

As Introduced

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H. B. No. 543

Representative Ramos

**Cosponsors: Representatives Strahorn, Patterson, Smith, K., Lepore-Hagan,
Sykes, Leland, Rogers, Antonio, Boyce, Boyd**

A BILL

To amend sections 3501.10, 3503.16, 3509.02, 1
3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.10 of the 2
Revised Code to specify the conditions under 3
which a board of county commissioners may 4
establish one or more branch offices of the 5
board of elections for in-person absent voting. 6

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3501.10, 3503.16, 3509.02, 7
3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.10 of the Revised Code be 8
amended to read as follows: 9

Sec. 3501.10. (A) The board of elections shall, as an 10
expense of the board, provide suitable rooms for its offices and 11
records and the necessary and proper furniture and supplies for 12
those rooms. The board may lease such offices and rooms, 13
necessary to its operation, for the length of time and upon the 14
terms the board deems in the best interests of the public, 15
provided that the term of any such lease shall not exceed 16
fifteen years. 17

Thirty days prior to entering into such a lease, the board shall notify the board of county commissioners in writing of its intent to enter into the lease. The notice shall specify the terms and conditions of the lease. Prior to the thirtieth day after receiving that notice and before any lease is entered into, the board of county commissioners may reject the proposed lease by a majority vote. After receiving written notification of the rejection by the board of county commissioners, the board of elections shall not enter into the lease that was rejected, but may immediately enter into additional lease negotiations, subject to the requirements of this section.

The board of elections in any county may, by resolution, request that the board of county commissioners submit to the electors of the county, in accordance with section 133.18 of the Revised Code, the question of issuing bonds for the acquisition of real estate and the construction on it of a suitable building with necessary furniture and equipment for the proper administration of the duties of the board of elections. The resolution declaring the necessity for issuing such bonds shall relate only to the acquisition of real estate and to the construction, furnishing, and equipping of a building as provided in this division.

(B) The board of elections in each county shall keep its offices, or one or more of its branch registration offices, open for the performance of its duties until nine p.m. on the last day of registration before a general or primary election. At all other times during each week, the board shall keep its offices and rooms open for a period of time that the board considers necessary for the performance of its duties.

(C) (1) The board of elections may maintain permanent or

temporary branch offices at any place within the county, 48
~~provided that, if the . The board of elections permits electors~~ 49
~~to vote at~~ may designate a branch office, as the office of the 50
board for the purpose of allowing electors to cast absent 51
voter's ballots in person or to cast provisional ballots under 52
section 3503.16 of the Revised Code before an election. Except 53
as otherwise provided in division (C)(2) of this section, if the 54
board designates a branch office as the office of the board for 55
that purpose, electors shall not be permitted to vote cast 56
absent voter's ballots in person or to cast provisional ballots 57
before that election at any other branch office or any other 58
office of the board of elections. 59

(2) Not later than the ninetieth day before the day of an 60
election, the board of county commissioners of a county having a 61
population of not less than sixty thousand, as determined by the 62
most recent federal decennial census, may adopt a resolution to 63
require the board of elections to establish one or more branch 64
offices of the board of elections for the purpose of allowing 65
electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person for that 66
election. The number of branch offices established in the county 67
for that purpose shall not exceed one branch office for every 68
sixty thousand residents of the county, as determined by the 69
most recent federal decennial census. The board of elections 70
shall permit electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person 71
before an election at the office of the board and at each branch 72
office established under this division. 73

Sec. 3503.16. (A) Whenever a registered elector changes 74
the place of residence of that registered elector from one 75
precinct to another within a county or from one county to 76
another, or has a change of name, that registered elector shall 77
report the change by delivering a change of residence or change 78

of name form, whichever is appropriate, as prescribed by the 79
secretary of state under section 3503.14 of the Revised Code to 80
the state or local office of a designated agency, a public high 81
school or vocational school, a public library, the office of the 82
county treasurer, the office of the secretary of state, any 83
office of the registrar or deputy registrar of motor vehicles, 84
or any office of a board of elections in person or by a third 85
person. Any voter registration, change of address, or change of 86
name application, returned by mail, may be sent only to the 87
secretary of state or the board of elections. 88

