may vote by absentee ballot for all candidates and issues  
4 for which such voter would be eligible to vote at the  
5 polling place if such voter expects to be prevented from  
6 going to the polls to vote on election day due to:

7 (1) Absence on election day from the jurisdiction of  
8 the election authority in which such voter is registered to  
9 vote;

10 (2) Incapacity or confinement due to illness or  
11 physical disability, including a person who is primarily  
12 responsible for the physical care of a person who is  
13 incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability;

14 (3) Religious belief or practice;

15 (4) Employment as an election authority, as a member  
16 of an election authority, or by an election authority at a  
17 location other than such voter's polling place;

18 (5) Incarceration, provided all qualifications for  
19 voting are retained; or

20 (6) Certified participation in the address  
21 confidentiality program established under sections 589.660  
22 to 589.681 because of safety concerns[; or

23 (7) For an election that occurs during the year 2020,  
24 the voter has contracted or is in an at-risk category for  
25 contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory  
26 syndrome coronavirus 2. This subdivision shall expire on  
27 December 31, 2020].

28 2. Any covered voter who is eligible to register and  
29 vote in this state may vote in any election for federal  
30 office, statewide office, state legislative office, or  
31 statewide ballot initiatives by submitting a federal  
32 postcard application to apply to vote by absentee ballot or  
33 by submitting a federal postcard application at the polling  
34 place even though the person is not registered. A federal  
35 postcard application submitted by a covered voter pursuant  
36 to this subsection shall also serve as a voter registration  
37 application under section 115.908 and the election authority  
38 shall, if satisfied that the applicant is entitled to  
39 register, place the voter's name on the voter registration  
40 file. Each covered voter may vote by absentee ballot or,  
41 upon submitting an affidavit that the person is qualified to  
42 vote in the election, may vote at the person's polling place.

43 3. Any interstate former resident may vote by absentee  
44 ballot for presidential and vice presidential electors.

45 4. Any intrastate new resident may vote by absentee  
46 ballot at the election for presidential and vice  
47 presidential electors, United States senator, representative  
48 in Congress, statewide elected officials and statewide  
49 questions, propositions and amendments from such resident's  
50 new jurisdiction of residence after registering to vote in  
51 such resident's new jurisdiction of residence.

52           5. Any new resident may vote by absentee ballot for  
53 presidential and vice presidential electors after  
54 registering to vote in such resident's new jurisdiction of  
55 residence.

56           [6. For purposes of this section, the voters who are  
57 in an at-risk category for contracting or transmitting  
58 severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 are voters  
59 who:

60           (1) Are sixty-five years of age or older;

61           (2) Live in a long-term care facility licensed under  
62 chapter 198;

63           (3) Have chronic lung disease or moderate to severe  
64 asthma;

65           (4) Have serious heart conditions;

66           (5) Are immunocompromised;

67           (6) Have diabetes;

68           (7) Have chronic kidney disease and are undergoing  
69 dialysis; or

70           (8) Have liver disease.]

115.283. 1. Each ballot envelope shall bear a  
2 statement on which the voter shall state the voter's name,  
3 the voter's voting address, the voter's mailing address and  
4 the voter's reason for voting an absentee ballot. If the  
5 reason for the voter voting absentee is due to the reasons  
6 established under subdivision (6) of subsection 1 of section  
7 115.277, the voter shall state the voter's identification  
8 information provided by the address confidentiality program  
9 in lieu of the applicant's name, voting address, and mailing  
10 address. On the form, the voter shall also state under  
11 penalties of perjury that the voter is qualified to vote in  
12 the election, that the voter has not previously voted and  
13 will not vote again in the election, that the voter has  
14 personally marked the voter's ballot in secret or supervised

15 the marking of the voter's ballot if the voter is unable to  
16 mark it, that the ballot has been placed in the ballot  
17 envelope and sealed by the voter or under the voter's  
18 supervision if the voter is unable to seal it, and that all  
19 information contained in the statement is true. In  
20 addition, any person providing assistance to the absentee  
21 voter shall include a statement on the envelope identifying  
22 the person providing assistance under penalties of perjury.  
23 Persons authorized to vote only for federal and statewide  
24 officers shall also state their former Missouri residence.

