

AN ACT

To amend sections 3501.13, 3503.02, 3503.14, 3503.19, 3503.191, 3503.28, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.183, 3509.021, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.07, 3511.01, 3511.02, 3511.021, 3511.04, 3511.05, 3511.09, 3511.10, 3511.11, and 3511.14, to amend, for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, section 3511.01 (3511.011), to enact new section 3511.01 and sections 3509.10, 3511.15, and 3511.16, and to repeal sections 3503.20 and 3509.031 of the Revised Code to revise the law governing uniformed services and overseas voters, to specify that voters who provide a Social Security Number for election purposes only are required to provide the last four digits of that number, to revise the process for casting provisional ballots for voters without identification, to eliminate online voter registration, to require absent voter's ballot statements to include the voter's printed name, to make technical corrections to the laws governing elections, and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That sections 3501.13, 3503.02, 3503.14, 3503.19, 3503.191, 3503.28, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.183, 3509.021, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.07, 3511.01, 3511.02, 3511.021, 3511.04, 3511.05, 3511.09, 3511.10, 3511.11, and 3511.14 be amended, section 3511.01 (3511.011) be amended for the purpose of adopting a new section number as indicated in parentheses, and that new section 3511.01 and sections 3509.10, 3511.15, and 3511.16 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3501.13. (A) The director of the board of elections shall keep a full

and true record of the proceedings of the board and of all moneys received and expended; file and preserve in the board's office all orders and records pertaining to the administration of registrations, primaries, and elections; receive and have the custody of all books, papers, and property belonging to the board; and perform other duties in connection with the office of director and the proper conduct of elections as the board determines.

(B) Before entering upon the duties of the office, the director shall subscribe to an oath that the director will support the Constitution of the United States and the Ohio Constitution, perform all the duties of the office to the best of the director's ability, enforce the election laws, and preserve all records, documents, and other property pertaining to the conduct of elections placed in the director's custody.

(C) The director may administer oaths to persons required by law to file certificates or other papers with the board, to precinct election officials, to witnesses who are called to testify before the board, and to voters filling out blanks at the board's offices. Except as otherwise provided by state or federal law, the records of the board and papers and books filed in its office are public records and open to inspection under such reasonable regulations as shall be established by the board. The social security number or any part thereof of any elector or of any applicant for voter registration is not a public record. The board shall redact any such number from any record that it makes open to public inspection or copying under this section.

The following notice shall be posted in a prominent place at each board office:

"Except as otherwise provided by state or federal law, records filed in this office of the board of elections are open to public inspection during normal office hours, pursuant to the following reasonable regulations: (the board shall here list its regulations). Whoever prohibits any person from inspecting the public records of this board is subject to the penalties of section 3599.161 of the Revised Code."

(D) Upon receipt of a written declaration of intent to retire as provided for in section 145.38 of the Revised Code, the director shall provide a copy to each member of the board of elections.

Sec. 3503.02. All registrars and judges of elections, in determining the residence of a person offering to register or vote, shall be governed by the following rules:

(A) That place shall be considered the residence of a person in which the person's habitation is fixed and to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention of returning.

(B) A person shall not be considered to have lost the person's residence

who leaves the person's home and goes into another state or county of this state, for temporary purposes only, with the intention of returning.

(C) A person shall not be considered to have gained a residence in any county of this state into which the person comes for temporary purposes only, without the intention of making such county the permanent place of abode.

(D) The place where the family of a married person resides shall be considered to be the person's place of residence; except that when the spouses have separated and live apart, the place where such a spouse resides the length of time required to entitle a person to vote shall be considered to be the spouse's place of residence.

(E) If a person removes to another state with the intention of making such state the person's residence, the person shall be considered to have lost the person's residence in this state.

(F) Except as otherwise provided in division (G) of this section, if a person removes from this state and continuously resides outside this state for a period of four years or more, the person shall be considered to have lost the person's residence in this state, notwithstanding the fact that the person may entertain an intention to return at some future period.

(G)(1) If a person removes from this state to engage in the services of the United States government, the person shall not be considered to have lost the person's residence in this state ~~during the period of such service~~, and likewise should the person enter the employment of the state, the place where such person resided at the time of the person's removal shall be considered to be the person's place of residence.

(2) If a person removes from this state to a location outside of the United States and the person does not become a resident of another state, the person shall not be considered to have lost the person's residence in this state. The place where the person resided at the time of the person's removal shall be considered to be the person's place of residence.

(3) If a person is eligible to vote in this state under division (D)(2) of section 3511.011 of the Revised Code, the place where the person's parent or legal guardian resided in this state prior to that parent or legal guardian's removal to a location outside of the United States shall be considered to be the person's place of residence.

(4) If an address that is considered to be a person's place of residence under division (G) of this section ceases to be a recognized residential address, the board of elections shall assign an address to the applicable person for voting purposes.

(H) If a person goes into another state and while there exercises the right

of a citizen by voting, the person shall be considered to have lost the person's residence in this state.

(I) If a person does not have a fixed place of habitation, but has a shelter or other location at which the person has been a consistent or regular inhabitant and to which the person has the intention of returning, that shelter or other location shall be deemed the person's residence for the purpose of registering to vote.

Sec. 3503.14. (A) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and content of the registration, change of residence, and change of name forms used in this state. The forms shall meet the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and shall include spaces for all of the following:

- (1) The voter's name;
- (2) The voter's address;
- (3) The current date;
- (4) The voter's date of birth;
- (5) The voter to provide one or more of the following:
 - (a) The voter's driver's license number or state identification card number, if any;
 - (b) The last four digits of the voter's social security number, if any;
 - (c) A copy of a current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, a copy of a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the voter's name and address.
- (6) The voter's signature.

The registration form shall include a space on which the person registering an applicant shall sign the person's name and provide the person's address and a space on which the person registering an applicant shall name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant.

Except for forms prescribed by the secretary of state under section 3503.11 of the Revised Code, the secretary of state shall permit boards of elections to produce forms that have subdivided spaces for each individual alphanumeric character of the information provided by the voter so as to accommodate the electronic reading and conversion of the voter's information to data and the subsequent electronic transfer of that data to the statewide voter registration database established under section 3503.15 of the Revised Code.

(B) None of the following persons who are registering an applicant in the course of that official's or employee's normal duties shall sign the person's name, provide the person's address, or name the employer who is employing the person to register an applicant on a form prepared under this section:

- (1) An election official;
- (2) A county treasurer;
- (3) A deputy registrar of motor vehicles;
- (4) An employee of a designated agency;
- (5) An employee of a public high school;
- (6) An employee of a public vocational school;
- (7) An employee of a public library;
- (8) An employee of the office of a county treasurer;
- (9) An employee of the bureau of motor vehicles;
- (10) An employee of a deputy registrar of motor vehicles;
- (11) An employee of an election official.

(C) Except as provided in section 3501.382 of the Revised Code, any applicant who is unable to sign the applicant's own name shall make an "X," if possible, which shall be certified by the signing of the name of the applicant by the person filling out the form, who shall add the person's own signature. If an applicant is unable to make an "X," the applicant shall indicate in some manner that the applicant desires to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence. The person registering the applicant shall sign the form and attest that the applicant indicated that the applicant desired to register to vote or to change the applicant's name or residence.

(D) No registration, change of residence, or change of name form shall be rejected solely on the basis that a person registering an applicant failed to sign the person's name or failed to name the employer who is employing that person to register the applicant as required under division (A) of this section.

(E) A voter registration application submitted online through the internet pursuant to section 3503.20 of the Revised Code is not required to contain a signature to be considered valid. The signature obtained under division (B) of that section shall be considered the applicant's signature for all election and signature-matching purposes.

(F) As used in this section, "registering an applicant" includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those forms.

