

By Senator Joyner

19-01371A-15

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1 A bill to be entitled

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

12  
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

14  
15 Section 1. Section 101.697, Florida Statutes, is amended to  
16 read:

17 101.697 Electronic transmission of election materials.—The  
18 Department of State shall ~~determine whether secure electronic~~  
19 ~~means can be established for receiving ballots from overseas~~  
20 ~~voters. If such security can be established, the department~~  
21 ~~shall~~ adopt rules to authorize a supervisor of elections to  
22 accept from an overseas voter, including uniformed and civilian  
23 overseas absentee voters, a request for an absentee ballot or a  
24 voted absentee ballot by secure facsimile machine transmission  
25 or other secure electronic means. The rules must provide that in  
26 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

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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.