HOUSE BILL NO. 5985

July 23, 2020, Introduced by Reps. Pagan, Hammoud, Stone, Pohutsky, Sowerby, Guerra, Brenda Carter, Camilleri, Hoadley, Lasinski, Bolden, Brixie, Yancey, Rabhi, Hope, Gay-Dagnogo and Koleszar and referred to the Committee on Elections and Ethics.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled "Michigan election law,"

(MCL 168.1 to 168.992) by adding section 759e.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

- 1 Sec. 759e. (1) Each city or township clerk shall maintain a 2 permanent absent voter list.
- 3 (2) Each county, city, or township clerk may mail to each
- 4 registered elector in the county, city, or township a notice
- 5 indicating that the elector may request to be placed on the
- 6 permanent absent voter list of the city or township in which the





- 1 elector is registered to vote.
- 2 (3) If a city or township clerk maintains a permanent absent
- 3 voter list on or before the effective date of the amendatory act
- 4 that added this section, the city or township clerk may continue to
- 5 maintain that list as its permanent absent voter list.
- 6 (4) Each voter registration application produced by this state
- 7 must include a space for the elector to mark if the elector wishes
- 8 to be listed on the permanent absent voter list of the city or
- 9 township in which the elector is registered to vote. In addition,
- 10 each absent voter ballot application as prescribed under section
- 11 759 and distributed by a county, city, or township clerk must
- 12 include a space for the elector to mark if the elector wishes to be
- 13 listed on the permanent absent voter list of the city or township
- 14 in which the elector is registered to vote.
- 15 (5) In addition to subsection (4), a qualified and registered
- 16 elector may request to be placed on the permanent absent voter list
- 17 of the city or township in which the elector is registered to vote.
- 18 A request by an elector under this subsection must be made to the
- 19 city or township clerk in person or by telephone, facsimile
- 20 communication, electronic mail, or first-class mail.
- 21 (6) The request of each registered and qualified elector to be
- 22 placed on the permanent absent voter list must be entered in the
- 23 qualified voter file in the same manner as data are entered for a
- 24 new elector.

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- 25 (7) The county, city, or township clerk responsible for
- 26 issuing absent voter ballots for an election shall send to each
- 27 elector on the permanent absent voter list an application for an
- 28 absent voter ballot for the election.
 - (8) A qualified and registered elector may request to be



- 1 removed from the permanent absent voter list of the city or
- 2 township. A request by an elector under this subsection must be
- 3 made to the city or township clerk in person or by telephone,
- 4 facsimile communication, electronic mail, or first-class mail.
- 5 (9) Every January, the city or township clerk may remove an
- 6 elector from the permanent absent voter list if the elector has not
- 7 requested an absent voter ballot in any election held in the
- 8 previous 4 consecutive years.
- 9 (10) If an elector is on a permanent absent voter list and the
- 10 elector changes his or her residence, the elector's request to be
- 11 on a permanent absent voter list automatically continues and the
- 12 elector must be listed on the permanent absent voter list of the
- 13 city or township in which the elector is registered to vote.