

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1566

To amend the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 to protect the voting rights of military personnel, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

Mr. THURMOND introduced the following bill; which was read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed

A BILL

To amend the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 to protect the voting rights of military personnel, 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 Rights
5 Act of 1997".

6 **SEC. 2. GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY.**

7 Article VII of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief
8 Act of 1940 (50 U.S.C. App. 590 et seq.) is amended by
9 adding at the end the following:

1 “SEC. 704. (a) For purposes of voting for an office
2 of the United States or of a State, a person who is absent
3 from a State in compliance with military or naval orders
4 shall not, solely by reason of that absence—

5 “(1) be deemed to have lost a residence or
6 domicile in that State;

7 “(2) be deemed to have acquired a residence or
8 domicile in any other State; or

9 “(3) be deemed to have become resident in or
10 a resident of any other State.

11 “(b) In this section, the term ‘State’ includes a terri-
12 tory or possession of the United States, a political subdivi-
13 sion of a State, territory, or possession, and the District
14 of Columbia.”.

15 **SEC. 3. STATE RESPONSIBILITY TO GUARANTEE MILITARY**
16 **VOTING RIGHTS.**

17 (a) REGISTRATION AND BALLOTING.—Section 102 of
18 the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act (42
19 U.S.C. 1973ff-1) is amended—

20 (1) by inserting “(a) ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL
21 OFFICES.—” before “Each State shall—”; and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(b) ELECTIONS FOR STATE AND LOCAL OFFICES.—
24 Each State shall—

1 “(1) permit absent uniformed services voters to
2 use absentee registration procedures and to vote by
3 absentee ballot in general, special, primary, and run-
4 off elections for State and local offices; and

5 “(2) accept and process, with respect to any
6 election described in paragraph (1), any otherwise
7 valid voter registration application from an absent
8 uniformed services voter if the application is received
9 by the appropriate State election official not less
10 than 30 days before the election.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for
12 title I of such Act is amended by striking out “**FOR**
13 **FEDERAL OFFICE**”.

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