25 2. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots  
26 who are registered voters shall be in substantially the  
27 following form:

28 State of Missouri

29 County (City) of \_\_\_\_\_

30 I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), a registered voter of  
31 \_\_\_\_\_ County (City of St. Louis, Kansas City),  
32 declare under the penalties of perjury that I  
33 expect to be prevented from going to the polls on  
34 election day due to (check one):

35 \_\_\_\_\_ absence on election day from the  
36 jurisdiction of the election authority in  
37 which I am registered;

38 \_\_\_\_\_ incapacity or confinement due to illness  
39 or physical disability, including caring  
40 for a person who is incapacitated or  
41 confined due to illness or disability;

42 \_\_\_\_\_ religious belief or practice;

43 \_\_\_\_\_ employment as an election authority or by  
44 an election authority at a location other  
45 than my polling place;

46 \_\_\_\_\_ incarceration, although I have retained  
47 all the necessary qualifications for  
48 voting;

49 \_\_\_\_\_ certified participation in the address  
50 confidentiality program established under

51 sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of  
52 safety concerns.

53 I hereby state under penalties of perjury that I am  
54 qualified to vote at this election; I have not  
55 voted and will not vote other than by this ballot  
56 at this election. I further state that I marked the  
57 enclosed ballot in secret or that I am blind,  
58 unable to read or write English, or physically  
59 incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of  
60 my choosing indicated below marked the ballot at my  
61 direction; all of the information on this statement  
62 is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true.

63  
64

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Voter

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person  
Assisting Voter

66  
67

(if applicable)

68

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn

69

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

to before me this

70

Address of Voter

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,

71

\_\_\_\_\_

72

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

73

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

74

Mailing addresses

Signature of notary or

75

(if different)

other officer

76

authorized to

77

administer oaths

78 3. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots  
79 pursuant to the provisions of subsection 2, 3, 4, or 5 of  
80 section 115.277 without being registered shall be in  
81 substantially the following form:

82

State of Missouri

83

County (City) of \_\_\_\_\_

84 I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), declare under the penalties  
85 of perjury that I am a citizen of the United States  
86 and eighteen years of age or older. I am not  
87 adjudged incapacitated by any court of law, and if  
88 I have been convicted of a felony or of a  
89 misdemeanor connected with the right of suffrage, I  
90 have had the voting disabilities resulting from  
91 such conviction removed pursuant to law. I hereby  
92 state under penalties of perjury that I am  
93 qualified to vote at this election.

94 I am (check one):

95 \_\_\_\_\_ a resident of the state of Missouri and a  
96 registered voter in \_\_\_\_\_ County and  
97 moved from that county to \_\_\_\_\_ County,  
98 Missouri, after the last day to register  
99 to vote in this election.

100 \_\_\_\_\_ an interstate former resident of Missouri  
101 and authorized to vote for presidential  
102 and vice presidential electors.

103 I further state under penalties of perjury that I  
104 have not voted and will not vote other than by this  
105 ballot at this election; I marked the enclosed  
106 ballot in secret or am blind, unable to read or  
107 write English, or physically incapable of marking  
108 the ballot, and the person of my choosing indicated  
109 below marked the ballot at my direction; all of the  
110 information on this statement is, to the best of my  
111 knowledge and belief, true.

|                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 112 _____              | Subscribed to and      |
| 113 Signature of Voter | sworn before me this   |
| 114 _____              | _____ day of           |
| 115 _____              | _____, _____           |
| 116 _____              | _____                  |
| 117 _____              | _____                  |
| 118 Address of Voter   | Signature of notary or |
| 119 _____              | other officer          |
| 120 _____              | authorized to          |
| 121 _____              | administer oaths       |

122 \_\_\_\_\_

123 Mailing Address (if \_\_\_\_\_

124 different) \_\_\_\_\_

125 \_\_\_\_\_

126 \_\_\_\_\_

127 Signature of Person Address of Last

128 Assisting Voter Missouri Residence

129 (if applicable)

130 4. The statement for persons voting absentee ballots

131 who are entitled to vote at the election pursuant to the

132 provisions of subsection 2 of section 115.137 shall be in

133 substantially the following form:

134 State of Missouri

135 County (City) of \_\_\_\_\_

136 I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), declare under the penalties

137 of perjury that I expect to be prevented from going

138 to the polls on election day due to (check one):

139 \_\_\_\_\_

140 absence on election day from the

141 jurisdiction of the election authority in

142 which I am directed to vote;

143 \_\_\_\_\_

144 incapacity or confinement due to illness

145 or physical disability, including caring

146 for a person who is incapacitated or

confined due to illness or disability;

147 \_\_\_\_\_

religious belief or practice;

148 \_\_\_\_\_

149 employment as an election authority or by

150 an election authority at a location other

than my polling place;

151 \_\_\_\_\_

152 incarceration, although I have retained

153 all the necessary qualifications of

voting;

154 \_\_\_\_\_

155 certified participation in the address

confidentiality program established under

156 sections 589.660 to 589.681 because of  
157 safety concerns.

