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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
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Office

H.B. 586
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Bird and Lear

Christopher Glass, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Prohibits the unsolicited mailing of absent voter's ballot applications.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Absent voter's ballot applications

The bill prohibits any person from mailing an unsolicited application for absent voter's ballots to any person. Under continuing law, a public office, and a public official or employee who is acting in an official capacity, cannot prepay the return postage on an application for absent voter's ballots or on an absent voter's ballot return envelope.

Additionally, the bill repeals current law that permits the Secretary of State to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots under certain conditions. The bill prohibits this practice generally and institutes criminal penalties for persons who knowingly mail unsolicited applications. A violation is a first degree misdemeanor on the first offense and a fifth degree felony on each subsequent offense. Therefore, a person who seeks to vote by absent voter's ballot must deliver a written application for those ballots, either in person or by mail, to the board of elections of the county in which the elector's voting residence is located. The application may be found on the board's website, the Secretary of State's website, or in public places such as libraires.¹

¹ R.C. 111.31, repealed by the bill; R.C. 3509.03, 3511.02, and 3599.21. See also [How to Request An Absentee Ballot](#), available on the Secretary of State's website: ohiosos.gov.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-10-25
