

Done
5/20



STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
130 STATE CAPITOL
SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON
GOVERNOR

May 19, 1997

The Honorable Allan Spear
President of the Senate
120 Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Spear:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 166, Senate File 78, a bill which would make several changes to laws pertaining to absentee ballots.

I can support the provision of the bill requiring voters to simply indicate on absentee ballot applications why it is they are unable to vote in person. I am also supportive of letting military personnel stationed overseas vote by fax. I do, however, have serious reservations about a provision allowing hospital patients to vote by fax.

Nonetheless, significant changes to election law such as those proposed in this bill are too important to be entirely one-sided and lacking in bipartisanship. The fact that only three Republican members in the House of Representatives supported the bill indicates to me a deep concern on the part of most Republicans about the potential impact of any of the proposed changes to the integrity of our election laws. Changes such as these should have at least modest bipartisan support before being signed into law, and certainly not the vociferous partisan opposition that accompanied this bill.

There is time in the next year to thoroughly address the concerns raised by both bodies. I too would also like to examine the vote by fax issue during the interim. Doing so would have the dual benefit of allaying member's fears while still possibly applying these changes to the 1998 elections.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arne H. Carlson".

ARNE H. CARLSON
Governor

May 19, 1997
Page Two of Two

c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader
Representative Phil Carruthers, Speaker of the House
Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader
Chief Senate Author(s)
Chief House Author(s)
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State