158 I hereby state under penalties of perjury that I  
159 own property in the \_\_\_\_\_ district and am  
160 qualified to vote at this election; I have not  
161 voted and will not vote other than by this ballot  
162 at this election. I further state that I marked the  
163 enclosed ballot in secret or that I am blind,  
164 unable to read and write English, or physically  
165 incapable of marking the ballot, and the person of  
166 my choosing indicated below marked the ballot at my  
167 direction; all of the information on this statement  
168 is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true.

169 \_\_\_\_\_  
170 Signature of Voter Subscribed and sworn  
171 to before me this  
172 \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
173 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

174 \_\_\_\_\_  
175 \_\_\_\_\_  
176 Address Signature of notary or  
177 other officer  
178 authorized to  
179 administer oaths

180 \_\_\_\_\_  
181 Signature of Person  
182 Assisting Voter  
183 (if applicable)

184 5. The statement for persons providing assistance to  
185 absentee voters shall be in substantially the following form:

186 The voter needed assistance in marking the ballot  
187 and signing above, because of blindness, other  
188 physical disability, or inability to read or to  
189 read English. I marked the ballot enclosed in this  
190 envelope at the voter's direction, when I was



191 alone with the voter, and I had no other  
192 communication with the voter as to how he or she  
193 was to vote. The voter swore or affirmed the voter  
194 affidavit above and I then signed the voter's name  
195 and completed the other voter information above.  
196 Signed under the penalties of perjury.

197 Reason why voter needed assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

198 ASSISTING PERSON SIGN HERE

- 199 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (signature of assisting person)  
200 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (assisting person's name printed)  
201 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (assisting person's residence)  
202 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (assisting person's home city or town).

203 6. [The election authority shall, for an election held  
204 during 2020, adjust the forms described in this section to  
205 account for voters voting absentee due to the reason  
206 established pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection 1 of  
207 section 115.277.

208 [7.] Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
209 section, any covered voter as defined in section 115.902 or  
210 persons who have declared themselves to be permanently  
211 disabled pursuant to section 115.284, otherwise entitled to  
212 vote, shall not be required to obtain a notary seal or  
213 signature on his or her absentee ballot.

214 [8.] 7. Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
215 section or section 115.291 to the contrary, the  
216 subscription, signature and seal of a notary or other  
217 officer authorized to administer oaths shall not be required  
218 on any ballot, ballot envelope, or statement required by  
219 this section if the reason for the voter voting absentee is  
220 due to the reasons established pursuant to subdivision (2)  
221 [or (7)] of subsection 1 of section 115.277.

222 [9.] 8. No notary shall charge or collect a fee for  
223 notarizing the signature on any absentee ballot or absentee  
224 voter registration.

225 [10.] 9. A notary public who charges more than the  
226 maximum fee specified or who charges or collects a fee for  
227 notarizing the signature on any absentee ballot or absentee  
228 voter registration is guilty of official misconduct.

115.285. The secretary of state may prescribe uniform  
2 regulations with respect to the printing of ballot envelopes  
3 and mailing envelopes, which shall comply with standards  
4 established by federal law or postal regulations. Mailing  
5 envelopes for use in returning ballots shall be printed with  
6 business reply permits so that any ballot returned by mail  
7 does not require postage. All fees and costs for  
8 establishing and maintaining the business reply and postage-  
9 free mail for all ballots cast shall be paid by the  
10 secretary of state through state appropriations.

11 [Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a  
12 ballot envelope used under section 115.302 shall be the same  
13 ballot envelope used for absentee ballots, provided an  
14 option shall be listed on the envelope to clearly indicate  
15 whether the voter is casting an absentee ballot or a mail-in  
16 ballot.]

