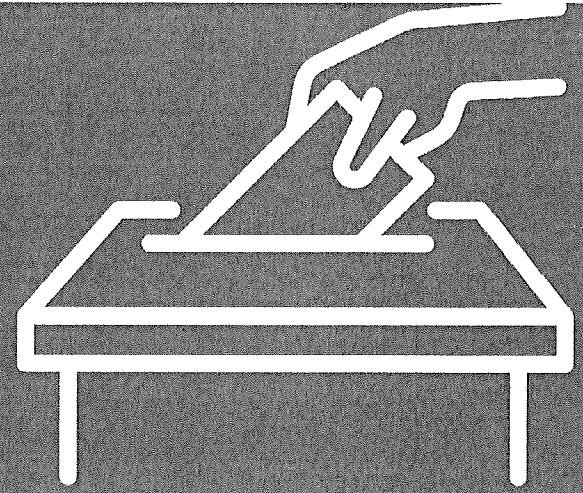


# HB-1080

## Mail Ballot Signature Verification

Sponsors: Rep. Richardson, Rep. Paschal,



### SHORT SUMMARY

**HB1080 requires a bipartisan team of election judges be used in tier 1 signature verification. Bipartisan teams are currently used in ALL election judge activities except tier 1 signature verification.**

### BACKGROUND

The current ballot signature verification process is described below. During this process, ballots are still in the sealed return envelope with the voter signature on the outside of the envelope. In each step, if the signature is accepted, the ballot is separated from the envelope and goes on to be counted.

1. If the county has an **automated signature verification system**, ballot envelopes first go through that system. Any ballots rejected by the signature verification system will go on to Tier 1 Signature Verification.
2. In **Tier 1 Signature Verification**, a single judge visually compares the signature on the ballot envelope to the most recent signature on record. If that judge rejects the signature, the ballot goes on to Tier 2.
3. In **Tier 2 Signature Verification**, a bipartisan team of election judges examines the ballot envelope and determines if the signature matches.
4. Rejected signatures go on to the curing phase.

### KEY BENEFITS

#### ☀ **Increases Consistency**

With this bill, all election judge activities would be done by a bipartisan team.

#### ☀ **Decreases the Possibility of Fraud**

A bipartisan team on tier 1 signature verification would reduce the possibility of a ballot with a fraudulent signature being counted.

#### ☀ **Increases Trust in Elections**

In addition to decreasing the possibility of fraud, adding a second election judge to tier 1 signature verification increases confidence in elections and decreases fodder for election deniers.