LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1055

Introduced by Brewer, 43.

Read first time January 21, 2020

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Election Act; to amend section 32-960,
- 2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating
- 3 to voting by mail in certain counties; and to repeal the original
- 4 section.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 32-960, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

- 2 amended to read:
- 3 32-960 (1) In any county with less than ten thousand inhabitants,
- 4 the county clerk may apply to the Secretary of State to mail ballots for
- 5 all elections held after approval of the application to registered voters
- 6 of any or all of the precincts in the county in lieu of establishing
- 7 polling places for such precincts. The application shall include a
- 8 written plan for the conduct of the election which complies with this
- 9 section, including a timetable for the conduct of the election and
- 10 provisions for the notice of election to be published and for the
- 11 application for ballots for early voting notwithstanding other statutory
- 12 provisions regarding the content and publication of a notice of election
- 13 or the application for ballots for early voting. If the Secretary of
- 14 State approves such application for one or more precincts in the county,
- 15 the county clerk shall follow the applicable procedures in sections
- 16 32-953 to 32-959 for conducting elections by mail, except that the
- 17 deadline for receipt of the ballots shall be 8 p.m. on the day of the
- 18 election.
- 19 <u>(2) The county clerk of a county that has an approved application</u>
- 20 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section:
- 21 (a) Shall allow a voter to return the ballot by hand-delivering it
- 22 to the office of the county clerk;
- 23 (b) Shall maintain at least one secure ballot drop-box available for
- 24 voters to deposit completed ballots twenty-four hours per day, starting
- 25 at least ten days before the election through the deadline provided in
- 26 <u>subsection (1) of this section for the receipt of ballots;</u>
- 27 (c) Shall maintain at least one in-person voting location at the
- 28 office of the county clerk at which a voter in a precinct subject to a
- 29 plan under this section approved by the Secretary of State may receive
- 30 and cast a ballot which shall be open on the day of the election from the
- 31 time for opening the polls pursuant to section 32-908 through the

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1 <u>deadline provided in subsection (1) of this section for the receipt of</u>

- 2 <u>ballots;</u>
- 3 (d) Shall maintain in-person early voting opportunities as described
- 4 <u>in section 32-942; and</u>
- 5 (e) May provide additional secure ballot drop-boxes and in-person
- 6 voting locations that need not be open according to the requirements of
- 7 <u>subdivisions (b) and (c) of this subsection.</u>
- 8 Sec. 2. Original section 32-960, Reissue Revised Statutes of
- 9 Nebraska, is repealed.