

- (II) MARKED AND PLACED IN AN ENVELOPE BY THE VOTER, OR WITH ASSISTANCE AS ALLOWED BY REGULATION, IN THE AGENT'S PRESENCE; AND
- (III) RETURNED TO THE LOCAL BOARD BY THE AGENT.

DRAFTER'S NOTE: An authorized agent may now be used at any time in the absentee voting process, not just in the last 2 weeks as current law provides. The prohibition on a candidate serving as an agent is new.

9-308. ASSISTANCE IN MARKING BALLOT.

(A) GENERALLY.

A VOTER WHO REQUIRES ASSISTANCE IN CASTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY REASON OF DISABILITY, INABILITY TO WRITE, OR INABILITY TO READ THE BALLOT MAY BE ASSISTED BY ANY INDIVIDUAL OTHER THAN:

- (1) A CANDIDATE WHO IS ON THAT BALLOT;
- (2) THE VOTER'S EMPLOYER OR AN AGENT OF THE EMPLOYER; OR
- (3) AN OFFICER OR AGENT OF THE VOTER'S UNION.

(B) CERTIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE.

AN INDIVIDUAL RENDERING ASSISTANCE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL EXECUTE A CERTIFICATION AS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD AND INCLUDED IN THE INSTRUCTIONS UNDER § 9-309 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

DRAFTER'S NOTE: The prohibition on candidates providing assistance to absentee voters is new.

9-309. INSTRUCTIONS.

AN ABSENTEE BALLOT SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY INSTRUCTIONS, PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD, FOR MARKING AND RETURNING THE BALLOT.

9-310. ENVELOPES.

(A) REQUIRED; PRESCRIBED BY STATE BOARD.

AN ABSENTEE BALLOT SHALL BE ENCLOSED IN SPECIALLY PRINTED ENVELOPES, THE FORM AND CONTENT OF WHICH SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD.

(B) OPTIONAL PROCEDURES.

- (1) A LOCAL BOARD MAY USE EITHER TWO ENVELOPES OR THREE ENVELOPES.
- (2) IF TWO ENVELOPES ARE USED, THE INNER ENVELOPE SHALL BE DESIGNATED THE "BALLOT/RETURN ENVELOPE", AND, WHEN ISSUED, IT SHALL FIT INSIDE THE ENVELOPE DESIGNATED THE "OUTGOING ENVELOPE".
- (3) IF THREE ENVELOPES ARE USED, THE INNERMOST ENVELOPE SHALL BE DESIGNATED THE "BALLOT ENVELOPE", WHICH SHALL FIT INSIDE THE