

Amendment to SB 108

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2
3 AN ACT relative to absentee ballot applications and relative to ratifying elections postponed
4 from March 14, 2017.
5

6 Amend the bill by replacing all after section 1 with the following:

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8 2 Ratification of Elections; Purpose. The purpose of section 3 of this act is to provide a political
9 subdivision with an opportunity to cure any possible defects in a town or school district election
10 caused by its postponement from March 14, 2017 by authorizing the political subdivision to ratify
11 the results of the election at a special meeting held exclusively for that purpose on May 23, 2017.

12 3 Special Meeting Authorized; Ratification of Town or School District Election Results.

13 I. In this section, "special meeting" means a vote on an official ballot dated May 23, 2017 to
14 ratify the actions taken by a political subdivision by official ballot at the Spring 2017 election held
15 on a date other than March 14, 2017.

16 II. Any political subdivision that postponed an election from March 14, 2017 to a later date
17 is hereby authorized to ratify the results of the election at a special meeting to be held exclusively
18 for that purpose on May 23, 2017.

19 III. On or before April 25, 2017, the governing body shall hold a hearing and vote on
20 whether to hold a special meeting authorized by paragraph II. The governing body shall post an
21 attested copy of their warrant to voters at the place of the meeting and a like copy at one other
22 public place in the town or district by May 2, and, within one week after posting the warrant for the
23 special meeting, cause a copy of said warrant to be published once in a newspaper of general
24 circulation in said town.

25 IV. A special meeting authorized by paragraph II shall be limited to a vote on the following
26 question: "Shall the actions taken by official ballot in (town/school district) at the election held on
27 (date) be ratified?"

28 V. The governing body may select the polling place and hours of voting for a special
29 meeting authorized by paragraph II, providing that polls shall be open for at least 8 hours. The
30 moderator shall determine the number of booths required for the special meeting.

31 VI. The clerk shall prepare the ballots for the special meeting and have them available for
32 absentee voters on or before May 2, 2017. Absentee ballots shall be received by 5:00 p.m. on the day
33 before the special meeting if delivered in person or by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the special meeting if

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1 delivered by mail.

2 VII. If the majority of those voting on the question vote in the affirmative, the results of the
3 postponed election shall thereby be legalized, ratified, and affirmed.

4 VIII.(a) If the majority of those voting on the question vote in the affirmative, all actions
5 taken by the governing body between March 14, 2017 and May 23, 2017 that were in accordance
6 with the results of the election shall thereby be legalized, ratified, and affirmed.

7 (b) Whether or not the majority of those voting on the question vote in the affirmative,
8 any contract entered into by the governing body between March 14, 2017 and May 23, 2017 that
9 was in accordance with the results of the election shall not be invalidated because of any defects in
10 the election results caused by its postponement.

11 IX. If the majority of those voting on the question vote in the negative, all offices on the
12 ballot shall thereby be deemed vacant and all warrant articles shall be deemed defeated. If any
13 such vacancy results in the governing body being unable to fill a vacancy in such body because it
14 lacks the necessary quorum, the governor may temporarily fill the vacancy upon the request of the
15 town or school district clerk by appointing a qualified resident of the town or school district for the
16 sole purpose of giving the governing body the quorum necessary to fill the vacancy, after which the
17 governor's appointment expires.

18 X. Ratification of election results in accordance with this section shall not cure any defects
19 in the election not attributable to the postponement of the election.

20 4 Effective Date.

21 I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

22 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Provides absentee ballot applicants with the option to provide a phone number and an email address.

II. Authorizes political subdivisions that postponed elections from March 14, 2017 to ratify the results of the election at a special meeting to be held exclusively for that purpose on May 23, 2017.