

the entire board and when rejected shall notify the applicant of the reason therefor if:

(1) It determines upon inquiry that the applicant is not legally qualified to vote at the election as an absentee voter; or

(2) If the affidavit is verified before any officer other than a member of the board or an employee thereof designated by it in writing or a notary public or other officer authorized to administer oaths. If the board or member thereof suspects that the applicant is not a qualified voter, the board shall make inquiries in reference thereto, and upon cause duly shown that the applicant is not a qualified voter, the board shall withhold delivery of an absentee ballot.

(b) If the applicant is a qualified voter as stated in his affidavit the board shall, as soon as practicable thereafter, deliver to him, at the office of the board, or mail to him at an address designated by him, an absentee voter's ballot and an envelope therefor. Postage for transmitting ballot material to the voter shall be paid by the board, and postage for the return of ballots shall be paid by the voters. If the ballots are to be sent by mail, the determinations required in subsection (a) of this section shall be made in such time as will allow for the sending and return of the ballots by regular mail, or airmail, depending on the mailing address and including at least one secular day for marking the ballots and completing the affidavit. All such investigations shall be concluded and any determinations made as to all absentee ballot applications not later than five days before election day.

(c)(1) The board shall keep a record of applications for absentee voters' ballots as they are received, showing the date and time received, the names and residences of the applicants, and such record shall be available for examination by any registered voter.

(2) After approval of an application for an absentee ballot and the mailing to the applicant of an absentee ballot, the voter's record card in the precinct binder shall be removed and placed in a separate binder marked "Registered Absentee Voters" and retained in the office of the board. A marker shall be placed in the regular precinct binder with the voter's name and recording the fact that an absentee ballot has been mailed, which shall show the date on which the ballot was sent. No such voter shall vote or be allowed to vote in person at any polling place.

(d) Not more than one absentee ballot shall be mailed to any one applicant unless the board has reasonable grounds to believe that the absentee ballot previously mailed has been lost, destroyed or spoiled.

27-7. Ballots for absentee voters.

(a) In sufficient time prior to any election, the boards shall have printed an adequate number of absentee ballots, the three kinds of envelopes described in this section, and the instructions to absentee voters as set out in Section 27-8 of this Article.

(b) The ballots shall contain the words "Absentee Ballot" printed in large letters in a clear space at the top of each ballot. Underneath these words shall be printed the following warning: