

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to overseas absentee ballots; amending s. 101.697, F.S.; requiring the Department of State to develop instructions and procedures for the electronic submission of voted absentee ballots from overseas voters; requiring the department, in consultation with supervisors of elections, to develop security measures; prescribing requirements for such security measures; requiring the department to perform an annual security assessment; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 101.697, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.697 Electronic transmission of election materials.—The Department of State shall ~~determine whether secure electronic means can be established for receiving ballots from overseas voters. If such security can be established, the department shall~~ adopt rules to authorize a supervisor of elections to accept from an overseas voter, including uniformed and civilian overseas absentee voters, a request for an absentee ballot or a voted absentee ballot by secure facsimile machine transmission or other secure electronic means. The rules must provide that in order to accept a voted ballot, the verification of the voter

27 | must be established, the security of the transmission must be  
28 | established, and each ballot received must be recorded. The  
29 | department shall provide instructions, procedures, and services  
30 | for the secure return of voted absentee ballots by electronic  
31 | means under this section. The department shall, in consultation  
32 | with supervisors of elections, develop security measures to  
33 | ensure the accuracy and integrity of absentee voting by  
34 | electronic means and to reasonably secure the transmission,  
35 | processing, and storage of voter data from interception and  
36 | unauthorized access. The department shall perform an annual  
37 | security assessment after each election to evaluate the number  
38 | of or any discrepancy in the votes received electronically.

39 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.