



2011 SENATE BILL 271

October 31, 2011 – Introduced by Senators LAZICH, VUKMIR and GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Representatives PRIDEMORE and KESTELL. Referred to Committee on Transportation and Elections.

1 **AN ACT** *to create* 6.86 (6) of the statutes; **relating to:** return of absentee ballots
2 and voting in person by electors who have voted by absentee ballot in the same
3 election.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Currently, if a qualified elector casts an absentee ballot, whether by mail or in person, the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners of the municipality where the elector resides delivers the ballot in an absentee ballot envelope to the polling place serving the elector's residence. There is no authorization for a municipality to return an absentee ballot to an elector once the ballot has been cast. The election inspectors (poll workers), upon receiving the absentee ballot of a qualified elector, mark the poll list to indicate that the elector has voted when they count the ballot. No elector is permitted to vote more than once in the same election. If a municipality elects to canvass its absentee ballots centrally using a board of absentee ballot canvassers, the board of absentee ballot canvassers marks a separate poll list containing the names of the qualified electors of the municipality to indicate the electors who have cast absentee ballots. The municipal board of canvassers is then required to reconcile the poll list marked at each polling place with the poll list marked by the board of absentee ballot canvassers to ensure that no person is permitted to vote more than once. If the municipal board of canvassers finds that an elector who has voted in person has also cast an absentee ballot, the absentee ballot is void.

This bill provides that if an elector casts an absentee ballot, either by mail or in person, the municipal clerk or board of election commissioners shall not return the