Sec. 3503.19. (A) Persons qualified to register or to change their

registration because of a change of address or change of name may register or change their registration in person or through another person at any state or local office of a designated agency, at the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, at a public high school or vocational school, at a public library, at the office of a county treasurer, or at a branch office established by the board of elections, or in person, through another person, or by mail at the office of the secretary of state or at the office of a board of elections. A registered elector may also change the elector's registration on election day at any polling place where the elector is eligible to vote, in the manner provided under section 3503.16 of the Revised Code.

Any state or local office of a designated agency, the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, or the office of a county treasurer shall transmit any voter registration application or change of registration form that it receives to the board of elections of the county in which the state or local office is located, within five business days after receiving the voter registration application or change of registration form.

An otherwise valid voter registration application that is returned to the appropriate office other than by mail must be received by a state or local office of a designated agency, the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, the office of a county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, or the office of a board of elections no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, special, or general election for the person to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. An otherwise valid registration application received after that day entitles the elector to vote at all subsequent elections.

Any state or local office of a designated agency, the office of the registrar or any deputy registrar of motor vehicles, a public high school or vocational school, a public library, or the office of a county treasurer shall date stamp a registration application or change of name or change of address form it receives using a date stamp that does not disclose the identity of the state or local office that receives the registration.

Voter registration applications, if otherwise valid, that are returned by mail to the office of the secretary of state or to the office of a board of elections must be postmarked no later than the thirtieth day preceding a primary, special, or general election in order for the person to qualify as an elector eligible to vote at that election. If an otherwise valid voter registration application that is returned by mail does not bear a postmark or a legible postmark, the registration shall be valid for that election if received

by the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections no later than twenty-five days preceding any special, primary, or general election.

(B)(1) Any person may apply in person, by telephone, by mail, or through another person for voter registration forms to the office of the secretary of state or the office of a board of elections. An individual who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may apply for voter registration forms by electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.

(2)(a) An applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form in person or through another person to any state or local office of a designated agency, to a public high school or vocational school, to a public library, to the office of a county treasurer, to the office of the secretary of state, or to the office of a board of elections. An applicant who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 also may return the applicant's completed voter registration form electronically to the office of the secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located pursuant to section 3503.191 of the Revised Code.

(b) Subject to division (B)(2)(c) of this section, an applicant may return the applicant's completed registration form by mail or through another person to any board of elections or the office of the secretary of state.

(c) A person who receives compensation for registering a voter shall return any registration form entrusted to that person by an applicant to any board of elections or to the office of the secretary of state.

(d) If a board of elections or the office of the secretary of state receives a registration form under division (B)(2)(b) or (c) of this section before the thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the registration to the board of elections of the county in which the applicant is seeking to register to vote within ten days after receiving the application. If a board of elections or the office of the secretary of state receives a registration form under division (B)(2)(b) or (c) of this section on or after the thirtieth day before an election, the board or the office of the secretary of state, as applicable, shall forward the registration to the board of elections of the county in which the applicant is seeking to register to vote within thirty days after that election.

(C)(1) A board of elections that receives a voter registration application and is satisfied as to the truth of the statements made in the registration form

shall register the applicant not later than twenty business days after receiving the application, unless that application is received during the thirty days immediately preceding the day of an election. The board shall promptly notify the applicant in writing of each of the following:

- (a) The applicant's registration;
- (b) The precinct in which the applicant is to vote;
- (c) In bold type as follows:

"Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than this notification, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote ~~by providing the voter's social security number and~~ by casting a provisional ballot."

The notification shall be by nonforwardable mail. If the mail is returned to the board, it shall investigate and cause the notification to be delivered to the correct address.

(2) If, after investigating as required under division (C)(1) of this section, the board is unable to verify the voter's correct address, it shall cause the voter's name in the official registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook to be marked to indicate that the voter's notification was returned to the board.

At the first election at which a voter whose name has been so marked appears to vote, the voter shall be required to provide identification to the election officials and to vote by provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the provisional ballot is counted pursuant to division (B)(3) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the board shall correct that voter's registration, if needed, and shall remove the indication that the voter's notification was returned from that voter's name on the official registration list and on the poll list or signature pollbook. If the provisional ballot is not counted pursuant to division (B)(4)(a)(i) or (v) of section 3505.183 of the Revised Code, the voter's registration shall be canceled. The board shall notify the voter by United States mail of the cancellation.

(3) If a notice of the disposition of an otherwise valid registration application is sent by nonforwardable mail and is returned undelivered, the person shall be registered as provided in division (C)(2) of this section and sent a confirmation notice by forwardable mail. If the person fails to respond to the confirmation notice, update the person's registration, or vote by provisional ballot as provided in division (C)(2) of this section in any

election during the period of two federal elections subsequent to the mailing of the confirmation notice, the person's registration shall be canceled.

Sec. 3503.191. (A) The secretary of state shall establish procedures that allow any person who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with ~~42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6~~ Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code to request voter registration forms electronically from the office of the secretary of state or the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located.

(B) The procedures shall allow such a person to express a preference for the manner in which the person will receive the requested voter registration forms, whether by mail, electronically, or in person. The registration forms shall be transmitted by the preferred method. If the requestor does not express a preferred method, the registration forms shall be delivered via standard mail.

(C) The secretary of state shall, by rule, establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal information that is confidential under state or federal law that is collected, stored, or otherwise used in the electronic voter registration form request process established under this section. To the extent practicable, the procedures shall protect the security and integrity of the electronic voter registration form request process and protect the privacy of the identity and personal data of the person when such forms are requested, processed, and sent.

(D) In establishing procedures under this section, the secretary of state shall designate at least one means of electronic communication for use by such persons to request voter registration forms, for use by the state to send voter registration forms to those who have requested electronic delivery, and for providing public election and voting information. Such designated means of electronic communication shall be identified on all information and instructional materials that accompany balloting materials.

Sec. 3503.28. (A) The secretary of state shall develop an information brochure regarding voter registration. The brochure shall include, but is not limited to, all of the following information:

(1) The applicable deadlines for registering to vote or for returning an applicant's completed registration form;

(2) The applicable deadline for returning an applicant's completed registration form if the person returning the form is being compensated for registering voters;

(3) The locations to which a person may return an applicant's completed registration form;

(4) The location to which a person who is compensated for registering voters may return an applicant's completed registration form;

(5) A notice, which shall be written in bold type, stating as follows:

"Voters must bring identification to the polls in order to verify identity. Identification may include a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a voter registration notification sent by a board of elections, that shows the voter's name and current address. Voters who do not provide one of these documents will still be able to vote ~~by providing the voter's social security number and~~ by casting a provisional ballot."

(B)(1) The secretary of state shall provide the information required to be included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a voter registration form that is made available on a web site of the office of the secretary of state.

(2) If a board of elections operates and maintains a web site, the board shall provide the information required to be included in the brochure developed under division (A) of this section to any person who prints a voter registration form that is made available on that web site.

(C) As used in this section, "registering voters" includes any effort, for compensation, to provide voter registration forms or to assist persons in completing or returning those forms.

Sec. 3505.18. (A)(1) When an elector appears in a polling place to vote, the elector shall announce to the precinct election officials the elector's full name and current address and provide proof of the elector's identity in the form of a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and current address of the elector.

(2) If an elector does not have or is unable to provide to the precinct election officials any of the forms of identification required under division (A)(1) of this section, the elector may cast a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of the Revised Code ~~and do either of the following:~~

~~(a) Appear at the office of the board of elections not later than the close of the polls on the day of the election and provide the identification required under division (A)(1) of this section; or~~

~~(b) Write the elector's social security number on the provisional ballot envelope, which number shall be verified by the board of elections with the~~

~~bureau of motor vehicles.~~

(B) After the elector has announced the elector's full name and current address and provided any of the forms of identification required under division (A)(1) of this section, the elector shall write the elector's signature at the proper place in the poll list or signature pollbook provided for the purpose, except that if, for any reason, an elector is unable to write the elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook, the elector may make the elector's mark at the place intended for the elector's signature, and a precinct election official shall write the name of the elector at the proper place on the poll list or signature pollbook following the elector's mark. The making of such a mark shall be attested by the precinct election official, who shall evidence the same by signing the precinct election official's name on the poll list or signature pollbook as a witness to the mark. Alternatively, if applicable, an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code may sign the elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook in accordance with that section.