A registered elector also may update the registration of 89
that registered elector by filing a change of residence or 90
change of name form on the day of a special, primary, or general 91
election at the polling place in the precinct in which that 92
registered elector resides or at the board of elections or at 93
another site designated by the board. 94

(B) (1) (a) Any registered elector who moves within a 95
precinct on or prior to the day of a general, primary, or 96
special election and has not filed a notice of change of 97
residence with the board of elections may vote in that election 98
by going to that registered elector's assigned polling place, 99
completing and signing a notice of change of residence, showing 100
identification in the form of a current and valid photo 101
identification, a military identification, or a copy of a 102
current utility bill, bank statement, government check, 103
paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of 104
voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 105
3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and current 106
address of the elector, and casting a ballot. 107

(b) Any registered elector who changes the name of that 108

registered elector and remains within a precinct on or prior to 109
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 110
filed a notice of change of name with the board of elections may 111
vote in that election by going to that registered elector's 112
assigned polling place, completing and signing a notice of a 113
change of name, and casting a provisional ballot under section 114
3505.181 of the Revised Code. If the registered elector provides 115
to the precinct election officials proof of a legal name change, 116
such as a marriage license or court order that includes the 117
elector's current and prior names, the elector may complete and 118
sign a notice of change of name and cast a regular ballot. 119

(2) Any registered elector who moves from one precinct to 120
another within a county or moves from one precinct to another 121
and changes the name of that registered elector on or prior to 122
the day of a general, primary, or special election and has not 123
filed a notice of change of residence or change of name, 124
whichever is appropriate, with the board of elections may vote 125
in that election if that registered elector complies with 126
division (G) of this section or does all of the following: 127

(a) Appears at ~~anytime~~ any time during regular business 128
hours on or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in 129
which that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election 130
is held on the day of a presidential primary election, the 131
twenty-fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the 132
Saturday prior to the election at the office of the board of 133
elections, appears at any time during regular business hours on 134
the Monday prior to the election at the office of the board of 135
elections, or appears on the day of the election at ~~either of~~ 136
the ~~following locations:~~ 137

~~(i) The~~ polling place for the precinct in which that 138

registered elector resides~~+~~ 139

~~(ii) The or at the office of the board of elections ~~or, if~~ 140
pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code ~~141~~
the board has designated another location in the county at which ~~142~~
registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of ~~143~~
the office of the board of elections. 144~~

(b) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 145
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 146
envelope, which shall serve as a notice of change of residence 147
or change of name, whichever is appropriate; 148

(c) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 149
the Revised Code at the polling place~~, or~~ at the office of the 150
board of elections~~, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section~~ 151
~~3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated another~~ 152
~~location in the county at which registered electors may vote, at~~ 153
~~that other location instead of the office of the board of~~ 154
elections, whichever is appropriate, using the address to which 155
that registered elector has moved or the name of that registered 156
elector as changed, whichever is appropriate; 157

(d) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 158
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 159
elector moved or had a change of name, whichever is appropriate, 160
on or prior to the day of the election, has voted a provisional 161
ballot at the polling place for the precinct in which that 162
registered elector resides~~, or~~ at the office of the board of 163
elections~~, or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of~~ 164
~~the Revised Code the board has designated another location in~~ 165
~~the county at which registered electors may vote, at that other~~ 166
~~location instead of the office of the board of elections,~~ 167
whichever is appropriate, and will not vote or attempt to vote 168

at any other location for that particular election. 169

(C) Any registered elector who moves from one county to 170
another county within the state on or prior to the day of a 171
general, primary, or special election and has not registered to 172
vote in the county to which that registered elector moved may 173
vote in that election if that registered elector complies with 174
division (G) of this section or does all of the following: 175

(1) Appears at any time during regular business hours on 176
or after the twenty-eighth day prior to the election in which 177
that registered elector wishes to vote or, if the election is 178
held on the day of a presidential primary election, the twenty- 179
fifth day prior to the election, through noon of the Saturday 180
prior to the election at the office of the board of elections 181
~~or, if pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the~~ 182
~~Revised Code the board has designated another location in the~~ 183
~~county at which registered electors may vote, at that other~~ 184
~~location instead of the office of the board of elections,~~ 185
appears during regular business hours on the Monday prior to the 186
election at the office of the board of elections ~~or, if pursuant~~ 187
~~to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board~~ 188
~~has designated another location in the county at which~~ 189
~~registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of~~ 190
~~the office of the board of elections,~~ or appears on the day of 191
the election at the office of the board of elections ~~or, if~~ 192
~~pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code~~ 193
~~the board has designated another location in the county at which~~ 194
~~registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of~~ 195
~~the office of the board of elections;~~ 196

