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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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2-18-2021

HB 2333

Chairman Carpenter and members of the committee,

HB 2333 proposes to make these changes to current law:

On Page 4 line 23 (j) Any application for an advance voting ballot that is incomplete shall not be processed by the county election officer in receipt of such application, and the applicant's name shall not be added to any of the lists maintained pursuant to subsection (i).

On Page 6 line 13 (g) (1) No person who is a candidate for office shall assist any voter in applying for or marking an advance voting ballot or in signing an application or advance voting ballot form pursuant to this section.(2) A violation of this subsection is a class C misdemeanor.

Also on Page 6 line 28 (Electioneering is) (B) if committed by a candidate:(i) Touching or handling any voter's ballot during the voting process;(ii) distributing ballots or counting ballots;(iii) hindering or obstructing any voter from voting or from entering and leaving the polling place; or(iv) hindering or obstructing any election board worker from performing election duties.

The intent of the changes on page 4 of the bill is to again prevent unnecessary provisional ballots being issued rather than regular ballots. Some voters who were "assisted" by third parties and didn't understand that voting by mail was NOT required and that voting in person at a polling place was their right and option. Most of the time the incomplete applications come from 3rd party sources who are "helping" which automatically cause a provisional ballot to be sent if vital required information is not submitted in the application. This is an extra burden on election officials to have to follow up and verify each and every advance vote application that has missing information. Usually there is not enough staff or time to process all of these.

The changes on Page 6 are to make the electioneering statute more uniform with what is allowed by law pertaining to a candidate in person at polling places.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and its favorable passage.