

SENATE BILL No. 948

October 28, 2009, Introduced by Senator BROWN and referred to the Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight.

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
 "Michigan election law,"
 by amending section 759a (MCL 168.759a), as amended by 2006 PA 605.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 759a. (1) ~~A member of the armed services~~ **AN ABSENT**
 2 **UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER** or an overseas voter who is not
 3 registered, but possessed the qualifications of an elector under
 4 section 492, may apply for registration by using the federal
 5 postcard application. The department of state, bureau of elections,
 6 is responsible for disseminating information on the procedures for
 7 registering and voting to **AN absent** ~~armed~~ **UNIFORMED** services **VOTER**
 8 and **AN** overseas ~~voters~~ **VOTER**.
 9 ~~(2) Each of the following persons who is a qualified elector~~

1 ~~of a city, village, or township in this state and who is not a~~
 2 ~~registered voter may apply for an absent voter ballot:~~

3 ~~—— (a) A civilian employee of the armed services outside of the~~
 4 ~~United States.~~

5 ~~—— (b) A member of the armed services outside of the United~~
 6 ~~States.~~

7 ~~—— (c) A citizen of the United States temporarily residing~~
 8 ~~outside the territorial limits of the United States.~~

9 ~~—— (d) A citizen of the United States residing in the District of~~
 10 ~~Columbia.~~

11 (2) ~~(e)~~ UPON THE REQUEST OF AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER
 12 OR AN OVERSEAS VOTER, THE CLERK OF A COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, OR
 13 VILLAGE SHALL ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT A BLANK VOTER REGISTRATION
 14 APPLICATION OR BLANK ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATION TO THE VOTER.
 15 THE CLERK OF A COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, OR VILLAGE SHALL ACCEPT A
 16 COMPLETED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION OR COMPLETED ABSENT VOTER
 17 BALLOT APPLICATION ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED BY AN ABSENT
 18 UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER. A VOTER REGISTRATION
 19 APPLICATION OR ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY AN
 20 ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER SHALL CONTAIN THE
 21 SIGNATURE OF THE VOTER.

22 (3) AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR AN OVERSEAS VOTER,
 23 WHETHER OR NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE, MAY APPLY FOR AN ABSENT VOTER
 24 BALLOT. A spouse or dependent of a person described in ~~subdivisions~~
 25 ~~(a) through (d)~~ THIS SUBSECTION who is a citizen of the United
 26 States and who is accompanying that person, even though the spouse
 27 or dependent is not a qualified elector of a city, village, or

1 township of this state, if that spouse or dependent is not a
2 qualified and registered elector anywhere else in the United
3 States, **MAY APPLY FOR AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT.**

4 **(4) ~~(3)~~**—Upon receipt of an application **FOR AN ABSENT VOTER**
5 **BALLOT** under this section that complies with this act, a **COUNTY,**
6 city, village, or township clerk shall forward to the applicant the
7 absent voter ballots requested, the forms necessary for
8 registration, and instructions for completing the forms. If the
9 ballots are not yet available at the time of receipt of the
10 application, the clerk shall immediately forward to the applicant
11 the registration forms and instructions, and forward the ballots as
12 soon as they are available. **IF A FEDERAL POSTCARD APPLICATION IS**
13 **FILED, THE CLERK SHALL ACCEPT THE FEDERAL POSTCARD APPLICATION AS**
14 **THE REGISTRATION APPLICATION AND SHALL NOT SEND ANY ADDITIONAL**
15 **REGISTRATION FORMS TO THE APPLICANT.** If the ballots and
16 registration forms are received before the close of the polls on
17 election day and if the registration complies with the requirements
18 of this act, the absent voter ballots shall be delivered to the
19 proper election board to be ~~voted~~**TABULATED.** If the registration
20 does not comply with the requirements of this act, the clerk shall
21 retain the absent voter ballots until the expiration of the time
22 that the voted ballots must be kept and shall then destroy the
23 ballots without opening the envelope. The clerk may retain
24 registration forms completed under this section in a separate file.
25 The address in this state shown on a registration form is the
26 residence of the registrant.

27 **(5) NOT LATER THAN 45 DAYS BEFORE AN ELECTION, A COUNTY, CITY,**

1 TOWNSHIP, OR VILLAGE CLERK SHALL ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT OR MAIL AS
2 APPROPRIATE AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT TO EACH ABSENT UNIFORMED
3 SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER WHO APPLIED FOR AN ABSENT VOTER
4 BALLOT 45 DAYS OR MORE BEFORE THE ELECTION.