(2) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 197
falsification, the written affirmation on the provisional ballot 198

envelope, which shall serve as a notice of change of residence; 199

(3) Votes a provisional ballot under section 3505.181 of 200
the Revised Code at the office of the board of elections or, ~~if~~ 201
~~pursuant to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code~~ 202
~~the board has designated another location in the county at which~~ 203
~~registered electors may vote, at that other location instead of~~ 204
~~the office of the board of elections,~~ using the address to which 205
that registered elector has moved; 206

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 207
falsification, a statement attesting that that registered 208
elector has moved from one county to another county within the 209
state on or prior to the day of the election, has voted at the 210
office of the board of elections ~~or, if pursuant to division (C)~~ 211
~~of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated~~ 212
~~another location in the county at which registered electors may~~ 213
~~vote, at that other location instead of the office of the board~~ 214
~~of elections,~~ and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 215
location for that particular election. 216

(D) A person who votes by absent voter's ballots pursuant 217
to division (G) of this section shall not make written 218
application for the ballots pursuant to Chapter 3509. of the 219
Revised Code. Ballots cast pursuant to division (G) of this 220
section shall be set aside in a special envelope and counted 221
during the official canvass of votes in the manner provided for 222
in sections 3505.32 and 3509.06 of the Revised Code insofar as 223
that manner is applicable. The board shall examine the pollbooks 224
to verify that no ballot was cast at the polls or by absent 225
voter's ballots under Chapter 3509. or 3511. of the Revised Code 226
by an elector who has voted by absent voter's ballots pursuant 227
to division (G) of this section. Any ballot determined to be 228

insufficient for any of the reasons stated above or stated in 229
section 3509.07 of the Revised Code shall not be counted. 230

~~Subject to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised 231
Code, a board of elections may lease or otherwise acquire a site 232
different from the office of the board at which registered 233
electors may vote pursuant to division (B) or (C) of this 234
section. 235~~

(E) Upon receiving a notice of change of residence or 236
change of name, the board of elections shall immediately send 237
the registrant an acknowledgment notice. If the change of 238
residence or change of name notice is valid, the board shall 239
update the voter's registration as appropriate. If that form is 240
incomplete, the board shall inform the registrant in the 241
acknowledgment notice specified in this division of the 242
information necessary to complete or update that registrant's 243
registration. 244

(F) Change of residence and change of name forms shall be 245
available at each polling place, and when these forms are 246
completed, noting changes of residence or name, as appropriate, 247
they shall be filed with election officials at the polling 248
place. Election officials shall return completed forms, together 249
with the pollbooks and tally sheets, to the board of elections. 250

The board of elections shall provide change of residence 251
and change of name forms to the probate court and court of 252
common pleas. The court shall provide the forms to any person 253
eighteen years of age or older who has a change of name by order 254
of the court or who applies for a marriage license. The court 255
shall forward all completed forms to the board of elections 256
within five days after receiving them. 257

(G) A registered elector who otherwise would qualify to 258
vote under division (B) or (C) of this section but is unable to 259
appear at the office of the board of elections ~~or, if pursuant~~ 260
~~to division (C) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board~~ 261
~~has designated another location in the county at which~~ 262
~~registered electors may vote, at that other location,~~ on account 263
of personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity, may vote 264
on the day of the election if that registered elector does all 265
of the following: 266

(1) Makes a written application that includes all of the 267
information required under section 3509.03 of the Revised Code 268
to the appropriate board for an absent voter's ballot on or 269
after the twenty-seventh day prior to the election in which the 270
registered elector wishes to vote through noon of the Saturday 271
prior to that election and requests that the absent voter's 272
ballot be sent to the address to which the registered elector 273
has moved if the registered elector has moved, or to the address 274
of that registered elector who has not moved but has had a 275
change of name; 276

