

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1238**

Introduced by

Representatives B. Koppelman, Becker, Dockter, Dosch, Kasper, Rohr, Schmidt, Thoreson  
Senators Berry, Sitte, Wardner

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact subsection 1 of section 16.1-07-08 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to delivery of absent voters' ballots.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 16.1-07-08 of the North Dakota  
5 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 1. ~~Upon~~Except as otherwise required under this chapter for a covered voter as defined in  
7 section 16.1-07-18, upon receipt of an application for an official ballot properly filled  
8 out and duly signed, or as soon thereafter as the official ballot for the precinct in which  
9 the applicant resides has been prepared, but no earlier than twenty days before the  
10 election, the county auditor, city auditor, or business manager of the school district, as  
11 the case may be, shall send to the absent voter by mail, at the expense of the political  
12 subdivision conducting the election, one official ballot, or personally deliver the ballot  
13 to the applicant or the applicant's agent, which agent may not, at that time, be a  
14 candidate for any office to be voted upon by the absent voter. The agent shall sign the  
15 agent's name before receiving the ballot and deposit with the auditor or business  
16 manager of the school district, as the case may be, authorization in writing from the  
17 applicant to receive the ballot or according to requirements set forth for signature by  
18 mark. The auditor or business manager of the school district, as the case may be, may  
19 not provide an absent voter's ballot to a person acting as an agent who cannot provide  
20 a signed, written authorization from an applicant. No person may receive  
21 compensation, including money, goods, or services, for acting as an agent for an  
22 elector, nor may a person act as an agent for more than four electors in any one  
23 election. A voter voting by absentee ballot may not require the political subdivision  
24 providing the ballot to bear the expense of the return postage for an absentee ballot.