

HB 2047 -- Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act

Sponsor: Davis

This bill establishes the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act which is consistent with and implements the state's responsibilities under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973, et. seq. These provisions apply to specified members of the armed forces and an overseas voter who are registered to vote in this state who are voting in general, special, presidential preference, or primary elections for federal offices or a general, special, or primary election for statewide, state legislative offices, or state ballot measures and any election allowing absentee voting.

The Secretary of State will be responsible for implementing the provisions of the bill. A covered voter is allowed to register to vote while overseas and to request ballots using state or federal applications. A covered voter may register to vote using the federal postcard application or its electronic equivalent and may simultaneously request a federal write-in absentee ballot or a military-overseas ballot. A covered voter will be allowed to communicate with election authorities using electronic mail, and ballots and applications will be provided by facsimile, electronic mail delivery, or Internet delivery if it is offered by the voter's jurisdiction. The criteria for validating ballots are specified in the bill. A voter's mistake or omission in the completion of a ballot under these provisions cannot invalidate a ballot.