5 (6) UPON THE REQUEST OF AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR
6 OVERSEAS VOTER, THE CLERK OF A COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, OR VILLAGE
7 SHALL ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMIT A BLANK ABSENT VOTER BALLOT TO THE
8 VOTER. THE VOTER SHALL PRINT THE BLANK ABSENT VOTER BALLOT, MARK
9 THE BALLOT, AND RETURN THE BALLOT BY MAIL TO THE APPROPRIATE CLERK.

10 (7) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL PRESCRIBE ELECTRONIC ABSENT
11 VOTER BALLOT FORMATS AND ELECTRONIC ABSENT VOTER BALLOT
12 TRANSMISSION METHODS. EACH COUNTY, CITY, TOWNSHIP, OR VILLAGE CLERK
13 SHALL EMPLOY THE PRESCRIBED ELECTRONIC BALLOT FORMATS TO FULFILL AN
14 ABSENT VOTER BALLOT REQUEST RECEIVED FROM AN ABSENT UNIFORMED
15 SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER WHO WISHES TO RECEIVE HIS OR HER
16 ABSENT VOTER BALLOT THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION. THE
17 SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE
18 REQUIREMENTS IN THIS SECTION AND FOR THE PROCESSING OF A MARKED
19 ABSENT VOTER BALLOT RETURNED BY AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER
20 OR OVERSEAS VOTER WHO OBTAINED HIS OR HER ABSENT VOTER BALLOT
21 THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION.

22 (8) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL MODIFY THE PRINTED STATEMENT
23 PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 761(4) AND THE ABSENT VOTER BALLOT
24 INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED UNDER SECTION 764A AS APPROPRIATE TO
25 ACCOMMODATE THE PROCEDURES DEVELOPED FOR ELECTRONICALLY
26 TRANSMITTING AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT TO AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES
27 VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER. A STATEMENT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE

1 CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY THE ABSENT VOTER WHO OBTAINED HIS OR HER
 2 ABSENT VOTER BALLOT THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION THAT THE
 3 SECRECY OF THE ABSENT VOTER BALLOT MAY BE COMPROMISED DURING THE
 4 DUPLICATION PROCESS. THE ABSENT VOTER BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED
 5 TO AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER SHALL
 6 INCLUDE THE PROPER PROCEDURES FOR RETURNING THE ABSENT VOTER BALLOT
 7 TO THE APPROPRIATE CLERK.

8 (9) ~~(4)~~—The size of a precinct shall not be determined by
 9 registration forms completed under this section.

10 (10) ~~(5)~~ A member of the armed services **AN ABSENT UNIFORMED**
 11 **SERVICES VOTER** or an overseas voter, ~~as described in subsection~~
 12 ~~(2), who registers to vote by federal postcard application under~~
 13 ~~subsection (1), and who applies to vote as an absent voter by~~
 14 ~~federal postcard~~ **WHO SUBMITS AN ABSENT VOTER BALLOT** application is
 15 eligible to vote as an absent voter in any local or state election
 16 ~~, including any school election, occurring in the calendar year in~~
 17 which the ~~federal postcard~~ **ABSENT VOTER BALLOT** application is
 18 received by the **COUNTY**, city, village, or township clerk, but not
 19 in an election for which the application is received by the clerk
 20 after 2 p.m. of the Saturday before the election. A **COUNTY**, city,
 21 or township clerk receiving a ~~federal postcard~~ **AN ABSENT VOTER**
 22 **BALLOT** application **FROM AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR**
 23 **OVERSEAS VOTER** shall transmit to a village clerk and **THE** school
 24 district election ~~coordinator~~ **COORDINATORS**, where applicable, the
 25 necessary information to enable the village clerk and school
 26 district election ~~coordinator~~ **COORDINATORS** to forward an absent
 27 voter ballot for each applicable election in that calendar year to

1 the ~~qualified elector submitting the federal postcard application~~
 2 **ABSENT VOTER**. A village clerk receiving a ~~federal postcard AN~~
 3 **ABSENT VOTER BALLOT** application **FROM AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES**
 4 **VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER** shall transmit to a ~~THE~~ city or township
 5 clerk **AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION COORDINATORS**, where
 6 applicable, the necessary information to enable the city or
 7 township clerk **AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION COORDINATORS** to forward
 8 an absent voter ballot for each applicable election in that
 9 calendar year to the ~~qualified elector submitting the federal~~
 10 ~~postcard application~~ **ABSENT VOTER**. If the local elections official
 11 rejects a **VOTER** registration **APPLICATION** or absent voter ballot
 12 application submitted ~~on a federal postcard application~~ by an
 13 absent ~~armed~~ **UNIFORMED** services **VOTER** or overseas voter, the
 14 election official shall notify the ~~armed services or overseas voter~~
 15 of the rejection.

