

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7248

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2008

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

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, so long as the ballot is received
2 by the official prior to the expiration of the 10-day
3 period which begins on the date of the election (or,
4 if longer, such period as may be provided under
5 State law).”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
20 (6);

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

23 (3) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

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

6 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

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