

No. 625, A.]

[Published July 11, 1953.]

CHAPTER 420

AN ACT to amend 11.59 and 11.62 of the statutes, relating to absentee voting.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 11.59 of the statutes is amended to read:

11.59 Such absent or sick or disabled voter shall make and subscribe to the affidavit provided for in s. 11.58 * * * before the clerk to whom the ballot is returned or before any other officer authorized by law to administer oaths, and such voter shall thereupon in the presence of such officer and of no other person, mark such ballot or ballots, but in such manner that such officer cannot know how such ballot is marked, and such ballot or ballots shall then in the presence of such officer be folded by such voter so that each ballot will be separate and so as to conceal the marking, and be, in the presence of such officer, deposited in such envelope * * *. *The unused ballot or ballots shall be placed in the envelope provided for unused ballots and deposited with the voted ballot in the return envelope, which shall then be sealed.* Said envelope shall be mailed by such voter, postage prepaid, to the officer issuing the ballot, or if more convenient it may be delivered in person.

SECTION 2. 11.62 of the statutes is amended to read:

11.62 At any time between the opening and closing of the polls on such election day the inspectors of election of said precinct shall open the outer or carrier envelope only, and announce the absent or sick or disabled voter's name. In case the inspectors find the affidavit executed, that the applicant is a duly qualified elector of the precinct and that the applicant has not voted in person at said election, they shall open the envelope containing such voter's ballot in such manner as not to deface or destroy the affidavit thereon and take out the ballot or ballots therein contained without unfolding or permitting the same to be unfolded or examined and, after verification that the ballot has been indorsed by the issuing county, town, city or village clerk, deposit the same in the proper ballot box or boxes and enter the absent or sick or disabled voter's name in the poll book, the same as if he had been present and voted in person. In case such affidavit is found to be insufficient, or that the applicant is not a duly qualified elector in such precinct, or that the ballot *envelope* is open, or has been opened and resealed, or that the ballot envelope contains more than one ballot of any one kind, or if at a primary the unused portion of the ballot shall not be returned, such vote shall not be accepted or counted. Every ballot not counted shall be indorsed on the back thereof "rejected" (giving reason therefor). All rejected ballots shall be inclosed and securely sealed in an envelope on which the inspectors shall indorse "defective ballots" with a statement of the precinct in which and the date of the election at which they were cast, signed by the inspectors and re-

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turned to the same officer and in the same manner as by law provided for the return and
preservation of official ballots voted at such election.

Approved July 2, 1953.
