

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 13-185—sSB 647

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Government Administration and Elections Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING VOTING BY MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY
SERVING OVERSEAS**

SUMMARY: By October 1, 2013, this act requires the secretary of the state, in consultation with the Military Department, to select a method for members of the armed forces stationed abroad and their family members living with them to return their voted overseas absentee ballots for any election or primary held after September 1, 2014. The method must (1) give due consideration to ballot security and privacy and (2) ensure that the municipality receives the ballot before the polls close, when the voter properly uses the method.

The secretary must submit a report to the Veterans' Affairs and Government Administration and Elections committees by January 1, 2014 describing the method and legislative changes necessary for its implementation.

The act applies to two types of write-in, overseas absentee ballots: (1) one for elections that is available 90 days before Election Day and (2) one for primaries and elections that is available when the list of candidates and questions to be voted on is set. It covers armed forces members and their family members, not other individuals living or traveling abroad who may vote using the second of these ballots. By law, "members of the armed forces" are active service members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, Merchant Marines, or Coast and Geodetic Survey (CGS § 9-134).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

OLR Tracking: DL:ND:TA:RO