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H.316

Introduced by Representatives Young of Glover, Clarkson of Woodstock, and
Troiano of Stannard

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Elections; early or absentee voters; spouse; ballot pick-up

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to allow a
voter's spouse to pick up an early voter absentee ballot for him or her rather
than having the ballot mailed.

An act relating to allowing a voter's spouse to pick up an early voter
absentee ballot

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2537 is amended to read:

§ 2537. EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTING IN THE TOWN CLERK'S
OFFICE

A voter or his or her spouse may, if he or she chooses, apply in person to
the town clerk for the early voter absentee ballots and envelopes rather than
having them mailed as required by section 2539 of this title. In this case, the
clerk shall furnish the early voter absentee ballots and envelopes when a valid
application has been made. The voter may mark his or her ballots, seal them in

1 the envelope, sign the certificate, and return the ballots in the sealed envelope
2 to the town clerk or an assistant town clerk, without leaving the office of the
3 town clerk, or the voter or his or her spouse may take the ballots and return
4 them to the town clerk in the same manner as if the ballots had been received
5 by mail. No person, except an individual's spouse under this section or
6 justices of the peace as provided in section 2538 of this title, may take any
7 ballot from the town clerk on behalf of any other person.

8 Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2539 is amended to read:

9 § 2539. MAILING OF EARLY VOTER ABSENTEE BALLOTS; VOTERS

10 WHO ARE PERMANENTLY DISABLED

11 (a) Unless the early or absentee voter votes in the town clerk's office, or
12 unless the justices are to deliver the early voter absentee ballots to the early or
13 absentee voter, the town clerk shall provide to the early or absentee voter, or
14 his or her spouse, who comes to the town clerk's office a complete set of early
15 voter absentee ballots or mail a complete set of early voter absentee ballots to
16 each early or absentee voter for whom a valid application has been filed. The
17 early voter absentee ballots shall be mailed forthwith upon the filing of a valid
18 application, or upon the town clerk's receipt of the necessary ballots,
19 whichever is later.

20 (b) In the case of persons who are early or absentee voters due to illness or
21 physical disability, if the voter or authorized person requests in his or her

1 application or otherwise that early voter absentee ballots be mailed rather than
2 delivered by justices of the peace, the town clerk shall mail the ballots;
3 otherwise the ballots shall be delivered to such voters by justices of the peace.
4 In the case of all other early or absentee voters, the town clerk shall mail the
5 early voter absentee ballots, unless the voter chooses to apply and vote in
6 person at the town clerk's office or the town clerk provides the early voter
7 absentee ballot to the voter's spouse.

8 * * *

9 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

10 This act shall take effect on passage.