The elector's signature in the poll list or signature pollbook then shall be compared with the elector's signature on the elector's registration form or a digitized signature list as provided for in section 3503.13 of the Revised Code, and if, in the opinion of a majority of the precinct election officials, the signatures are the signatures of the same person, the election officials shall enter the date of the election on the registration form or shall record the date by other means prescribed by the secretary of state. The validity of an attorney in fact's signature on behalf of an elector shall be determined in accordance with section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

If the right of the elector to vote is not then challenged, or, if being challenged, the elector establishes the elector's right to vote, the elector shall be allowed to proceed to use the voting machine. If voting machines are not being used in that precinct, the judge in charge of ballots shall then detach the next ballots to be issued to the elector from Stub B attached to each ballot, leaving Stub A attached to each ballot, hand the ballots to the elector, and call the elector's name and the stub number on each of the ballots. The judge shall enter the stub numbers opposite the signature of the elector in the pollbook. The elector shall then retire to one of the voting compartments to mark the elector's ballots. No mark shall be made on any ballot which would in any way enable any person to identify the person who voted the ballot.

Sec. 3505.181. (A) All of the following individuals shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at an election:

(1) An individual who declares that the individual is a registered voter in the jurisdiction in which the individual desires to vote and that the

individual is eligible to vote in an election, but the name of the individual does not appear on the official list of eligible voters for the polling place or an election official asserts that the individual is not eligible to vote;

(2) An individual who does not have or is unable to provide to the election officials any of the forms of identification required under division (A)(1) of section 3505.18 of the Revised Code;

(3) An individual whose name in the poll list or signature pollbook has been marked under section 3509.09 or 3511.13 of the Revised Code as having requested an absent voter's ballot or a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot for that election and who appears to vote at the polling place;

(4) An individual whose notification of registration has been returned undelivered to the board of elections and whose name in the official registration list and in the poll list or signature pollbook has been marked under division (C)(2) of section 3503.19 of the Revised Code;

(5) An individual who is challenged under section 3505.20 of the Revised Code and the election officials determine that the person is ineligible to vote or are unable to determine the person's eligibility to vote;

(6) An individual who moves from one precinct to another within a county, moves from one precinct to another and changes the individual's name, moves from one county to another within the state, or moves from one county to another and changes the individual's name and completes and signs the required forms and statements under division (B) or (C) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code;

(7) An individual whose signature, in the opinion of the precinct officers under section 3505.22 of the Revised Code, is not that of the person who signed that name in the registration forms;

(8) An individual who is challenged under section 3513.20 of the Revised Code who refuses to make the statement required under that section; or who a majority of the precinct officials find lacks any of the qualifications to make the individual a qualified elector, ~~or who a majority of the precinct officials find is not affiliated with or a member of the political party whose ballot the individual desires to vote;~~

(9) An individual who is casting a ballot after the time for the closing of the polls under section 3501.32 of the Revised Code pursuant to a court order extending the time for the closing of the polls.

(B) An individual who is eligible to cast a provisional ballot under division (A) of this section shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot as follows:

(1) An election official at the polling place shall notify the individual

that the individual may cast a provisional ballot in that election.

(2) The individual shall be permitted to cast a provisional ballot at that polling place upon the execution of a written affirmation by the individual before an election official at the polling place stating that the individual is both of the following:

(a) A registered voter in the jurisdiction in which the individual desires to vote;

(b) Eligible to vote in that election.

If the individual declines to execute the affirmation, the election official shall not record any of the information required to be provided by the individual on the affirmation. The election official shall explain to the individual that the provisional ballot will not be counted.

(3) An election official at the polling place shall transmit the ballot cast by the individual and the voter information contained in the written affirmation executed by the individual under division (B)(2) of this section to an appropriate local election official for verification.

(4)(a) At the time that an individual casts a provisional ballot, the appropriate local election official shall give the individual written information that states that any individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under the system established under division (B)(4)(b) of this section whether the vote was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.

(b) The appropriate state or local election official shall establish a free access system, in the form of a toll-free telephone number, that any individual who casts a provisional ballot may access to discover whether the vote of that individual was counted, and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted. The free access system established under this division also shall provide to an individual whose provisional ballot was not counted information explaining how that individual may contact the board of elections to register to vote or to resolve problems with the individual's voter registration.

The appropriate state or local election official shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal information collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free access system established under this division. Access to information about an individual ballot shall be restricted to the individual who cast the ballot.

(C)(1) If an individual declares that the individual is eligible to vote in a jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction in which the individual desires to vote, or if, upon review of the precinct voting location guide using the

residential street address provided by the individual, an election official at the polling place at which the individual desires to vote determines that the individual is not eligible to vote in that jurisdiction, the election official may direct the individual to the polling place for the jurisdiction in which the individual appears to be eligible to vote, explain that the individual may cast a provisional ballot at the current location but the ballot will not be counted if it is cast in the wrong precinct, and provide the telephone number of the board of elections in case the individual has additional questions. It is the duty of the individual casting the ballot to ensure that the individual is casting that ballot in the correct precinct.

(2) The individual may travel to the polling place for the correct jurisdiction or to the office of the board of elections to cast a ballot, or the individual shall be permitted to vote a provisional ballot at that jurisdiction in accordance with division (B) of this section.

(3) If an election official attempts to direct an individual to the correct precinct under division (C)(1) of this section, and the individual subsequently casts a ballot in the wrong precinct, both of the following apply:

(a) That ballot shall not be counted.

(b) The ballot being cast in the wrong precinct shall not be considered to be caused by an error on the part of the election official.

(D) The appropriate local election official shall cause voting information to be publicly posted at each polling place on the day of each election.

(E) As used in this section and sections 3505.182 and 3505.183 of the Revised Code:

(1) "Jurisdiction" means the precinct in which a person is a legally qualified elector.

(2) "Precinct voting location guide" means either of the following:

(a) An electronic or paper record that lists the correct jurisdiction and polling place for either each specific residential street address in the county or the range of residential street addresses located in each neighborhood block in the county;

(b) Any other method that a board of elections creates that allows a precinct election official or any elector who is at a polling place in that county to determine the correct jurisdiction and polling place of any qualified elector who resides in the county.

(3) "Voting information" means all of the following:

(a) A sample version of the ballot that will be used for that election;

(b) Information regarding the date of the election and the hours during

which polling places will be open;

(c) Instructions on how to vote, including how to cast a vote and how to cast a provisional ballot;

(d) Instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters under applicable federal and state laws;

(e) General information on voting rights under applicable federal and state laws, including information on the right of an individual to cast a provisional ballot and instructions on how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated;

(f) General information on federal and state laws regarding prohibitions against acts of fraud and misrepresentation.

(F) Nothing in this section or section 3505.183 of the Revised Code is in derogation of section 3505.24 of the Revised Code, which permits a blind, disabled, or illiterate elector to receive assistance in the marking of the elector's ballot by two precinct election officials of different political parties. A blind, disabled, or illiterate elector may receive assistance in marking that elector's provisional ballot and in completing the required affirmation in the same manner as an elector may receive assistance on the day of an election under that section.

