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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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**To:** Elections and Ethic Committee  
**From:** Representative Ann Bollin  
**Subject:** Testimony, Substitute H-1 for HB 5123  
**Date:** June 23, 2020

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Good afternoon Madame Chair, Vice Chair and fellow representatives. Thank you for the opportunity to present on the substitute for HB 5123. As you know, HB 5123 required local units with more than **one** precinct to establish absent voter counting boards.

The substitute would require local units **with more than two precincts and less than 6,000 registered** voters to establish Absent Voter Counting Boards.

In Michigan, there are two different methods of counting absent voter ballots. In the precinct or by an absent voter counting board.

The changes will allow for smaller units of government to continue the practice of processing AV ballots in the precinct but will also assist communities with a higher number of registered voters with their AV processing. We are anticipating, and have in fact already realized, an increase in absent voters or vote by mail participation across Michigan. These counting boards will also add to the integrity and security of the AV ballot process and provide added continuity across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.