115.291. 1. Upon receiving an absentee ballot by  
2 mail, the voter shall mark the ballot in secret, place the  
3 ballot in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and fill  
4 out the statement on the ballot envelope. The affidavit of  
5 each person voting an absentee ballot shall be subscribed  
6 and sworn to before the election official receiving the  
7 ballot, a notary public or other officer authorized by law  
8 to administer oaths, unless the voter is voting absentee due  
9 to incapacity or confinement due to the provisions of  
10 section 115.284, illness or physical disability, [for an

11 election that occurs during the year 2020, the voter has  
12 contracted or is in an at-risk category for contracting or  
13 transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus  
14 2, as defined in section 115.277,] or the voter is a covered  
15 voter as defined in section 115.902. If the voter is blind,  
16 unable to read or write the English language, or physically  
17 incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be assisted by  
18 a person of the voter's own choosing. Any person assisting  
19 a voter who is not entitled to such assistance, and any  
20 person who assists a voter and in any manner coerces or  
21 initiates a request or a suggestion that the voter vote for  
22 or against or refrain from voting on any question, ticket or  
23 candidate, shall be guilty of a class one election offense.  
24 If, upon counting, challenge or election contest, it is  
25 ascertained that any absentee ballot was voted with unlawful  
26 assistance, the ballot shall be rejected. [For purposes of  
27 this subsection, the voters who are in an at-risk category  
28 for contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory  
29 syndrome coronavirus 2 are voters who:

- 30 (1) Sixty-five years of age or older;
- 31 (2) Live in a long-term care facility licensed under  
32 chapter 198;
- 33 (3) Have chronic lung disease or moderate to severe  
34 asthma;
- 35 (4) Have serious heart conditions;
- 36 (5) Are immunocompromised;
- 37 (6) Have diabetes;
- 38 (7) Have chronic kidney disease and are undergoing  
39 dialysis; or
- 40 (8) Have liver disease.]

41 2. Except as provided in subsection 4 of this section,  
42 each absentee ballot that is not cast by the voter in person  
43 in the office of the election authority shall be returned to

44 the election authority in the ballot envelope and shall only  
45 be returned by the voter in person, or in person by a  
46 relative of the voter who is within the second degree of  
47 consanguinity or affinity, by mail or registered carrier or  
48 by a team of deputy election authorities; except that  
49 covered voters, when sent from a location determined by the  
50 secretary of state to be inaccessible on election day, shall  
51 be allowed to return their absentee ballots cast by use of  
52 facsimile transmission or under a program approved by the  
53 Department of Defense for electronic transmission of  
54 election materials.

55 3. In cases of an emergency declared by the President  
56 of the United States or the governor of this state where the  
57 conduct of an election may be affected, the secretary of  
58 state may provide for the delivery and return of absentee  
59 ballots by use of a facsimile transmission device or  
60 system. Any rule promulgated pursuant to this subsection  
61 shall apply to a class or classes of voters as provided for  
62 by the secretary of state.

63 4. No election authority shall refuse to accept and  
64 process any otherwise valid marked absentee ballot submitted  
65 in any manner by a covered voter solely on the basis of  
66 restrictions on envelope type.

115.652. **[1.]** An election shall not be conducted  
2 under sections 115.650 to 115.660 unless:

3 (1) The officer or agency calling the election submits  
4 a written request that the election be conducted by mail.  
5 Such request shall be submitted not later than the date  
6 specified in section 115.125 for submission of the notice of  
7 election and sample ballot;

8 (2) The election authority responsible for conducting  
9 the election authorizes the use of mailed ballots for the  
10 election;

- 11           (3) The election is nonpartisan;
- 12           (4) The election is not one at which any candidate is  
13 elected, retained or recalled; and
- 14           (5) The election is an issue election at which all of  
15 the qualified voters of any one political subdivision are  
16 the only voters eligible to vote.

17           [2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection 1 of  
18 this section or any other provision of law to the contrary,  
19 an election may be conducted by mail as authorized under  
20 section 115.302, during the year 2020, to avoid the risk of  
21 contracting or transmitting severe acute respiratory  
22 syndrome coronavirus 2. This subsection shall expire  
23 December 31, 2020.]

116.160. 1. If the general assembly adopts a joint  
2 resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or a bill  
3 without a fiscal note summary, which is to be referred to a  
4 vote of the people, after receipt of such resolution or bill  
5 the secretary of state shall promptly forward the resolution  
6 or bill to the state auditor. If the general assembly  
7 adopts a joint resolution proposing a constitutional  
8 amendment or a bill without an official summary statement,  
9 which is to be referred to a vote of the people, within  
10 twenty days after receipt of the resolution or bill, the  
11 secretary of state shall prepare and transmit to the  
12 attorney general a summary statement of the measure as the  
13 proposed summary statement. The secretary of state may seek  
14 the advice of the legislator who introduced the  
15 constitutional amendment or bill and the speaker of the  
16 house or the president pro tem of the legislative chamber  
17 that originated the measure. The summary statement may be  
18 distinct from the legislative title of the proposed  
19 constitutional amendment or bill. The attorney general  
20 shall within ten days approve the legal content and form of

21 the proposed statement. If the general assembly adopts a  
22 joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment or  
23 statutory measure that includes an official summary  
24 statement, the statement shall appear on the ballot, and no  
25 court shall have the authority to rewrite or edit the  
26 summary statement or ballot language.

