

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8441

To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require States to accept the official post card form prescribed by the Secretary of Defense under such Act when submitted by electronic means, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2026

Mr. CASTEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require States to accept the official post card form prescribed by the Secretary of Defense under such Act when submitted by electronic means, 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 Voters Over-
5 seas Technical Enhancement Act” or the “Military VOTE
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROMOTING TIMELY AND ACCURATE DELIVERY OF**
2 **POST CARD FORM AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

3 (a) ACCEPTANCE OF POST CARD FORM TRANS-
4 MITTED ELECTRONICALLY.—

5 (1) REQUIRING ACCEPTANCE.—Section
6 102(a)(4) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
7 Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)(4)) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “(4) use the official post card form prescribed
10 under section 101 for simultaneous voter registra-
11 tion application and absentee ballot application, and
12 accept such post card form when submitted by elec-
13 tronic means (defined as submission by electronic
14 mail or submission through an online portal) or
15 physical means;”.

16 (2) GRANTS TO STATES TO ASSIST IN MEETING
17 REQUIREMENT.—

18 (A) GRANTS.—Beginning on the date of
19 the enactment of this Act, the Presidential des-
20 ignee under section 101(a) of the Uniformed
21 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52
22 U.S.C. 20301(a)) shall make a grant to a State
23 to assist the State in complying with the re-
24 quirement under section 102(a)(4) of such Act
25 (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)(4)), as amended by para-
26 graph (1), to accept the official post card form

1 prescribed under section 101 of such Act when
2 the form is submitted by electronic mail or
3 through an online portal.

4 (B) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES.—The
5 Presidential designee shall make a grant to a
6 State under this paragraph only if the State
7 provides to the Secretary the following informa-
8 tion and assurances:

9 (i) A certification that the State is un-
10 able to comply with the requirement de-
11 scribed in subparagraph (A).

12 (ii) A description of the State's exist-
13 ing process for receiving the official post
14 card form described in subparagraph (A).

15 (iii) The State's plan to implement
16 the means necessary to comply with such
17 requirement, including a detailed break-
18 down of the costs the State will incur.

19 (iv) Any further relevant information
20 that the Secretary may request.

21 (C) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
22 TIONS.—There are authorized to be appro-
23 priated \$40,000,000 to carry out this para-
24 graph.

1 (D) STATE DEFINED.—In this paragraph,
2 the term “State” means each State, the Dis-
3 trict of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto
4 Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the United
5 States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth
6 of the Northern Mariana Islands.

7 (b) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BAL-
8 LOTS.—Section 102(f)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
9 20302(f)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(2) TRANSMISSION IF NO PREFERENCE INDI-
11 CATED.—If an absent uniformed services voter or
12 overseas voter does not designate a preference under
13 paragraph (1)(B)—

14 “(A) the State shall transmit the ballot
15 electronically; or

16 “(B) if the State lacks sufficient informa-
17 tion to transmit the ballot electronically, the
18 State shall transmit the ballot by any delivery
19 method allowable in accordance with applicable
20 State law.”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
22 ments made by this section shall apply with respect to the
23 regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held
24 in November 2026 and each succeeding election for Fed-
25 eral office.

1 **SEC. 3. USE OF SINGLE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION**
2 **FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and
4 Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20306)
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 104. TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS.**

7 “(a) USE OF APPLICATION BY ABSENT UNIFORMED
8 SERVICES AND OVERSEAS VOTERS FOR SUBSEQUENT
9 ELECTIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State accepts and
11 processes an official post card form (prescribed
12 under section 101) submitted by an absent uni-
13 formed services voter or overseas voter for simulta-
14 neous voter registration and absentee ballot applica-
15 tion (in accordance with section 102(a)(4)) and the
16 voter requests that the application be considered an
17 application for an absentee ballot for each subse-
18 quent election for Federal office held in the State,
19 the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the
20 voter—

21 “(A) in the case of a voter who requests
22 the ballot in paper form, for not fewer than the
23 next 2 such subsequent elections; or

24 “(B) in the case of a voter who receives
25 the ballot in electronic form, for each such sub-
26 sequent election.