(2) Declares that the registered elector has moved or had 277
a change of name, whichever is appropriate, and otherwise is 278
qualified to vote under the circumstances described in division 279
(B) or (C) of this section, whichever is appropriate, but that 280
the registered elector is unable to appear at the board of 281
elections because of personal illness, physical disability, or 282
infirmity; 283

(3) Completes and returns along with the completed absent 284
voter's ballot a notice of change of residence indicating the 285
address to which the registered elector has moved, or a notice 286
of change of name, whichever is appropriate; 287

(4) Completes and signs, under penalty of election 288
falsification, a statement attesting that the registered elector 289
has moved or had a change of name on or prior to the day before 290
the election, has voted by absent voter's ballot because of 291
personal illness, physical disability, or infirmity that 292
prevented the registered elector from appearing at the board of 293
elections, and will not vote or attempt to vote at any other 294
location or by absent voter's ballot mailed to any other 295
location or address for that particular election. 296

Sec. 3509.02. (A) Any qualified elector may vote by absent 297
voter's ballots at an election. 298

(B) Any qualified elector who is unable to appear at the 299
office of the board of elections ~~or, if pursuant to division (C)~~ 300
~~of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code the board has designated~~ 301
~~another location in the county at which registered electors may~~ 302
~~vote, at that other location~~ on account of personal illness, 303
physical disability, or infirmity, and who moves from one 304
precinct to another within a county, changes the elector's name 305
and moves from one precinct to another within a county, or moves 306
from one county to another county within the state, on or prior 307
to the day of a general, primary, or special election and has 308
not filed a notice of change of residence or change of name may 309
vote by absent voter's ballots in that election as specified in 310
division (G) of section 3503.16 of the Revised Code. 311

Sec. 3509.03. Except as provided in division (B) of 312
section 3509.08 of the Revised Code, any qualified elector 313
desiring to vote absent voter's ballots at an election shall 314
make written application for those ballots to the director of 315
elections of the county in which the elector's voting residence 316
is located. The application need not be in any particular form 317

but shall contain all of the following:	318
(A) The elector's name;	319
(B) The elector's signature;	320
(C) The address at which the elector is registered to vote;	321 322
(D) The elector's date of birth;	323
(E) One of the following:	324
(1) The elector's driver's license number;	325
(2) The last four digits of the elector's social security number;	326 327
(3) A copy of the elector's current and valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of the elector.	328 329 330 331 332 333 334
(F) A statement identifying the election for which absent voter's ballots are requested;	335 336
(G) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is a qualified elector;	337 338
(H) If the request is for primary election ballots, the elector's party affiliation;	339 340
(I) If the elector desires ballots to be mailed to the elector, the address to which those ballots shall be mailed.	341 342
Each application for absent voter's ballots shall be	343

delivered to the director not earlier than the first day of 344
January of the year of the elections for which the absent 345
voter's ballots are requested or not earlier than ninety days 346
before the day of the election at which the ballots are to be 347
voted, whichever is earlier, and not later than twelve noon of 348
the third day before the day of the election at which the 349
ballots are to be voted, or not later than six p.m. on the last 350
Friday before the day of the election at which the ballots are 351
to be voted if the application is delivered in person to the 352
office of the board or to a branch office established under 353
division (C) (2) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code. 354

A board of elections that mails an absent voter's ballot 355
application to an elector under this section shall not prepay 356
the return postage for that application. 357

Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 358
sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 359
official shall not fill out any portion of an application for 360
absent voter's ballots on behalf of an applicant. The secretary 361
of state or a board of elections may preprint only an 362
applicant's name and address on an application for absent 363
voter's ballots before mailing that application to the 364
applicant. 365

Sec. 3509.05. (A) When an elector receives an absent 366
voter's ballot pursuant to the elector's application or request, 367
the elector shall, before placing any marks on the ballot, note 368
whether there are any voting marks on it. If there are any 369
voting marks, the ballot shall be returned immediately to the 370
board of elections; otherwise, the elector shall cause the 371
ballot to be marked, folded in a manner that the stub on it and 372
the indorsements and facsimile signatures of the members of the 373

board of elections on the back of it are visible, and placed and 374
sealed within the identification envelope received from the 375
director of elections for that purpose. Then, the elector shall 376
cause the statement of voter on the outside of the 377
identification envelope to be completed and signed, under 378
penalty of election falsification. 379

