

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1566

To require information and opportunities for registration for voting and absentee ballot requests for members of the Armed Forces who are undergoing deployment overseas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2019

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To require information and opportunities for registration for voting and absentee ballot requests for members of the Armed Forces who are undergoing deployment overseas, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military Voting Protec-
5 tion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR REG-**
2 **ISTRATION FOR VOTING AND ABSENTEE BAL-**
3 **LOT REQUESTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
4 **ARMED FORCES UNDERGOING DEPLOYMENT**
5 **OVERSEAS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days prior to
7 a general election for Federal office, a member of the
8 Armed Forces shall be provided with the following:

9 (1) A Federal write-in absentee ballot pre-
10 scribed pursuant to section 103 of the Uniformed
11 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52
12 U.S.C. 20303), together with instructions on the ap-
13 propriate use of the ballot with respect to the State
14 in which the member is registered to vote.

15 (2) In the case of a member intending to vote
16 in a State that does not accept the Federal write-
17 in absentee ballot as a simultaneous application and
18 acceptable ballot for Federal elections, a briefing on,
19 and an opportunity to fill out, the official post card
20 form for absentee voter registration application and
21 absentee ballot application prescribed under section
22 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
23 Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301(b)(2)).

24 (b) PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE OF DISCHARGE.—
25 Ballots and instructions shall be provided pursuant to
26 paragraphs(1) of subsection (a) by Voting Assistance Offi-

1 cers or such other personnel as the Secretary of the mili-
 2 tary department concerned shall designate.

3 (c) SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE USE OF
 4 THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.—

5 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following
 6 findings:

7 (A) Servicemembers serving abroad are
 8 subject to disproportionate challenges in voting.

9 (B) As of May, 2019, only 28 States allow
 10 servicemembers to use the Federal write-in ab-
 11 sentee ballot as a simultaneous application and
 12 acceptable ballot for Federal elections.

13 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
 14 Congress that—

15 (A) Federal and State governments should
 16 remove all obstacles that would inhibit deployed
 17 servicemembers from voting; and

18 (B) States that do not allow servicemem-
 19 bers to use the Federal write-in absentee ballot
 20 as a simultaneous application and acceptable
 21 ballot for Federal elections should modify their
 22 laws to permit such use.

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