Sec. 3505.183. (A) When the ballot boxes are delivered to the board of elections from the precincts, the board shall separate the provisional ballot envelopes from the rest of the ballots. Teams of employees of the board consisting of one member of each major political party shall place the sealed provisional ballot envelopes in a secure location within the office of the board. The sealed provisional ballot envelopes shall remain in that secure location until the validity of those ballots is determined under division (B) of this section.

(B)(1) To determine whether a provisional ballot is valid and entitled to be counted, the board shall examine the affirmation executed by the provisional voter, the statewide voter registration database, and other records maintained by the board of elections and determine whether the individual who cast the provisional ballot is registered and eligible to vote in the applicable election. The board shall examine the information contained in the written affirmation executed by the individual who cast the provisional ballot under division (B)(2) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code. ~~If the provisional voter provided identification at the board of elections prior to the close of the polls under division (A)(2)(a) of section 3505.18 of the Revised Code, the board of elections shall match that voter's provisional ballot envelope with the corresponding voter's identification and consider that provisional voter to have provided the required identification~~

~~at the polling place at the time the ballot was cast when determining the validity of the provisional ballot. If the provisional voter provided the individual's social security number on the provisional ballot envelope under division (A)(2)(b) of that section, the board of elections shall verify that voter's social security number with records maintained by the bureau of motor vehicles. If those records correspond, the board of elections shall consider that provisional voter to have provided the required identification at the polling place at the time the ballot was cast.~~

The following information shall be included by the provisional voter in the written affirmation in order for the provisional ballot to be eligible to be counted:

- (a) The individual's printed name;
- (b) The individual's signature;
- (c) The individual's date of birth;
- (d) One of the following:
 - (i) The last four digits of the individual's social security number;
 - (ii) The individual's driver's license number;
 - (iii) The individual's state identification card number;
 - (iv) ~~Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(1) of this section, an~~ An affirmative notation that the individual provided the required identification under division (A)(1) of section 3505.18 of the Revised Code;
- (e) The individual's residence address;
- (f) A statement that the individual is a registered voter in the jurisdiction in which the provisional ballot is being voted;
- (g) A statement that the individual is eligible to vote in the election in which the provisional ballot is being voted.

(2) If, in examining a provisional ballot affirmation and comparing the information required under division (B)(1) of this section with the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database, the board determines that all of the following apply, the provisional ballot envelope shall be opened, and the ballot shall be placed in a ballot box to be counted:

- (a) The individual named on the affirmation is properly registered to vote.
- (b) The individual named on the affirmation is eligible to cast a ballot in the precinct and for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.
- (c) The individual provided all of the information required under division (B)(1) of this section in the affirmation that the individual executed at the time the individual cast the provisional ballot, ~~or the individual provided all of the information required under division (B)(1) of this section~~

~~with the exception of the required identification, which identification was provided at the board of elections prior to the close of the polls or verified by matching the social security number provided on the voter's provisional ballot envelope records maintained by the bureau of motor vehicles.~~

(d) The last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification number are not different from the last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification number contained in the statewide voter registration database.

(3)(a) If, in examining a provisional ballot affirmation and comparing the information required under division (B)(1) of this section with the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database, the board determines that any of the following applies, the provisional ballot envelope shall not be opened, and the ballot shall not be counted:

(i) The individual named on the affirmation is not qualified or is not properly registered to vote.

(ii) The individual named on the affirmation is not eligible to cast a ballot in the precinct or for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

~~(iii) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(1) of this section, the~~ The individual did not provide all of the information required under division (B)(1) of this section in the affirmation that the individual executed at the time the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(iv) The individual has already cast a ballot for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

~~(v) The elector cast a provisional ballot under division (A)(2) of section 3505.181 of the Revised Code and failed to provide the required identification under division (A)(2)(a) of section 3505.18 of the Revised Code, failed to provide the elector's social security number under division (A)(2)(b) of that section, or could not be positively identified because the elector's social security number did not match the records maintained by the bureau of motor vehicles under that division~~ last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification number are different from the last four digits of the elector's social security number or the elector's driver's license number or state identification number contained in the statewide voter registration database.

(b) If, in examining a provisional ballot affirmation and comparing the information required under division (B)(1) of this section with the elector's information in the statewide voter registration database, the board is unable to determine either of the following, the provisional ballot envelope shall

not be opened, and the ballot shall not be counted:

(i) Whether the individual named on the affirmation is qualified or properly registered to vote;

(ii) Whether the individual named on the affirmation is eligible to cast a ballot in the precinct or for the election in which the individual cast the provisional ballot.

(C)(1) For each provisional ballot rejected under division (B)(3) of this section, the board shall record the name of the provisional voter who cast the ballot, the identification number of the provisional ballot envelope, the names of the election officials who determined the validity of that ballot, the date and time that the determination was made, and the reason that the ballot was not counted.

(2) Provisional ballots that are rejected under division (B)(3) of this section shall not be counted but shall be preserved in their provisional ballot envelopes unopened until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed.

(D) Provisional ballots that the board determines are eligible to be counted under division (B)(2) of this section shall be counted in the same manner as provided for other ballots under section 3505.27 of the Revised Code. No provisional ballots shall be counted in a particular county until the board determines the eligibility to be counted of all provisional ballots cast in that county under division (B) of this section for that election. Observers, as provided in section 3505.21 of the Revised Code, may be present at all times that the board is determining the eligibility of provisional ballots to be counted and counting those provisional ballots determined to be eligible. No person shall recklessly disclose the count or any portion of the count of provisional ballots in such a manner as to jeopardize the secrecy of any individual ballot.

(E) Nothing in this section shall prevent a board of elections from examining provisional ballot affirmations to determine the eligibility of provisional ballots to be counted during the ten days after the day of an election.

~~Sec. 3509.021. Except as provided in section 3509.031 of the Revised Code—~~ All identification envelopes containing absent voter's ballots for former resident voters who are entitled to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors only, shall have printed or stamped thereon the words, "Presidential Ballot."

~~Sec. 3509.03. Except as provided in section 3509.031 or~~ division (B) of section 3509.08 of the Revised Code, any qualified elector desiring to vote

absent voter's ballots at an election shall make written application for those ballots to the board of elections of the county in which the elector's voting residence is located. The application need not be in any particular form but shall contain all of the following:

- (A) The elector's name;
- (B) The elector's signature;
- (C) The address at which the elector is registered to vote;
- (D) The elector's date of birth;
- (E) One of the following:
 - (1) The elector's driver's license number or state identification card number;
 - (2) The last four digits of the elector's social security number;
 - (3) A copy of the elector's current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, a copy of a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector.
- (F) A statement identifying the election for which absent voter's ballots are requested;
- (G) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is a qualified elector;
- (H) If the request is for primary election ballots, the elector's party affiliation;
- (I) If the elector desires ballots to be mailed to the elector, the address to which those ballots shall be mailed.

Each application for absent voter's ballots shall be delivered to the board not earlier than the first day of January of the year of the elections for which the absent voter's ballots are requested or not earlier than ninety days before the day of the election at which the ballots are to be voted, whichever is earlier, and not later than twelve noon of the third day before the day of the election at which the ballots are to be voted, or not later than ~~the close of regular business hours~~ six p.m. on the ~~day~~ last Friday before the day of the election at which the ballots are to be voted if the application is delivered in person to the office of the board.

A board of elections shall not mail any unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots. A board shall only mail an absent voter's ballot application to an elector who has requested such an application from the board. A board of elections that mails an absent voter's ballot application to an elector under this section shall not prepay the return postage for that

application.

Sec. 3509.04. (A) If a board of elections receives an application for absent voter's ballots that does not contain all of the required information, the board promptly shall notify the applicant of the additional information required to be provided by the applicant to complete that application.