If the elector does not provide the elector's driver's 380
license number or the last four digits of the elector's social 381
security number on the statement of voter on the identification 382
envelope, the elector also shall include in the return envelope 383
with the identification envelope a copy of the elector's current 384
valid photo identification, a copy of a military identification, 385
or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government 386
check, paycheck, or other government document, other than a 387
notice of voter registration mailed by a board of elections 388
under section 3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name 389
and address of the elector. 390

The elector shall mail the identification envelope to the 391
director from whom it was received in the return envelope, 392
postage prepaid, or the elector may personally deliver it to the 393
director, or the spouse of the elector, the father, mother, 394
father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, 395
or sister of the whole or half blood, or the son, daughter, 396
adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, 397
aunt, nephew, or niece of the elector may deliver it to the 398
director. The return envelope shall be transmitted to the 399
director in no other manner, except as provided in section 400
3509.08 of the Revised Code. 401

When absent voter's ballots are delivered to an elector at 402
the office of the board or at a branch office established under 403

division (C) (2) of section 3501.10 of the Revised Code, the 404
elector may retire to a voting compartment provided by the board 405
and there mark the ballots. Thereupon, the elector shall fold 406
them, place them in the identification envelope provided, seal 407
the envelope, fill in and sign the statement on the envelope 408
under penalty of election falsification, and deliver the 409
envelope to the director of the board. 410

Except as otherwise provided in division (B) of this 411
section, all other envelopes containing marked absent voter's 412
ballots shall be delivered to the director not later than the 413
close of the polls on the day of an election. Absent voter's 414
ballots delivered to the director later than the times specified 415
shall not be counted, but shall be kept by the board in the 416
sealed identification envelopes in which they are delivered to 417
the director, until the time provided by section 3505.31 of the 418
Revised Code for the destruction of all other ballots used at 419
the election for which ballots were provided, at which time they 420
shall be destroyed. 421

(B) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (2) of 422
this section, any return envelope that is postmarked prior to 423
the day of the election shall be delivered to the director prior 424
to the eleventh day after the election. Ballots delivered in 425
envelopes postmarked prior to the day of the election that are 426
received after the close of the polls on election day through 427
the tenth day thereafter shall be counted on the eleventh day at 428
the board of elections in the manner provided in divisions (C) 429
and (D) of section 3509.06 of the Revised Code. Any such ballots 430
that are received by the director later than the tenth day 431
following the election shall not be counted, but shall be kept 432
by the board in the sealed identification envelopes as provided 433
in division (A) of this section. 434

(2) Division (B)(1) of this section shall not apply to any 435
mail that is postmarked using a postage evidencing system, 436
including a postage meter, as defined in 39 C.F.R. 501.1. 437

Sec. 3511.02. Notwithstanding any section of the Revised 438
Code to the contrary, whenever any person applies for 439
registration as a voter on a form adopted in accordance with 440
federal regulations relating to the "Uniformed and Overseas 441
Citizens Absentee Voting Act," 100 Stat. 924, 42 U.S.C.A. 1973ff 442
(1986), this application shall be sufficient for voter 443
registration and as a request for an absent voter's ballot. 444
Uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots may be 445
obtained by any person meeting the requirements of section 446
3511.011 of the Revised Code by applying electronically to the 447
secretary of state or to the board of elections of the county in 448
which the person's voting residence is located in accordance 449
with section 3511.021 of the Revised Code or by applying to the 450
director of the board of elections of the county in which the 451
person's voting residence is located, in one of the following 452
ways: 453

(A) That person may make written application for those 454
ballots. The person may personally deliver the application to 455
the director or may mail it, send it by facsimile machine, send 456
it by electronic mail, send it through internet delivery if such 457
delivery is offered by the board of elections or the secretary 458
of state, or otherwise send it to the director. The application 459
need not be in any particular form but shall contain all of the 460
following information: 461

