



**S.B. 182**

127th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

Sen. Cates

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**BILL SUMMARY**

- Allows a board of elections to conduct an election by mail when no candidates will be on the ballot at that election by mailing absent voter's ballot applications to all qualified electors in the county.
- Requires a county board of elections to open its office on the day of an election held by mail, and permits qualified voters to vote in person at that location.
- Requires a board of elections to provide notice of an election by mail at least ten days before the date on which applications for absent voter's ballots are mailed to qualified voters.

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**CONTENT AND OPERATION**

*Existing law*

Under existing law, elections by mail are not permitted. The bill permits a board of elections of a county to conduct as an election by mail any election held within the county at which the board has not certified any candidates for placement on the ballot for that election. (R.C. 3507.01.)

*Absent voter's ballot applications*

Under the bill, if a county board of elections conducts an election by mail, the board must mail an application for an absent voter's ballot, postage prepaid, on or before the 30th day before the day of the election, to each qualified elector in the county who is entitled to vote on the question or issue certified for placement on the ballot. Completed applications for absent voter's ballots received by the county board of elections must be treated as any other absent voter's ballot application: absent voter's ballots must be delivered, processed, and counted as

would any other absent voter's ballots under the Absent Voter's Ballots Law. (R.C. 3507.02.)

Each county board of elections must keep a record of each absent voter's ballot the board provides to a qualified elector and provide a list of every person who applied to the board for an absent voter's ballot under the bill to every other county board of elections in Ohio. (R.C. 3507.03.)

The board must open its office on the day of the election to allow qualified voters to vote in person. The board also must place a notice at all polling places in the county used at the last regular state election; this notice must state the location of the office of the county board of elections and that qualified voters may turn in a completed absent voter's ballot or vote in person at that location. Other than at the county board of elections, polling places must not be open on the day of the election conducted as an election by mail. (R.C. 3507.04.)

### Notice

Under the bill, if a county board of elections conducts an election by mail, the board must give public notice by a proclamation, posted in a conspicuous place in the courthouse and city hall, or by one insertion in a newspaper published in the county or, if no newspaper is published in the county, then in a newspaper of general circulation therein. This public notice must be given at least ten days before the date on which the board mails the absent voter's ballot applications to the voters and must indicate that a person who is a qualified elector may vote at the office of the board if the person moves from one precinct to another or changes the person's name on or prior to the day before the election and has not filed with the board a notice of change of residence or change of name, respectively. (R.C. 3501.03.)

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	06-12-07

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