(B) Upon receipt by the board of elections of an application for absent voter's ballots that contains all of the required information, as provided by ~~sections~~ section 3509.03 ~~and 3509.031~~ and division (G) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code, the board, if the board finds that the applicant is a qualified elector, shall deliver to the applicant in person or mail directly to the applicant by special delivery mail, air mail, or regular mail, postage prepaid, proper absent voter's ballots. The board shall deliver or mail with the ballots an unsealed identification envelope upon the face of which shall be printed a form substantially as follows:

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter

I,(Name of voter), declare under penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope.

My voting residence in Ohio is

.....

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number)

of (City, Village, or Township) Ohio, which is in Ward Precinct in that city, village, or township.

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope are primary election ballots of the Party.

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at the (general, special, or primary) election to be held on the day of,

My date of birth is (Month and Day), (Year).

(Voter must provide one of the following:)

My driver's license number is (Driver's license number).

My state identification card number is (Ohio identification card number).

~~My~~ The last four digits of my Social Security Number is are (Last four digits of Social Security Number).

..... In lieu of providing a driver's license number, state identification card number, or the last four digits of my Social Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of one of the following in the return envelope in which this identification envelope will be mailed: a current and valid photo

identification, a military identification, a United States passport, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections, that shows my name and address.

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that the statements above are true, as I verily believe.

.....

(Signature of Voter)

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."

The board of elections shall mail with the ballots and the unsealed identification envelope an unsealed return envelope upon the face of which shall be printed the official title and post-office address of the board. In the upper left corner on the face of the return envelope, several blank lines shall be printed upon which the voter may write the voter's name and return address. The return envelope shall be of such size that the identification envelope can be conveniently placed within it for returning the identification envelope to the board.

Sec. 3509.05. (A) When an elector receives an absent voter's ballot pursuant to the elector's application or request, the elector shall, before placing any marks on the ballot, note whether there are any voting marks on it. If there are any voting marks, the ballot shall be returned immediately to the board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall cause the ballot to be marked, folded in a manner that the stub on it and the indorsements and facsimile signatures of the members of the board of elections on it are visible, and placed and sealed within the identification envelope received from the board of elections for that purpose. Then, the elector shall cause the statement of voter on the outside of the identification envelope to be completed and signed, under penalty of election falsification.

If the elector does not provide the elector's driver's license number, state identification card number, or the last four digits of the elector's social security number on the statement of voter on the identification envelope, the elector also shall include in the return envelope with the identification envelope a copy of the elector's current valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, a copy of a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector.

The elector shall mail the identification envelope to the board of

elections from which it was received in the return envelope, postage prepaid, or the elector may personally deliver it to the office of the board, or the spouse of the elector, the father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, or sister of the whole or half blood, or the son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of the elector may deliver it to the board. The return envelope shall be transmitted to the board in no other manner, except as provided in section 3509.08 of the Revised Code.

When absent voter's ballots are delivered to an elector at the office of the board, the elector may retire to a voting compartment provided by the board and there mark the ballots. Thereupon, the elector shall fold them, place them in the identification envelope provided, seal the envelope, fill in and sign the statement on the envelope under penalty of election falsification, and deliver the envelope to the board.

Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this section, all other envelopes containing marked absent voter's ballots shall be delivered to the board not later than the close of the polls on the day of an election. Absent voter's ballots delivered to the board later than the times specified shall not be counted, but shall be kept by the board in the sealed identification envelopes in which they are delivered to the board, until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed.

(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) of this section, any return envelope that is postmarked prior to the day of the election shall be delivered to the board prior to the eleventh day after the election. Ballots delivered in envelopes postmarked prior to the day of the election that are received after the close of the polls on election day through the tenth day thereafter shall be counted on the eleventh day at the board of elections in the manner provided in divisions (C) and (D) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code. Any such ballots that are received by the board later than the tenth day following the election shall not be counted, but shall be kept by the board in the sealed identification envelopes as provided in division (A) of this section.

(2) Division (B)(1) of this section shall not apply to any mail that is postmarked using a postage evidencing system, including a postage meter, as defined in 39 C.F.R. 501.1.

(C) Upon receipt of any return envelope prior to the eleventh day after the day of any election, the board of elections shall open it but shall not open the identification envelope contained in it. If, upon so opening the

return envelope, the board finds ballots in it that are not enclosed in and properly sealed in the identification envelope, the board shall not look at the markings upon the ballots and shall promptly place them in the identification envelope and promptly seal it. If, upon so opening the return envelope, the board finds that ballots are enclosed in the identification envelope but that it is not properly sealed, the board shall not look at the markings upon the ballots and shall promptly seal the identification envelope.

Sec. 3509.07. If election officials find that the statement accompanying an absent voter's ballot or absent voter's presidential ballot is insufficient, that the signatures do not correspond with the person's registration signature, that the elector has not included the elector's birth date or printed name on the identification envelope statement of voter, that the applicant is not a qualified elector in the precinct, that the ballot envelope contains more than one ballot of any one kind, or any voted ballot that the elector is not entitled to vote, that Stub A is not included in the envelope with the absent voter's ballot or absent voter's presidential ballot, or that the elector has not included with the elector's ballot any identification required under section 3509.05 or 3511.09 of the Revised Code, the vote shall not be accepted or counted. The vote of any absent voter may be challenged for cause in the same manner as other votes are challenged, and the election officials shall determine the legality of that ballot. Every ballot not counted shall be endorsed on its back "Not Counted" with the reasons the ballot was not counted, and shall be enclosed and returned to or retained by the board of elections along with the contested ballots.

Sec. 3509.10. If a board of elections receives an application for absent voter's ballots under this chapter and it is apparent to the board that the absent voter is a uniformed services voter or overseas voter, as defined in section 3511.01 of the Revised Code, the board shall consider that applicant to have applied for uniformed services or overseas ballots under Chapter 3511. of the Revised Code and shall provide those ballots to that voter in accordance with the timelines and procedures applicable to uniformed services and overseas absent voters.

Sec. 3511.01. As used in this chapter:

(A) "Dependent" means a person who is recognized as a dependent by one of the uniformed services.

(B) "Overseas voter" means any of the following:

(1) A person who is outside of the United States and who, before leaving the United States, was last eligible to vote in this state, who may be considered a state resident using the standards for residency established in

sections 3503.02 and 3511.011 of the Revised Code, and who otherwise satisfies the requirements to vote in this state;

(2) A person who is outside of the United States and who, before leaving the United States, would have been eligible to vote in this state had the person then been eighteen years of age or older, who may be considered a state resident using the standards for residency established in sections 3503.02 and 3511.011 of the Revised Code, and who otherwise satisfies the requirements to vote in this state;

(3) A person who was born outside of the United States, who may be considered a state resident using the standards for residency established in sections 3503.02 and 3511.011 of the Revised Code, and who otherwise satisfies the requirements to vote in this state, if both of the following apply:

(a) The last place where the person's parent or legal guardian was, or would have been, eligible to vote before leaving the United States is within this state; and

(b) The person has not previously registered to vote in any other state.

(C) "Uniformed services" means:

(1) Active and reserve components of the army, navy, air force, marine corps, or coast guard of the United States;

(2) The merchant marine, the commissioned corps of the public health service, or the commissioned corps of the national oceanic and atmospheric administration of the United States;

(3) The national guard and the organized militia.

(D) "Uniformed services voter" means an individual who is qualified to vote in this state and who is:

(1) A member of one of the uniformed services described in division (C)(1) or (2) of this section;

(2) A member of one of the uniformed services described in division (C)(3) of this section who is on activated status.

(3) A spouse or dependent of a uniformed services voter.

~~Sec. 3511.01~~ 3511.011. Any section of the Revised Code to the contrary notwithstanding, any person who qualifies as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter, ~~as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6,~~ who will be eighteen years of age or more on the day of a general or special election and who is a citizen of the United States; may vote uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots in such general or special election as follows:

(A) If an absent uniformed services member is the voter, the service member may vote only in the precinct in which the service member has a voting residence in the state, and that voting residence shall be that place in the precinct in which the service member resided immediately preceding the

commencement of such service, provided that the time during which the service member continuously resided in the state immediately preceding the commencement of such service plus the time subsequent to such commencement and prior to the day of such general, special, or primary election is equal to or exceeds thirty days.

