

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2082

To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require States to accept absentee ballots of overseas military and civilian voters which are submitted by the voter to a provider of express mail services not later than the day before the date of the election involved for transmission to the appropriate State election official, to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse overseas military voters for the costs of using a provider of express mail services to transmit the ballot to the official, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2009

Mr. HOLT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to require States to accept absentee ballots of overseas military and civilian voters which are submitted by the voter to a provider of express mail services not later than the day before the date of the election involved for transmission to the appropriate State election official, to require the Secretary of Defense to reimburse overseas military voters for the costs of using a provider of express mail services to transmit the ballot to the official, 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 and Overseas  
 5 Voting Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCEPTANCE OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS OF OVER-**  
 7 **SEAS MILITARY AND CIVILIAN VOTERS USING**  
 8 **EXPRESS MAIL SERVICES FOR TRANS-**  
 9 **MISSION.**

10 Section 102(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-  
 11 zens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)) is  
 12 amended—

13 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
 14 (4);

15 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
 16 graph (5) and inserting “; and”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
 18 paragraph:

19 “(6) accept and process, with respect to any  
 20 election for Federal office, any otherwise valid ab-  
 21 sentee ballot (including the Federal write-in absentee  
 22 ballot under section 103) from an overseas voter  
 23 who provides the ballot to a provider of express mail  
 24 services for transmission to the appropriate State  
 25 election official not later than the day before the

1 date of the election (as determined on the basis of  
 2 either a postmark or a dated receipt generated by  
 3 the provider of express mail services at the time the  
 4 voter provides the ballot to such provider), so long  
 5 as the ballot is received by the official prior to the  
 6 expiration of the 10-day period which begins on the  
 7 date of the election (or, if longer, such period as  
 8 may be provided under State law).”.

9 **SEC. 3. REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS INCURRED BY OVER-**  
 10 **SEAS MILITARY VOTERS IN USING EXPRESS**  
 11 **MAIL SERVICES FOR TRANSMISSION OF AB-**  
 12 **SENTEE BALLOTS.**

13 (a) REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 101 of the Uni-  
 14 formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42  
 15 U.S.C. 1973ff) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 16 lowing new subsection:

17 “(d) REIMBURSEMENT FOR COSTS INCURRED BY  
 18 OVERSEAS UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS IN USING EX-  
 19 PRESS MAIL SERVICES FOR TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE  
 20 BALLOTS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Presidential designee  
 22 shall make a payment to each eligible overseas voter  
 23 described in section 107(5)(A) whose absentee ballot  
 24 was transmitted to the appropriate State election of-  
 25 ficial by a provider of express mail services in an

1 amount equal to the reasonable costs incurred by the  
2 voter in using the provider to transmit the ballot.

3 “(2) ELIGIBILITY OF VOTERS.—For purposes of  
4 paragraph (1), an overseas voter described in section  
5 107(5)(A) is eligible to receive a payment from the  
6 Presidential designee under such paragraph if the  
7 voter submits to the Presidential designee (at such  
8 time and in such form as the Presidential designee  
9 may require) such information and assurances as  
10 the Presidential designee may require regarding the  
11 voter’s use of a provider of express mail services to  
12 transmit an absentee ballot and the costs incurred  
13 by the voter in using the provider to transmit the  
14 ballot.

15 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
16 There are authorized to be appropriated to the Pres-  
17 idential designee such sums as may be necessary to  
18 carry out this subsection.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 101(b) of  
20 such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
22 (6);

23 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
24 graph (7) and inserting “; and”; and

1           (3) by adding at the end the following new  
2 paragraph:

3           “(8) make payments to overseas uniformed  
4 services voters whose absentee ballots are trans-  
5 mitted to State election officials by providers of ex-  
6 press mail services, in accordance with subsection  
7 (d).”.

8 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9           The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
10 respect to each election for Federal office held on or after  
11 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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