16 (11) **AN ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS PROVIDED BY AN ABSENT**
 17 **UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER OR OVERSEAS VOTER FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS**
 18 **SECTION IS CONFIDENTIAL AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE**
 19 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 TO 15.246.**

20 (12) ~~(6)~~ Under the uniformed and overseas citizens absentee
 21 voting act, 42 USC 1973ff to 1973ff-6, the state director of
 22 elections shall approve a ballot form and registration procedures
 23 for electors ~~in the armed services and electors outside the United~~
 24 ~~States, including the spouses and dependents accompanying those~~
 25 **electors** **ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS.**

26 ~~—— (7) As used in this section, "armed services" means any of the~~
 27 ~~following:~~

1 ~~—— (a) The United States army, navy, air force, marine corps, or~~
2 ~~east guard.~~

3 ~~—— (b) The United States merchant marine.~~

4 ~~—— (c) A reserve component of an armed service listed in~~
5 ~~subdivision (a) or (b).~~

6 ~~—— (d) The Michigan national guard as defined in section 105 of~~
7 ~~the Michigan military act, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.505.~~

8 (13) AS USED IN THIS SECTION:

9 (A) "ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER" MEANS ANY OF THE
10 FOLLOWING:

11 (i) A MEMBER OF A UNIFORMED SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY WHO, BY
12 REASON OF BEING ON ACTIVE DUTY, IS ABSENT FROM THE PLACE OF
13 RESIDENCE WHERE THE MEMBER IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO VOTE.

14 (ii) A MEMBER OF THE MERCHANT MARINE WHO, BY REASON OF SERVICE
15 IN THE MERCHANT MARINE, IS ABSENT FROM THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE WHERE
16 THE MEMBER IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO VOTE.

17 (iii) A SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT OF A MEMBER REFERRED TO IN
18 SUBPARAGRAPH (i) OR (ii) WHO, BY REASON OF THE ACTIVE DUTY OR SERVICE
19 OF THE MEMBER, IS ABSENT FROM THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE WHERE THE
20 SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT IS OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO VOTE.

21 (B) "MEMBER OF THE MERCHANT MARINE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL, OTHER
22 THAN A MEMBER OF A UNIFORMED SERVICE OR AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED,
23 ENROLLED, OR MAINTAINED ON THE GREAT LAKES OR THE INLAND WATERWAYS,
24 WHO IS EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING:

25 (i) EMPLOYED AS AN OFFICER OR CREW MEMBER OF A VESSEL
26 DOCUMENTED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, A VESSEL OWNED BY
27 THE UNITED STATES, OR A VESSEL OF FOREIGN-FLAG REGISTRY UNDER

1 CHARTER TO OR CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES.

2 (ii) ENROLLED WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING
3 FOR EMPLOYMENT, OR MAINTAINED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR EMERGENCY
4 RELIEF SERVICE, AS AN OFFICER OR CREW MEMBER OF A VESSEL DOCUMENTED
5 UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES, A VESSEL OWNED BY THE UNITED
6 STATES, OR A VESSEL OF FOREIGN-FLAG REGISTRY UNDER CHARTER TO OR
7 CONTROL OF THE UNITED STATES.

8 (C) "OVERSEAS VOTER" MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

9 (i) AN ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER WHO, BY REASON OF ACTIVE
10 DUTY OR SERVICE, IS ABSENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ON THE DATE OF AN
11 ELECTION.

12 (ii) A PERSON WHO RESIDES OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES AND IS
13 QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE LAST PLACE IN WHICH THE PERSON WAS
14 DOMICILED BEFORE LEAVING THE UNITED STATES.

15 (iii) A PERSON WHO RESIDES OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES AND WHO,
16 BUT FOR SUCH RESIDENCE OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES, WOULD BE
17 QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN THE LAST PLACE IN WHICH HE OR SHE WAS
18 DOMICILED BEFORE LEAVING THE UNITED STATES.

19 (D) "UNIFORMED SERVICES" MEANS THE ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE,
20 MARINE CORPS, COAST GUARD, THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE PUBLIC
21 HEALTH SERVICE, THE COMMISSIONED CORPS OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
22 ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, A RESERVE COMPONENT OF A UNIFORMED
23 SERVICE, OR THE MICHIGAN NATIONAL GUARD AS DEFINED IN SECTION 105
24 OF THE MICHIGAN MILITARY ACT, 1967 PA 150, MCL 32.505.

25 (14) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO THE AUGUST 3, 2010 ELECTION AND
26 TO EACH SUCCEEDING ELECTION CONDUCTED IN THIS STATE.

27 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect June 1,

1 2010.