

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2363

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BOSLEY.

5268H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to suffrage of persons confined in jails.

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

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 115.280, to read as follows:

115.280. 1. Any defendant who is confined in a jail and is otherwise entitled to vote, shall be allowed the opportunity to vote absentee in any election in which they are eligible to vote. For purposes of this section, the defendant's address shall be their residential address immediately prior to confinement.

2. Jails that house defendants who are eligible to vote shall provide applications for absentee ballots and assist any eligible defendant in mailing the application to the correct local election authority. The jail shall be responsible for the costs of mailing the application.

3. Local election authorities that receive applications from defendants confined in a jail shall verify the defendant's eligibility to vote in the same manner as other applications to vote absentee are verified and shall mail the appropriate ballot, including a postage-paid return envelope, to the defendant.

4. Upon receipt of a ballot, the defendant shall be allowed to exercise his or her right to vote. The jail shall provide a notary for the ballot, if required, and mail the ballot back to the local election authority before the deadline.

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EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.