

HB-341 – Absentee Ballot Canvass to start 14 days prior to Election.

Provides that partial or complete tabulation of absentee ballots may not be released until one hour after polls close on election day or after all precincts have reported. Counting votes over two weeks is much less secure than counting votes on election day. It is more susceptible to manipulation or leakage of the total votes a candidate may have received while ballots are still being mailed. It is very difficult for volunteer vote-poll watchers to be present for 14 days. During the 2020 election poll watchers were excluded from the mail-in ballot counting. This should not be repeated.