

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 467

To provide grants for States to adopt the Federal write-in absentee ballot and to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require uniform treatment by States of Federal write-in absentee ballots.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2001

Mr. ROBERTS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To provide grants for States to adopt the Federal write-in absentee ballot and to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require uniform treatment by States of Federal write-in absentee ballots.

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. GRANT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense,
5 through the Federal Voting Assistance Program, is au-
6 thorized to award grants to States to enable States to
7 adopt and use—

7 in lieu of any State absentee ballot or envelope with re-
8 spect to ballots of overseas voters for a primary or general
9 election for Federal office.

10 (b) APPLICATION.—

19 (2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
20 under paragraph (1) shall—

21 (A) describe the activities for which assist-
22 ance under this section is sought; and

23 (B) provide such additional assurances as
24 the Secretary of Defense determines to be es-
25 sential to ensure compliance with the require-

1 ments of this section and section 103 of the
2 Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Vot-
3 ing Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–2).

4 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The Secretary of Defense
5 shall determine the amount of any grant to be provided
6 under this section in such a manner to ensure that all
7 costs for the purposes for which the grant is awarded will
8 be reimbursed.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
11 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

12 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BAL-
13 LOT.**

14 Section 103 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
15 Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–2) is amended by
16 adding at the end the following:

17 “(g) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES RECEIVING CER-
18 TAIN GRANTS.—If a State receives a grant amount with
19 respect to use of Federal write-in absentee ballots under
20 the program administered by the Federal Voting Assist-
21 ance Program within the Department of Defense, the
22 State shall, in addition to the other requirements of this
23 section—

24 “(1) treat any otherwise valid Federal write-in
25 absentee ballot, that meets the uniform requirements

1 promulgated by the Presidential designee under this
2 title for such ballot, as meeting applicable State law
3 regarding acceptance of absentee ballots; and

4 “(2) accept and count any otherwise valid Fed-
5 eral write-in absentee ballot received by the appro-
6 priate State election official on a date that is not
7 later than 10 days after the date of the election to
8 which the ballot refers.

9 “(h) REGULATIONS.—The Presidential designee shall
10 promulgate a regulation—

11 “(1) stating uniform requirements for treat-
12 ment and acceptance of Federal write-in absentee
13 ballots; and

14 “(2) to provide that the design of any absentee
15 ballot or envelope under this title—

16 “(A) has a marking to distinguish the bal-
17 lot and envelope as belonging to an overseas
18 voter; and

19 “(B) allows the voter to attest on the bal-
20 lot that the ballot is cast prior to the date of
21 the election to which the ballot refers.”.