(1) The elector's name; 462

(2) The elector's signature; 463

(3) The address at which the elector is registered to	464
vote;	465
(4) The elector's date of birth;	466
(5) One of the following:	467
(a) The elector's driver's license number;	468
(b) The last four digits of the elector's social security	469
number;	470
(c) A copy of the elector's current and valid photo	471
identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy	472
of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check,	473
paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of	474
voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section	475
3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of	476
the elector.	477
(6) A statement identifying the election for which absent	478
voter's ballots are requested;	479
(7) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is	480
a qualified elector;	481
(8) A statement that the elector is an absent uniformed	482
services voter or overseas voter as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-	483
6;	484
(9) A statement of the elector's length of residence in	485
the state immediately preceding the commencement of service,	486
immediately preceding the date of leaving to be with or near the	487
service member, or immediately preceding leaving the United	488
States, or a statement that the elector's parent or legal	489
guardian resided in this state long enough to establish	490
residency for voting purposes immediately preceding leaving the	491

United States, whichever is applicable;	492
(10) If the request is for primary election ballots, the	493
elector's party affiliation;	494
(11) If the elector desires ballots to be mailed to the	495
elector, the address to which those ballots shall be mailed;	496
(12) If the elector desires ballots to be sent to the	497
elector by facsimile machine, the telephone number to which they	498
shall be so sent;	499
(13) If the elector desires ballots to be sent to the	500
elector by electronic mail or, if offered by the board of	501
elections or the secretary of state, through internet delivery,	502
the elector's electronic mail address or other internet contact	503
information.	504
(B) A voter or any relative of a voter listed in division	505
(C) of this section may use a single federal post card	506
application to apply for uniformed services or overseas absent	507
voter's ballots for use at the primary and general elections in	508
a given year and any special election to be held on the day in	509
that year specified by division (E) of section 3501.01 of the	510
Revised Code for the holding of a primary election, designated	511
by the general assembly for the purpose of submitting	512
constitutional amendments proposed by the general assembly to	513
the voters of the state. A single federal postcard application	514
shall be processed by the board of elections pursuant to section	515
3511.04 of the Revised Code the same as if the voter had applied	516
separately for uniformed services or overseas absent voter's	517
ballots for each election.	518
(C) Application to have uniformed services or overseas	519
absent voter's ballots mailed or sent by facsimile machine to	520

such a person may be made by the spouse, father, mother, father- 521
in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother or 522
sister of the whole blood or half blood, son, daughter, adopting 523
parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, daughter-in-law, 524
son-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of such a person. The 525
application shall be in writing upon a blank form furnished only 526
by the director or on a single federal post card as provided in 527
division (B) of this section. The form of the application shall 528
be prescribed by the secretary of state. The director shall 529
furnish that blank form to any of the relatives specified in 530
this division desiring to make the application, only upon the 531
request of such a relative made in person at the office of the 532
board or at a branch office established under division (C) (2) of 533
section 3501.10 of the Revised Code or upon the written request 534
of such a relative mailed to the office of the board. The 535
application, subscribed and sworn to by the applicant, shall 536
contain all of the following: 537

(1) The full name of the elector for whom ballots are 538
requested; 539

(2) A statement that the elector is an absent uniformed 540
services voter or overseas voter as defined in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff- 541
6; 542

(3) The address at which the elector is registered to 543
vote; 544

(4) A statement identifying the elector's length of 545
residence in the state immediately preceding the commencement of 546
service, immediately preceding the date of leaving to be with or 547
near a service member, or immediately preceding leaving the 548
United States, or a statement that the elector's parent or legal 549
guardian resided in this state long enough to establish 550

residency for voting purposes immediately preceding leaving the	551
United States, as the case may be;	552
(5) The elector's date of birth;	553
(6) One of the following:	554
(a) The elector's driver's license number;	555
(b) The last four digits of the elector's social security	556
number;	557
(c) A copy of the elector's current and valid photo	558
identification, a copy of a military identification, or a copy	559
of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check,	560
paycheck, or other government document, other than a notice of	561
voter registration mailed by a board of elections under section	562
3503.19 of the Revised Code, that shows the name and address of	563
the elector.	564
(7) A statement identifying the election for which absent	565
voter's ballots are requested;	566
(8) A statement that the person requesting the ballots is	567
a qualified elector;	568
(9) If the request is for primary election ballots, the	569
elector's party affiliation;	570
(10) A statement that the applicant bears a relationship	571
to the elector as specified in division (C) of this section;	572
(11) The address to which ballots shall be mailed, the	573
telephone number to which ballots shall be sent by facsimile	574
machine, the electronic mail address to which ballots shall be	575
sent by electronic mail, or, if internet delivery is offered by	576
the board of elections or the secretary of state, the internet	577

contact information to which ballots shall be sent through 578
internet delivery; 579