27 2. The official summary statement shall contain no  
28 more than fifty words, excluding articles. The title shall  
29 be a true and impartial statement of the purposes of the  
30 proposed measure in language neither intentionally  
31 argumentative nor likely to create prejudice either for or  
32 against the proposed measure.

2 [115.302. 1. Any registered voter of this  
3 state may cast a mail-in ballot as provided in  
4 this section. Nothing in this section shall  
5 prevent a voter from casting an absentee ballot,  
6 provided such person has not cast a ballot  
7 pursuant to this section. Application for a  
8 mail-in ballot may be made by the applicant in  
9 person, or by United States mail, or on behalf  
10 of the applicant by his or her guardian or  
11 relative within the second degree of  
12 consanguinity or affinity.

13 2. Each application for a mail-in ballot  
14 shall be made to the election authority of the  
15 jurisdiction in which the person is registered.  
16 Each application shall be in writing and shall  
17 state the applicant's name, address at which he  
18 or she is registered, the address to which the  
19 ballot is to be mailed.

20 3. All applications for mail-in ballots  
21 received prior to the sixth Tuesday before an  
22 election shall be stored at the office of the  
23 election authority until such time as the  
24 applications are processed under section  
25 115.281. No application for a mail-in ballot  
26 received in the office of the election authority  
27 after 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday  
28 immediately prior to the election shall be  
29 accepted by any election authority.

30 4. Each application for a mail-in ballot  
31 shall be signed by the applicant or, if the  
32 application is made by a guardian or relative  
33 under this section, the application shall be  
34 signed by the guardian or relative, who shall  
35 note on the application his or her relationship  
36 to the applicant. If an applicant, guardian, or  
37 relative is blind, unable to read or write the  
38 English language, or physically incapable of  
signing the application, he or she shall sign by

39 mark that is witnessed by the signature of an  
40 election official or person of his or her  
41 choice. Knowingly making, delivering, or  
42 mailing a fraudulent mail-in-ballot application  
43 is a class one election offense.

44 5. Not later than the sixth Tuesday prior  
45 to each election, or within fourteen days after  
46 candidate names or questions are certified under  
47 section 115.125, the election authority shall  
48 cause to have printed and made available a  
49 sufficient quantity of ballots, ballot  
50 envelopes, and mailing envelopes. As soon as  
51 possible after a proper official calls a special  
52 state or county election, the election authority  
53 shall cause to have printed and made available a  
54 sufficient quantity of mail-in ballots, ballot  
55 envelopes, and mailing envelopes.

56 6. Each ballot envelope shall bear a  
57 statement in substantially the same form  
58 described in subsection 9 of this section. In  
59 addition, any person providing assistance to the  
60 mail-in voter shall include a signature on the  
61 envelope identifying the person providing such  
62 assistance under penalties of perjury. Persons  
63 authorized to vote only for federal and  
64 statewide offices shall also state their former  
65 Missouri residence.

66 7. The statement for persons voting mail-  
67 in ballots who are registered voters shall be in  
68 substantially the following form:

69 State of Missouri

70 County (City) of \_\_\_\_\_

71 I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print name), a registered  
72 voter of \_\_\_\_\_ County (City of St.  
73 Louis, Kansas City), declare under the  
74 penalties of perjury that: I am qualified  
75 to vote at this election; I have not voted  
76 and will not vote other than by this ballot  
77 at this election. I further state that I  
78 marked the enclosed ballot in secret or that  
79 I am blind, unable to read or write English,  
80 or physically incapable of marking the  
81 ballot, and the person of my choosing  
82 indicated below marked the ballot at my  
83 direction; all of the information on this  
84 statement is, to the best of my knowledge  
and belief, true.

85 \_\_\_\_\_  
86 Signature of Voter                      Signature of Person  
87    Assisting Voter  
88    (if applicable)

89 Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
90 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

91

Signature of notary or other officer  
authorized to administer oaths.