(B) If the spouse or dependent of an absent uniformed services member is the voter, the spouse or dependent may vote only in the precinct in which the spouse or dependent has a voting residence in the state, and that voting residence shall be that place in the precinct in which the spouse or dependent resided immediately preceding the time of leaving the state for the purpose of being with or near the service member, provided that the time during which the spouse or dependent continuously resided in the state immediately preceding the time of leaving the state for the purpose of being with or near the service member plus the time subsequent to such leaving and prior to the day of such general, special, or primary election is equal to or exceeds thirty days.

(C) If an absent uniformed services member or the service member's spouse or dependent establishes a permanent residence in a precinct other than the precinct in which the person resided immediately preceding the commencement of the service member's service, the voting residence of both the service member and the service member's spouse or dependent shall be the precinct of such permanent residence, provided that the time during which the service member continuously resided in the state immediately preceding the commencement of such service plus the time subsequent to such commencement and prior to the day of such general, special, or primary election is equal to or exceeds thirty days.

(D) ¶ (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section, if an overseas voter who is not an absent uniformed services voter or the spouse or dependent of an absent uniformed services voter is the voter, the overseas voter may vote only in the precinct in which the overseas voter has a voting residence in the state, and that voting residence shall be that place in the precinct in which the overseas voter resided immediately before leaving the United States, provided that the time during which the overseas voter continuously resided in the state immediately preceding such departure and prior to the day of such general, special, or primary election is equal to or exceeds thirty days.

(2) A person who was born outside of the United States and who meets the definition of "overseas voter" under division (B)(3) of section 3511.01 of the Revised Code shall be deemed to have a voting residence in this state at that place in the precinct in which the person's parent or guardian last

resided immediately before leaving the United States, provided that the time during which the person's parent or guardian continuously resided in the state immediately preceding such departure and prior to the day of the general, special, or primary election is equal to or exceeds thirty days.

Sec. 3511.02. Notwithstanding any section of the Revised Code to the contrary, whenever any person applies for registration as a voter on a form adopted in accordance with federal regulations relating to the "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act," 100 Stat. 924, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973ff (1986), this application shall be sufficient for voter registration and as a request for an absent voter's ballot. Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots may be obtained by any person meeting the requirements of section ~~3511.01~~ 3511.011 of the Revised Code by applying electronically to the secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located in accordance with section 3511.021 of the Revised Code or by applying to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located, in one of the following ways:

(A) That person may make written application for those ballots. The person may personally deliver the application to the board or may mail it, send it by facsimile machine, send it by electronic mail, send it through internet delivery if such delivery is offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, or otherwise send it to the board. The application need not be in any particular form but shall contain all of the following information:

- (1) The elector's name;
- (2) The elector's signature;
- (3) The address at which the elector is registered to vote;
- (4) The elector's date of birth;
- (5) One of the following:
 - (a) The elector's driver's license number or state identification card number;
 - (b) The last four digits of the elector's social security number;
 - (c) A copy of the elector's current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, a copy of a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector.
- (6) A statement identifying the election for which absent voter's ballots are requested;
- (7) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is a qualified

elector;

(8) A statement that the elector is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6;

(9) A statement of the elector's length of residence in the state immediately preceding the commencement of service, immediately preceding the date of leaving to be with or near the service member, or immediately preceding leaving the United States, or a statement that the elector's parent or legal guardian resided in this state long enough to establish residency for voting purposes immediately preceding leaving the United States, whichever is applicable;

(10) If the request is for primary election ballots, the elector's party affiliation;

(11) If the elector desires ballots to be mailed to the elector, the address to which those ballots shall be mailed;

(12) If the elector desires ballots to be sent to the elector by facsimile machine, the telephone number to which they shall be so sent;

(13) If the elector desires ballots to be sent to the elector by electronic mail or, if offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, through internet delivery, the elector's electronic mail address or other internet contact information.

(B) A voter or any relative of a voter listed in division (C) of this section may use a single federal post card application to apply for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots for use at the primary and general elections in a given year and any special election to be held on the day in that year specified by division (E) of section 3501.01 of the Revised Code for the holding of a primary election, designated by the general assembly for the purpose of submitting constitutional amendments proposed by the general assembly to the voters of the state. A single federal postcard application shall be processed by the board of elections pursuant to section 3511.04 of the Revised Code the same as if the voter had applied separately for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots for each election.

(C) Application to have uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots mailed or sent by facsimile machine to such a person may be made by the spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother or sister of the whole blood or half blood, son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of such a person. The application shall be in writing upon a blank form furnished only by the board of elections or on a single federal post card as provided in division (B) of this section. The form of the application shall be prescribed by the

secretary of state. The board shall furnish that blank form to any of the relatives specified in this division desiring to make the application, only upon the request of such a relative made in person at the office of the board or upon the written request of such a relative mailed to the office of the board. The application, subscribed and sworn to by the applicant, shall contain all of the following:

- (1) The full name of the elector for whom ballots are requested;
- (2) A statement that the elector is an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6;
- (3) The address at which the elector is registered to vote;
- (4) A statement identifying the elector's length of residence in the state immediately preceding the commencement of service, immediately preceding the date of leaving to be with or near a service member, or immediately preceding leaving the United States, or a statement that the elector's parent or legal guardian resided in this state long enough to establish residency for voting purposes immediately preceding leaving the United States, as the case may be;
- (5) The elector's date of birth;
- (6) One of the following:
 - (a) The elector's driver's license number or state identification card number;
 - (b) The last four digits of the elector's social security number;
 - (c) A copy of the elector's current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, a copy of a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector.
- (7) A statement identifying the election for which absent voter's ballots are requested;
- (8) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is a qualified elector;
- (9) If the request is for primary election ballots, the elector's party affiliation;
- (10) A statement that the applicant bears a relationship to the elector as specified in division (C) of this section;
- (11) The address to which ballots shall be mailed ~~or~~, the telephone number to which ballots shall be sent by facsimile machine, the electronic mail address to which ballots shall be sent by electronic mail, or, if internet delivery is offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, the

internet contact information to which ballots shall be sent through internet delivery;

(12) The signature and address of the person making the application.

Each application for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots shall be delivered to the board not earlier than the first day of January of the year of the elections for which the uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots are requested or not earlier than ninety days before the day of the election at which the ballots are to be voted, whichever is earlier, and not later than twelve noon of the third day preceding the day of the election, or not later than ~~the close of regular business hours~~ six p.m. on the ~~day~~ last Friday before the day of the election at which those ballots are to be voted if the application is delivered in person to the office of the board.

(D) If the voter for whom the application is made is entitled to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors only, the applicant shall submit to the board in addition to the requirements of divisions (A), (B), and (C) of this section, a statement to the effect that the voter is qualified to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors and for no other offices.

Sec. 3511.021. (A)(1) The secretary of state shall establish procedures that allow any person who is eligible to vote as a uniformed services voter or an overseas voter in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6 to apply by electronic means to the office of the secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located for a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot.

(2) The procedures shall allow such a person who requests a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot application to express a preference for the manner in which the person will receive the requested application, whether by mail ~~or electronically~~, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or, if offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, through internet delivery. If the person completes and timely returns the application and the applicant is eligible to receive a ballot, the procedures shall allow the applicant to express a preference for the manner in which the person will receive the requested blank, unvoted ballots, whether by mail ~~or electronically~~, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or, if offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, through internet delivery. The requested items shall be transmitted by the board of elections of the county in which the person's voting residence is located by the preferred method. If the requestor does not express a preferred method, the requested items shall be delivered via standard mail.

