This Document can be made available
in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION

HOUSE FILE NO. 1230

March 2, 2009
Authored by Poppe
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections

A bill for an act

relating to elections; requiring enhanced access to voter registration records and records of returned absentee ballots on the World Wide Web; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 201.081; 203B.08, subdivision 3.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 201.081, is amended to read:

201.081 REGISTRATION FILES.

(a) The statewide registration system is the official record of registered voters. The voter registration applications and the terminal providing access to the statewide registration system must be under the control of the county auditor or the public official to whom the county auditor has delegated the responsibility for maintaining voter registration records. The voter registration applications and terminals providing access to the statewide registration system must not be removed from the control of the county auditor except as provided in this ~~subdivision~~ section. The county auditor may make photographic copies of voter registration applications in the manner provided by section 138.17.

(b) A properly completed voter registration application that has been submitted to the secretary of state or a county auditor must be maintained by the secretary of state or the county auditor for at least 22 months after the date that the information on the application is entered into the database of the statewide registration system. The secretary of state or the county auditor may dispose of the applications after retention for 22 months in the manner provided by section 138.17.

(c) The secretary of state must provide a searchable database on the World Wide Web to allow an individual who has submitted a voter registration application to determine

whether that application has been properly completed and included in the statewide registration system.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 203B.08, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Procedures on receipt of ballots.** When absentee ballots are returned to a county auditor or municipal clerk, that official shall stamp or initial and date the return envelope and place it in a secure location with other return envelopes received by that office. The county auditor or municipal clerk shall then enter sufficient identifying information about the return envelope on a searchable database available on the World Wide Web in a manner that allows the voter casting the absentee ballot to determine that it has been received as required by this subdivision. The county auditor or municipal clerk shall deliver to the appropriate election judges on election day all ballots received before or with the last mail delivery by the United States Postal Service on election day. A town clerk may request the United States Postal Service to deliver absentee ballots to the polling place on election day instead of to the official address of the town clerk.