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Mailing addresses

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(if different)

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8. Upon receipt of a signed application for a mail-in ballot and if satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote by mail-in ballot, the election authority shall, within three working days after receiving the application, or, if mail-in ballots are not available at the time the application is received, within five working days after such ballots become available, deliver to the voter a mail-in ballot, ballot envelope and such instructions as are necessary for the applicant to vote. If the election authority is not satisfied that any applicant is entitled to vote by mail-in ballot, the authority shall not deliver a mail-in ballot to the applicant. Within three working days of receiving such an application, the election authority shall notify the applicant and state the reason he or she is not entitled to vote by mail-in ballot. The applicant may file a complaint with the elections division of the secretary of state's office under section 115.219.

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9. On the mailing and ballot envelopes for each covered voter, the election authority shall stamp the words "ELECTION BALLOT, STATE OF MISSOURI" and "U.S. Postage Paid, 39 U.S.C. Section 3406".

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10. No information which encourages a vote for or against a candidate or issue shall be provided to any voter with a mail-in ballot.

11. Upon receiving a mail-in ballot by mail, the voter shall mark the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the ballot envelope, seal the envelope and fill out the statement on the ballot envelope. The statement required under subsection 7 of this section shall be subscribed and sworn to before a notary public or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths. If the voter is blind, unable to read or write the English language, or physically incapable of voting the ballot, the voter may be assisted by a person of the voter's own choosing. Any person who assists a voter and in any manner coerces or initiates a request or suggestion that the voter vote for or against, or refrain from voting on, any question or candidate, shall



144 be guilty of a class one election offense. If,  
145 upon counting, challenge, or election contest,  
146 it is ascertained that any mail-in ballot was  
147 voted with unlawful assistance, the ballot shall  
148 be rejected.

149 12. Each mail-in ballot shall be returned  
150 to the election authority in the ballot envelope  
151 and shall only be returned by the voter by  
152 United States mail.

153 13. The secretary of state may prescribe  
154 uniform regulations with respect to the printing  
155 of ballot envelopes and mailing envelopes, which  
156 shall comply with standards established by  
157 federal law or postal regulations. Mailing  
158 envelopes for use in returning ballots shall be  
159 printed with business reply permits so that any  
160 ballot returned by mail does not require  
161 postage. All fees and costs for establishing  
162 and maintaining the business reply and postage-  
163 free mail for all ballots cast shall be paid by  
164 the secretary of state through state  
165 appropriations.

166 14. All votes on each mail-in ballot  
167 received by an election authority at or before  
168 the time fixed by law for the closing of the  
169 polls on election day shall be counted. No  
170 votes on any mail-in ballot received by an  
171 election authority after the time fixed by law  
172 for the closing of the polls on election day  
173 shall be counted.

174 15. If sufficient evidence is shown to an  
175 election authority that any mail-in voter has  
176 died prior to the opening of the polls on  
177 election day, the ballot of the deceased voter  
178 shall be rejected if it is still sealed in the  
179 ballot envelope. Any such rejected ballot,  
180 still sealed in its ballot envelope, shall be  
181 sealed with the application and any other papers  
182 connected therewith in an envelope marked  
183 "Rejected ballot of \_\_\_\_\_, a mail-in voter  
184 of \_\_\_\_\_ voting district". The reason for  
185 rejection shall be noted on the envelope, which  
186 shall be kept by the election authority with the  
187 other ballots from the election until the  
188 ballots are destroyed according to law.

189 16. As each mail-in ballot is received by  
190 the election authority, the election authority  
191 shall indicate its receipt on the list.

192 17. All mail-in ballot envelopes received  
193 by the election authority shall be kept together  
194 in a safe place and shall not be opened except  
195 as provided under this chapter.

196 18. Mail-in ballots shall be counted using  
197 the procedures set out in sections 115.297,  
198 115.299, 115.300, and 115.303.

199 19. The false execution of a mail-in  
200 ballot is a class one election offense. The  
201 attorney general or any prosecuting or circuit  
202 attorney shall have the authority to prosecute

203 such offense either in the county of residence  
204 of the person or in the circuit court of Cole  
205 County.  
206 20. The provisions of this section shall  
207 apply only to an election that occurs during the  
208 year 2020, to avoid the risk of contracting or  
209 transmitting severe acute respiratory syndrome  
210 coronavirus 2.  
211 21. The provisions of this section  
212 terminate and shall be repealed on December 31,  
213 2020, and shall not apply to any election  
214 conducted after that date.]