(3) To the extent practicable, the procedures shall protect the security

and integrity of the ballot request and delivery process, and protect the privacy of the identity and personal data of the person when such applications and ballots are requested, processed, and sent.

(4) No person shall return by electronic means to the secretary of state, a board of elections, or any other entity a completed or voted uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot. If a ballot is so returned, the ballot shall not be accepted, processed, or counted.

(B)(1) The secretary of state, in coordination with the boards of elections, shall establish a free access system by which an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter may determine the following:

(a) Whether that person's request for a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot was received and processed;

(b) If the person's request was received and processed, when the uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot was sent;

(c) Whether any uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot returned by that person has been received by election officials;

(d) Whether the board of elections found any error on the identification envelope containing the person's returned uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot and, if so, how the person may correct any error within ten days after the day of an election; and

(e) Whether the person's uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot was counted.

(2) The appropriate state or local election official shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures necessary to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personal information that is confidential under state or federal law that is collected, stored, or otherwise used by the free access system established under division (B) of this section. Access to information about the votes cast on an individual ballot shall be restricted to the person who cast the ballot. To the extent practicable, the procedures shall protect the security and integrity of the process and protect the privacy of the identity and personal data of the person.

Sec. 3511.04. (A) If a board of elections receives an application for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots that does not contain all of the required information, the board promptly shall notify the applicant of the additional information required to be provided by the applicant to complete that application.

(B) Not later than the forty-fifth day before the day of each general or primary election, and at the earliest possible time before the day of a special election held on a day other than the day on which a general or primary election is held, the board of elections shall mail, send by facsimile machine,

send by electronic mail, send through internet delivery if such delivery is offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, or otherwise send uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots then ready for use as provided for in section 3511.03 of the Revised Code and for which the board has received valid applications prior to that time. Thereafter, and until twelve noon of the third day preceding the day of election, the board shall promptly, upon receipt of valid applications for them, mail, send by facsimile machine, send by electronic mail, send through internet delivery if such delivery is offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, or otherwise send to the proper persons all uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots then ready for use.

If, after the seventieth day before the day of a general or primary election, any other question, issue, or candidacy is lawfully ordered submitted to the electors voting at the general or primary election, the board shall promptly provide a separate official issue, special election, or other election ballot for submitting the question, issue, or candidacy to those electors and promptly ~~mail or~~ send by facsimile machine, send by electronic mail, send through internet delivery if such delivery is offered by the board of elections or the secretary of state, or otherwise send each such separate ballot to each person to whom the board has previously mailed or sent ~~by facsimile machine~~ other uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots.

In mailing uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots, the board shall use the fastest mail service available, but the board shall not mail them by certified mail.

Sec. 3511.05. (A) The board of elections shall place uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots sent by mail in an unsealed identification envelope, gummed ready for sealing. The board shall include with uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots sent electronically, including by facsimile machine, an instruction sheet for preparing a gummed envelope in which the ballots shall be returned. The envelope for returning ballots sent by either means shall have printed or written on its face a form substantially as follows:

"Identification Envelope Statement of Voter

I,(Name of voter), declare under penalty of election falsification that the within ballot or ballots contained no voting marks of any kind when I received them, and I caused the ballot or ballots to be marked, enclosed in the identification envelope, and sealed in that envelope.

My voting residence in Ohio is

.....

(Street and Number, if any, or Rural Route and Number) of (City, Village, or Township) Ohio, which is in Ward Precinct in that city, village, or township.

The primary election ballots, if any, within this envelope are primary election ballots of the Party.

Ballots contained within this envelope are to be voted at the (general, special, or primary) election to be held on the day of

My date of birth is (Month and Day), (Year).

(Voter must provide one of the following:)

My driver's license number is (Driver's license number).

My state identification card number is (Ohio identification card number).

~~My~~ The last four digits of my Social Security Number is are (Last four digits of Social Security Number).

..... In lieu of providing a driver's license number, state identification card number, or the last four digits of my Social Security Number, I am enclosing a copy of one of the following in the return envelope in which this identification envelope will be mailed: a current and valid photo identification, a military identification, a United States passport, or a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections, that shows my name and address.

I hereby declare, under penalty of election falsification, that the statements above are true, as I verily believe.

.....

(Signature of Voter)

WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE."

(B) The board shall also mail with the ballots and the unsealed identification envelope sent by mail an unsealed return envelope, gummed, ready for sealing, for use by the voter in returning the voter's marked ballots to the board. The board shall send with the ballots and the instruction sheet for preparing a gummed envelope sent electronically, including by facsimile machine, an instruction sheet for preparing a second gummed envelope as described in this division, for use by the voter in returning that voter's marked ballots to the board. The return envelope shall have two parallel lines, each one quarter of an inch in width, printed across its face paralleling the top, with an intervening space of one quarter of an inch between such lines. The top line shall be one and one-quarter inches from the top of the

envelope. Between the parallel lines shall be printed: "OFFICIAL ELECTION UNIFORMED SERVICES OR OVERSEAS ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOTS -- VIA AIR MAIL." Three blank lines shall be printed in the upper left corner on the face of the envelope for the use by the voter in placing the voter's complete military, naval, or mailing address on these lines, and beneath these lines there shall be printed a box beside the words "check if out-of-country." The voter shall check this box if the voter will be outside the United States on the day of the election. The official title and the post-office address of the board to which the envelope shall be returned shall be printed on the face of such envelope in the lower right portion below the bottom parallel line.

(C) On the back of each identification envelope and each return envelope shall be printed the following:

"Instructions to voter:

If the flap on this envelope is so firmly stuck to the back of the envelope when received by you as to require forcible opening in order to use it, open the envelope in the manner least injurious to it, and, after marking your ballots and enclosing same in the envelope for mailing them to the board of elections, reclose the envelope in the most practicable way, by sealing or otherwise, and sign the blank form printed below.

The flap on this envelope was firmly stuck to the back of the envelope when received, and required forced opening before sealing and mailing.

.....
 (Signature of voter)"

(D) Division (C) of this section does not apply when absent voter's ballots are sent electronically, including by facsimile machine.

Sec. 3511.09. Upon receiving uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots, the elector shall cause the questions on the face of the identification envelope to be answered, and, by writing the elector's usual signature in the proper place on the identification envelope, the elector shall declare under penalty of election falsification that the answers to those questions are true and correct to the best of the elector's knowledge and belief. Then, the elector shall note whether there are any voting marks on the ballot. If there are any voting marks, the ballot shall be returned immediately to the board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall cause the ballot to be marked, folded separately so as to conceal the markings on it, deposited in the identification envelope, and securely sealed in the identification envelope. The elector then shall cause the identification envelope to be placed within the return envelope, sealed in the return envelope, and mailed to the board of elections to whom it is addressed,

postage prepaid. The ballot shall be submitted for mailing not later than 12:01 a.m. at the place where the voter completes the ballot, on the date of the election. If the elector does not provide the elector's driver's license number, state identification card number, or the last four digits of the elector's social security number on the statement of voter on the identification envelope, the elector also shall include in the return envelope with the identification envelope a copy of the elector's current valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, a copy of a United States passport, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector. Each elector who will be outside the United States on the day of the election shall check the box on the return envelope indicating this fact and shall mail the return envelope to the board prior to the close of the polls on election day.

