

By Senator Joyner

19-01244-16

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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.

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

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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 services and
23 civilian overseas absentee voters, a request for an absentee
24 ballot or a voted absentee ballot by secure facsimile machine
25 transmission or other secure electronic means. The rules must
26 provide that in order to accept a voted ballot, the verification
27 of the voter must be established, the security of the
28 transmission must be established, and each ballot received must
29 be recorded. The department shall provide instructions,

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

40 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.