(12) The signature and address of the person making the 580
application. 581

Each application for uniformed services or overseas absent 582
voter's ballots shall be delivered to the director not earlier 583
than the first day of January of the year of the elections for 584
which the uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots 585
are requested or not earlier than ninety days before the day of 586
the election at which the ballots are to be voted, whichever is 587
earlier, and not later than twelve noon of the third day 588
preceding the day of the election, or not later than six p.m. on 589
the last Friday before the day of the election at which those 590
ballots are to be voted if the application is delivered in 591
person to the office of the board or to a branch office 592
established under division (C) (2) of section 3501.10 of the 593
Revised Code. 594

(D) If the voter for whom the application is made is 595
entitled to vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors 596
only, the applicant shall submit to the director in addition to 597
the requirements of divisions (A), (B), and (C) of this section, 598
a statement to the effect that the voter is qualified to vote 599
for presidential and vice-presidential electors and for no other 600
offices. 601

(E) A board of elections that mails a federal post card 602
application or other absent voter's ballot application to an 603
elector under this section shall not prepay the return postage 604
for that application. 605

(F) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in 606

sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an election 607
official shall not fill out any portion of a federal post card 608
application or other application for absent voter's ballots on 609
behalf of an applicant. The secretary of state or a board of 610
elections may preprint only an applicant's name and address on a 611
federal post card application or other application for absent 612
voter's ballots before mailing that application to the 613
applicant. 614

Sec. 3511.10. If, after the first day after the close of 615
voter registration before a general or primary election and 616
before the close of the polls on the day of that election, a 617
valid application for uniformed services or overseas absent 618
voter's ballots is delivered to the director of the board of 619
elections at the office of the board or at a branch office 620
established under division (C) (2) of section 3501.10 of the 621
Revised Code by a person making the application on the person's 622
own behalf, the director shall forthwith deliver to the person 623
all uniformed services or overseas absent voter's ballots then 624
ready for use, together with an identification envelope. The 625
person shall then immediately retire to a voting booth in the 626
office of the board or in the branch office, as applicable, and 627
mark the ballots. The person shall then fold each ballot 628
separately so as to conceal the person's markings thereon, and 629
deposit all of the ballots in the identification envelope and 630
securely seal it. Thereupon the person shall fill in answers to 631
the questions on the face of the identification envelope, and by 632
writing the person's usual signature in the proper place 633
thereon, the person shall declare under penalty of election 634
falsification that the answers to those questions are true and 635
correct to the best of that person's knowledge and belief. The 636
person shall then deliver the identification envelope to the 637

director. If thereafter, and before the third day preceding such 638
election, the board provides additional separate official issue 639
or special election ballots, as provided for in section 3511.04 640
of the Revised Code, the director shall promptly, and not later 641
than twelve noon of the third day preceding the day of election, 642
mail such additional ballots to such person at the address 643
specified by that person for that purpose. Except as otherwise 644
provided in sections 3505.24 and 3509.08 of the Revised Code, an 645
election official shall not fill out any portion of an 646
application for absent voter's ballots, an identification 647
envelope statement of voter, or an absent voter's ballot 648
requested under this section on behalf of an applicant. 649

In the event any person serving in the armed forces of the 650
United States is discharged after the closing date of 651
registration, and that person or that person's spouse, or both, 652
meets all the other qualifications set forth in section 3511.011 653
of the Revised Code, the person or spouse shall be permitted to 654
vote prior to the date of the election in the office of the 655
board in the person's or spouse's county or in a branch office 656
established under division (C) (2) of section 3501.10 of the 657
Revised Code, as set forth in this section. 658

Section 2. That existing sections 3501.10, 3503.16, 659
3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.10 of the Revised 660
Code are hereby repealed. 661

Section 3. Section 3511.10 of the Revised Code is 662
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended 663
by both Sub. S.B. 205 and Am. S.B. 238 of the 130th General 664
Assembly. The General Assembly, applying the principle stated in 665
division (B) of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments 666
are to be harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous 667

operation, finds that the composite is the resulting version of	668
the section in effect prior to the effective date of the section	669
as presented in this act.	670