Every uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot identification envelope shall be accompanied by the following statement in boldface capital letters: **WHOEVER COMMITS ELECTION FALSIFICATION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY OF THE FIFTH DEGREE.**

Sec. 3511.10. If, during the time that absent voter's ballots may be cast in person before an election, a valid application for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots is delivered to the office of the board of elections by a person making the application on the person's own behalf, the board shall forthwith deliver to the person all uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots then ready for use, together with an identification envelope. The person shall then immediately retire to a voting booth in the office of the board, and mark the ballots. The person shall then fold each ballot separately so as to conceal the person's markings thereon, and deposit all of the ballots in the identification envelope and securely seal it. Thereupon the person shall fill in answers to the questions on the face of the identification envelope, and by writing the person's usual signature in the proper place thereon, the person shall declare under penalty of election falsification that the answers to those questions are true and correct to the best of that person's knowledge and belief. The person shall then deliver the identification envelope to the board. If thereafter, and before the third day preceding such election, the board provides additional separate official issue or special election ballots, as provided for in section 3511.04 of the Revised Code, the board shall promptly, and not later than twelve noon of the third day preceding the day of election, mail such additional ballots to such person at the address specified by that person for that purpose.

In the event any person serving in the armed forces of the United States is discharged after the closing date of registration, and that person or that person's spouse, or both, meets all the other qualifications set forth in section ~~3511.04~~ 3511.011 of the Revised Code, the person or spouse shall be permitted to vote prior to the date of the election in the office of the board in the person's or spouse's county, as set forth in this section.

Sec. 3511.11. (A) Upon receipt of any return envelope bearing the designation "Official Election Uniformed Services or Overseas Absent Voter's Ballot" prior to the eleventh day after the day of any election, the board of elections shall open it but shall not open the identification envelope contained in it. If, upon so opening the return envelope, the board finds ballots in it that are not enclosed in and properly sealed in the identification envelope, the board shall not look at the markings upon the ballots and shall promptly place them in the identification envelope and promptly seal it. If, upon so opening the return envelope, the board finds that ballots are enclosed in the identification envelope but that it is not properly sealed, the board shall not look at the markings upon the ballots and shall promptly seal the identification envelope.

(B) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots delivered to the board not later than the close of the polls on election day shall be counted in the manner provided in section 3509.06 of the Revised Code.

(C) A return envelope ~~that indicates that the voter will be outside of the United States on the day of an election~~ is not required to be postmarked in order for a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot contained in it to be valid. Except as otherwise provided in this division, whether or not the return envelope containing the ballot is postmarked, contains a late postmark, or contains an illegible postmark, a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot that is received after the close of the polls on election day through the tenth day after the election day ~~and that is delivered in a return envelope that indicates that the voter will be outside the United States on the day of the election~~ shall be counted on the eleventh day after the election day at the office of the board of elections in the manner provided in divisions (C) and (D) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code, if the voter signed the identification envelope by the time specified in section 3511.09 of the Revised Code. However, if a return envelope containing a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot is so received and so indicates, but ~~it is postmarked~~, or the identification envelope in it is signed, after the close of the polls on election day, the uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot shall not be counted.

~~(D)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(2) of this section,~~

~~any return envelope containing a uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballot that is postmarked within the United States prior to the day of the election shall be delivered to the board prior to the eleventh day after the election. Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots delivered in envelopes postmarked prior to the day of the election that are received after the close of the polls on election day through the tenth day thereafter shall be counted on the eleventh day at the board of elections in the manner provided in divisions (C) and (D) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code. Any such ballots that are received by the board later than the tenth day following the election shall not be counted, but shall be kept by the board in the sealed identification envelopes as provided in division (A) of this section.~~

~~(2) Division (D)(1) of this section shall not apply to any mail that is postmarked using a postage evidencing system, including a postage meter, as defined in 39 C.F.R. 501.1.~~

~~(E)~~ The following types of uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots shall not be counted:

(1) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots contained in return envelopes that bear the designation "Official Election Uniformed Services or Overseas Absent Voter's Ballots," that are received by the board after the close of the polls on the day of the election, and that ~~either are postmarked, or contain an identification envelope that is signed, on or after election day~~ the time specified in section 3511.09 of the Revised Code;

(2) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots contained in return envelopes that bear that designation, ~~that do not indicate they are from voters who will be outside the United States on the day of the election,~~ and that are received after the tenth day following the election;

~~(3) Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots contained in return envelopes that bear that designation, that are received by the board within ten days after the day of the election, and that were postmarked before the day of the election using a postage evidencing system, including a postage meter, as defined in 39 C.F.R. 501.1.~~

The uncounted ballots shall be preserved in their identification envelopes unopened until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they shall be destroyed.

Sec. 3511.14. (A) A board of elections shall accept and process federal write-in absentee ballots for all elections for federal, state, and or local elections conducted office and for all ballot questions and issues in any year as required under "The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting

Act," Pub. L. No. 99-410, 100 Stat. 924, 42 U.S.C. 1973ff, et seq., as amended.

(B) A uniformed services or overseas 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 not later than thirty days before the day of the election. If the declaration is received after that date, the declaration shall be considered an application to register to vote for all subsequent elections.

Sec. 3511.15. If an international, national, state, or local emergency or other situation arises that makes substantial compliance with the "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act," 42 U.S.C. 1973ff, et seq., as amended, impossible or impracticable, as confirmed by the existence of armed conflict involving United States armed forces or the mobilization of those forces, including Ohio national guard and reserve component members of this state, or by the occurrence of a natural disaster or the existence of a state of emergency, civil unrest, war, or other exigency in a foreign country, or by an official declaration by the governor that a state of emergency exists, the governor directly, or by delegation to the secretary of state, may prescribe, by emergency order or rule, a special procedure or requirement as may be necessary to facilitate absent voting by those absent uniformed services voters or overseas voters directly affected who are eligible to vote in this state. The secretary of state shall take reasonable steps to provide absent uniformed services or overseas voters with timely notice of any special procedure or requirement prescribed under this section.

Sec. 3511.16. (A) At least one hundred days before the day of a regularly scheduled election and as soon as practicable before an election that is not regularly scheduled, the board of elections of each county shall prepare an election notice for each precinct in which the election is to be conducted, to be used in conjunction with a federal write-in absentee ballot. The election notice shall contain a list of all of the ballot questions and issues and all federal, state, and local offices that, as of that date, the board expects to be on the ballot at that election. The notice also shall contain specific instructions on how a uniformed services or overseas voter is to indicate on the federal write-in absentee ballot the voter's choice for each office to be filled and for each ballot question and issue to be contested.

(B) A uniformed services or overseas voter may request a copy of an election notice prepared under division (A) of this section. The board of elections shall send the notice to the voter by facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or regular mail, as the voter requests.

(C) As soon as the form of the ballot is certified, and not later than the

date uniformed services and overseas ballots are required to be transmitted to voters under section 3509.01 of the Revised Code, the board shall update the notice with the certified candidates for each office and ballot questions and issues and make the updated notice publicly available.

(D) A board of elections that maintains an internet web site shall make the election notice prepared under division (A) of this section and updated versions of the election notice regularly available on that web site.

SECTION 2. That existing sections 3501.13, 3503.02, 3503.14, 3503.19, 3503.191, 3503.28, 3505.18, 3505.181, 3505.183, 3509.021, 3509.03, 3509.04, 3509.05, 3509.07, 3511.01, 3511.02, 3511.021, 3511.04, 3511.05, 3511.09, 3511.10, 3511.11, and 3511.14 and sections 3503.20 and 3509.031 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding any provision of Am. Sub. H.B. 194 of the 129th General Assembly to the contrary, on and after the effective date of that act all provisions of Title XXXV of the Revised Code that refer to an elector providing the elector's Social Security Number on any document under the Election Law shall require only the last four digits of the elector's Social Security Number to be provided.

SECTION 4. Sections 3 and 4 of this act are hereby declared to be emergency measures necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is to ensure that Ohio voters are not disenfranchised by a temporary change to the number of digits of the elector's Social Security Number to be included on election-related documents. Therefore, Sections 3 and 4 of this act go into immediate effect.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

Am. Sub. H. B. No. 224

129th G.A.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ___ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____