

**RSA 657:1, Absentee Voting When A Storm Has Been Warned, effective January 1, 2019.**

The law has changed to provide that if the National Weather Service issues a severe storm warning, two groups of voters may vote by absentee ballot on the Monday immediately prior to an election:

1. Voters who are elderly, infirm, or who have a physical disability, who otherwise would have voted in person, but who have concerns for their safety if they were to travel in the storm, are considered absent by law;
2. Voters who care for children or infirm adults who reasonably anticipate that school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, who otherwise would have voted in person but will be deterred from voting by the need to care for children or infirm adults, are considered absent by law.

The voter makes the decision whether the voter qualifies to vote absentee because he or she is a member of one of these groups. If the voter is willing to sign the absentee voter application and affidavit envelope attesting to their qualifying to vote absentee, the voter must be permitted to receive, complete, and return an absentee ballot.

Qualified individuals may vote absentee on the Monday before an election when the National Weather Service issues a:

- Winter Storm Warning,
- Blizzard Warning, or
- Ice Storm Warning

that applies on election day to the county in which the election will be held.

State and local media weather forecasts usually report when a storm, blizzard, or ice warning has been issued. The National Weather Service web site, <https://alerts.weather.gov/>, lists watches, warnings, and advisories by state.