

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435**

OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of title V the following new subtitle:

1 **Subtitle K—Uniformed Services**
2 **Voting**

3 **SEC. 599. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This subtitle may be cited as the “Safeguarding Elec-
5 tions for our Nation’s Troops through Reforms and Im-
6 provements Act” or “SENTRI Act”.

7 **SEC. 599A. PROVISION OF ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.**

8 (a) ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 80 of title 10,
10 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
11 section 1566a the following new section:

12 **“§ 1566b. Annual voter assistance**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
14 carry out the following activities:

15 “(1) In coordination with the Secretary of each
16 military department—

17 “(A) affirmatively offer, on an annual
18 basis, each member of the armed forces on ac-
19 tive duty (other than active duty for training)

1 the opportunity, through the online system de-
2 veloped under paragraph (2), to—

3 “(i) register to vote in an election for
4 Federal office;

5 “(ii) update the member’s voter reg-
6 istration information; or

7 “(iii) request an absentee ballot;

8 “(B) provide services to such members for
9 the purpose of carrying out the activities in
10 clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A);
11 and

12 “(C) require any such member who de-
13 clines the offer for voter assistance under sub-
14 subparagraph (A) to indicate and record that deci-
15 sion.

16 “(2) Implement an online system that, to the
17 extent practicable, is integrated with the existing
18 systems of each of the military departments and
19 that—

20 “(A) provides an electronic means for car-
21 rying out the requirements of paragraph (1);

22 “(B) in the case of an individual reg-
23 istering to vote in a State that accepts elec-
24 tronic voter registration and operates its own
25 electronic voter registration system using a

1 form that meets the requirements for mail voter
2 registration forms under section 9(b) of the Na-
3 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42
4 U.S.C. 1973gg-7(b)), directs such individual to
5 that system; and

6 “(C) in the case of an individual using the
7 official postcard form prescribed under section
8 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-
9 zens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1973ff(b)(2)) to register to vote and request an
11 absentee ballot—

12 “(i) pre-populates such official post-
13 card form with the personal information of
14 such individual, and

15 “(ii)(I) produces the pre-populated
16 form and a pre-addressed envelope for use
17 in transmitting such official postcard form;
18 or

19 “(II) transmits the completed official
20 postcard form electronically to the appro-
21 priate State or local election officials.

22 “(3) Implement a system (either independently
23 or in conjunction with the online system under para-
24 graph (2)) by which any change of address by a
25 member of the armed forces on active duty who is

1 undergoing a permanent change of station, deploying
2 overseas for at least six months, or returning from
3 an overseas deployment of at least six months auto-
4 matically triggers a notification via electronic means
5 to such member that—

6 “(A) indicates that such member’s voter
7 registration or absentee mailing address should
8 be updated with the appropriate State or local
9 election officials; and

10 “(B) includes instructions on how to up-
11 date such voter registration using the online
12 system developed under paragraph (2).

13 “(b) DATA COLLECTION.—The online system devel-
14 oped under subsection (a)(2) shall collect and store all
15 data required to meet the reporting requirements of sec-
16 tion 599A(b) of the Safeguarding Elections for our Na-
17 tion’s Troops through Reforms and Improvements Act and
18 section 105A(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-
19 zens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–4a(b)(2)) in
20 a manner that complies with section 552a of title 5,
21 United States Code, (commonly known as the Privacy Act
22 of 1974) and imposes no new record management burden
23 on any military unit or military installation.

24 “(c) TIMING OF VOTER ASSISTANCE.—To the extent
25 practicable, the voter assistance under subsection (a)(1)

1 shall be offered as a part of each servicemember's annual
2 training.

3 “(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of De-
5 fense shall prescribe regulations implementing the require-
6 ments of subsection (a). Such regulations shall include
7 procedures to inform those members of the armed forces
8 on active duty (other than active duty for training) experi-
9 encing a change of address about the benefits of this sec-
10 tion and the timeframe for requesting an absentee ballot
11 to ensure sufficient time for State delivery of the ballot.”.

12 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
13 tions at the beginning of chapter 80 of such title is
14 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
15 tion 1566a the following new item:

“1566b. Annual voter assistance.”.

16 (b) REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary of Defense shall submit to the relevant com-
20 mittees of Congress a report on the status of the im-
21 plementation of the requirements of section 1566b of
22 title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection
23 (a)(1).

24 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph
25 (1) shall include—

1 (A) a detailed description of any specific
2 steps already taken towards the implementation
3 of the requirements of such section 1566b;

4 (B) a detailed plan for the implementation
5 of such requirements, including milestones and
6 deadlines for the completion of such implemen-
7 tation;

8 (C) the costs expected to be incurred in the
9 implementation of such requirements;

10 (D) a description of how the annual voting
11 assistance and system under subsection (a)(3)
12 of such section will be integrated with Depart-
13 ment of Defense personnel databases that track
14 military servicemembers' address changes;

15 (E) an estimate of how long it will take an
16 average member to complete the voter assist-
17 ance process required under subsection (a)(1)
18 of such section;

19 (F) an explanation of how the Secretary of
20 Defense will collect reliable data on the utiliza-
21 tion of the online system under subsection
22 (a)(2) of such section; and

23 (G) a summary of any objections, con-
24 cerns, or comments made by State or local elec-

1 tion officials regarding the implementation of
2 such section.

3 (3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
4 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “relevant com-
5 mittees of Congress” means—

6 (A) the Committees on Appropriations,
7 Armed Services, and Rules and Administration
8 of the Senate; and

9 (B) the Committees on Appropriations,
10 Armed Services, and House Administration of
11 the House of Representatives.

12 **SEC. 599B. REPEAL OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

13 Section 1604 of the National Defense Authorization
14 Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1973ff note) is re-
15 pealed.
16

17 **SEC. 599C. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR**
18 **VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF**
19 **ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 705 of
21 the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595)
22 is amended—

23 (1) by striking “a person who is absent from a
24 State because the person is accompanying the
25 persons’s spouse who is absent from that same State

1 in compliance with military or naval orders shall not,
2 solely by reason of that absence” and inserting “a
3 dependent of a person who is absent from a State
4 in compliance with military orders shall not, solely
5 by reason of absence, whether or not accompanying
6 that person”; and

7 (2) in the heading by striking “SPOUSES” and
8 inserting “DEPENDENTS”.

9 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of sec-
10 tion 705 of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595) is amended
11 by striking “**SPOUSES**” and inserting “**DEPENDENTS**”.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
13 this section shall apply with respect to absences from
14 States described in section 705(b) of the Servicemembers
15 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595(b)), as amended by
16 subsection (a), after the date of the enactment of this Act,
17 regardless of the date of the military orders concerned.

18 **SEC. 599C. DESIGNATION OF VOTER ASSISTANCE OFFICES.**

19 Section 1566a of title 10, United States Code, is
20 amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by striking “Not later than” and all
23 that follows through “subsection (f), the Secre-
24 taries” and inserting “The Secretaries”; and

1 (B) by striking “shall designate” and in-
2 serting “may designate”;

3 (2) in subsection (c), by striking “shall ensure”
4 and all that follows through “necessity,” and insert-
5 ing “may ensure”;

6 (3) in subsection (d), by striking “shall” and
7 inserting “may”;

8 (4) in subsection (e), by striking the second
9 sentence and inserting the following: “Any office so
10 designated may provide voting assistance described
11 in this section.”; and

12 (5) in subsection (f)—

13 (A) in the first sentence—

14 (i) by striking “shall” and inserting
15 “may”; and

16 (ii) by striking “the requirements of”;

17 and

18 (B) by striking the second sentence.

