

HCS SS SCS SB 116 -- VOTING PROCEDURES FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

This bill repeals the provisions regarding absent uniformed services and overseas voters and establishes the Uniformed Military and Overseas Voters Act to apply to all federal, state, and local elections where absentee ballots are authorized.

The Secretary of State must:

(1) Make available to a uniformed services or an overseas voter as defined in the bill information regarding the voter registration procedure for the individual and the procedure for casting a military-overseas ballot;

(2) Establish an electronic transmission system through which a covered voter may apply for and receive voter registration materials, military-overseas ballots, and other specified information; and

(3) Develop standardized absentee-voting materials and voting instructions to be used with the military-overseas ballot of a voter authorized to vote in any jurisdiction in this state and, to the extent reasonably possible, coordinate with other states in carrying out these provisions.

The bill allows an overseas voter or military voter to use a federal postcard or the application's electronic equivalent to apply to register to vote in addition to any other approved method. An overseas or military voter may use the declaration accompanying a federal write-in absentee ballot to apply to register to vote simultaneously with the submission of the federal write-in absentee ballot if the declaration is received no later than 5:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday prior to the election. If the declaration is received after that date, it must be treated as an application to register to vote for subsequent elections. An overseas or military voter who is registered to vote in Missouri and satisfies voter eligibility requirements may use a federal write-in absentee ballot to vote for all offices and ballot measures in an election. A valid military-overseas ballot must be counted if it is received before noon on the Friday after election day.

The bill specifies that a person in the federal service under Section 115.275, RSMo, may vote in the same manner and using the same technology as an overseas voter.

An election authority or verification board cannot certify election results before noon on the Friday after election day.

The bill becomes effective July 1, 2014.