



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

S.B. 227

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Tavares and Turner, Skindell, Sawyer

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits an elector to send an application for an absent voter's ballot to the director of a board of elections by electronic mail or Internet delivery, if the board or the Secretary of State offers Internet delivery.
- Permits a board of elections to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots to any person registered to vote in that county.
- Requires the General Assembly to appropriate funds to the Secretary of State to pay costs incurred for mailing unsolicited absent voter's ballot applications for a general election conducted in an even-numbered year.
- Requires the Secretary of State to use those funds to reimburse the boards of elections for any costs the boards incur to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots for such an election.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Electronic absent voter's ballot request

The bill permits an elector to send an application for an absent voter's ballot to the director of a board of elections by electronic mail or Internet delivery, if the board or the Secretary of State offers Internet delivery.

Under continuing law, an elector may deliver such an application to the director of a board of elections in person or by mail.

Mailing unsolicited absent voter's ballot applications

The bill permits a board of elections to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots to any person registered to vote in that county.

Further, the bill requires the General Assembly to appropriate funds to the Secretary of State to pay costs incurred for mailing those applications for a general election conducted in an even-numbered year. The Secretary of State must use those funds to reimburse the boards of elections for any costs the boards incur to mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots for such an election.

Current law does not specify whether a board of elections may mail unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots (see **COMMENT**).¹

COMMENT

Current law, as it is shown in the bill, appears to prohibit a board of elections from mailing unsolicited applications for absent voter's ballots and from prepaying the return postage for an absent voter's ballot application. However, those provisions were repealed in S.B. 295 of the 129th General Assembly.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	09-20-11

S0227-i-129/ejs

¹ R.C. 3509.03.