1 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not
2 apply with respect to a voter if—

3 “(A) the voter’s registration is cancelled by
4 the State;

5 “(B) the State obtains evidence that the
6 voter is no longer eligible to register to vote or
7 vote as an absent uniformed services voter or
8 overseas voter; or

9 “(C) the voter requests that the State no
10 longer provide the voter with an absentee ballot
11 under this subsection.

12 “(b) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATION ON
13 GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.—A State may not
14 refuse to accept or to process, with respect to any election
15 for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration
16 application or absentee ballot application (including the
17 post card form prescribed under section 101) submitted
18 by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter
19 on the grounds that the voter submitted the application
20 before the first date on which the State otherwise accepts
21 or processes such applications for that election which are
22 submitted by absentee voters who are not members of the
23 uniformed services or overseas citizens.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING REVISION TO POST CARD FORM.—
25 Section 101 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20301) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking the semi-
2 colon and inserting “, in accordance with subsection
3 (c);”;

4 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
5 subsections (c) and (d); and

6 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(c) USE OF OFFICIAL POST CARD FORM FOR REG-
9 ISTRATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.—The Presi-
10 dential designee shall ensure that the official post card
11 form prescribed under subsection (b)(2) enables a voter
12 using the form to request an absentee ballot for subse-
13 quent elections for Federal office held in a State, as pro-
14 vided under section 104.”.

15 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
16 this subsection shall apply with respect to voter registra-
17 tion and absentee ballot applications which are submitted
18 to a State or local election official on or after the date
19 of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 4. EVALUATION OF ACCURACY AND TIMELINESS OF**
2 **VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION PRO-**
3 **VIDED TO ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES**
4 **VOTERS UPON TRANSFER TO NEW DUTY STA-**
5 **TION.**

6 Section 105A of the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-
7 zens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20308) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
10 section (d); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
12 lowing new subsection:

13 “(c) ADEQUACY OF VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMA-
14 TION PROVIDED TO MEMBERS UPON TRANSFER TO NEW
15 DUTY STATION.—Not later than one year after the date
16 of the enactment of this subsection, the Presidential des-
17 ignee shall submit to the President and the relevant con-
18 gressional committees an evaluation of whether the infor-
19 mation on voter registration which is included in the
20 change of base packet provided to absent uniformed serv-
21 ices voters who are transferred to new duty stations pro-
22 vides timely and accurate information on how such voters
23 may register to vote in elections for Federal office.”.

1 **SEC. 5. STUDY AND REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF AUTO-**
2 **MATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.**

3 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct
4 a study of the feasibility of the creation of a system of
5 automatic voter registration for members of the uniformed
6 services upon enlistment or receiving commission, as well
7 as the creation of a system to automatically update the
8 address of absent members of the uniformed services for
9 voter registration purposes upon any change of address
10 for such member, including an assessment of the feasi-
11 bility and costs of—

12 (1) using information already collected as part
13 of the enlistment or commission process for purposes
14 of voter registration, including whether such infor-
15 mation is sufficient for States to register an indi-
16 vidual to vote, and if not, what other information
17 would need to be collected as part of the enlistment
18 and commission process to enable this process;

19 (2) using information already collected as part
20 of the enlistment or commission process for purposes
21 of updating voter registration information for exist-
22 ing registrants, including whether such information
23 is sufficient for States to update an existing reg-
24 istration, and if not, what other information would
25 need to be collected as part of the enlistment or
26 commission process to enable this process; and

1 (3) electronically transmitting such voter reg-
2 istration information to chief State election officials.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall
5 submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Sen-
6 ate and House of Representatives, and make publicly
7 available, a report on the study conducted under sub-
8 section (a).

9 **SEC. 6. NO EFFECT ON ABILITY TO REGISTER OR REVISE**
10 **REGISTRATION INFORMATION DIRECTLY.**

11 Nothing in this Act or any amendment made by this
12 Act shall be construed to limit the ability of a member
13 of the Armed Forces to register to vote in elections for
14 Federal office directly with a State election official, or to
15 revise the member's voter registration information, includ-
16 ing the member's place of residence, directly with a State
17 election official.

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