



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Abby McMahon

H.B. 596

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Ramos, Antonio, Rogers, K. Smith, Boggs, Kelly, Ashford, Sykes, Miller

BILL SUMMARY

- Specifies that a board of elections can designate a branch office to allow elector's to cast absent voter's ballots in person or to cast provisional ballots.
 - Specifies that the county commissioners of a county with a population of at least 60,000 residents can adopt a resolution, not later than the 90th day before the day of an election, to require the board of elections to designate a branch office for electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person.
 - Allows a county to have one designated branch office for casting absent voter's ballots in person for every 60,000 residents of the county.
 - Allows a person voting under the federal "Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act," to request and return an application for an absent voter's ballot, and cast an absent voter's ballot, at a branch office designated by a board of elections.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Board of elections branch office

The bill specifies that a board of elections can designate a branch office to allow elector's to cast absent voter's ballots in person or to cast provisional ballots. Additionally, county commissioners of a county with a population of at least 60,000 residents, as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, can require its board of elections to designate a branch office for electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person before the day of an election. The county commissioners must adopt the requirement by resolution not later than the 90th day before the day of an election. A

county can designate one branch office for every 60,000 residents of the county. If there is one or more branch offices designated, a board of elections must allow electors to cast absent voter's ballots in person at each branch office designated for that purpose or at the board's office.

Under continuing law, the day after the close of voter registration, a board of elections must allow registered voters to request and cast absent voter's ballots in person at the county board of elections or a designated branch office within the county before the day of an election. The Secretary of State sets a schedule for uniform dates and hours a board or its designated office must be open to allow for casting absent voter's ballots in person.

Additionally, the bill allows a person qualified to vote under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to have certain relatives apply for an application for an absent voter's ballot to be mailed or sent by facsimile to the person qualified to vote under UOCAVA at a branch office if one is designated. A person qualified to vote under UOCAVA can also return a completed application or cast an absent voter's ballot in person at a branch office if one is designated. UOCAVA is a federal act that establishes registration and voting procedures for qualified electors who are uniformed services members or overseas citizens at the time of an election.¹

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-10-18

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¹ R.C. 3501.10, 3503.16, 3509.02, 3509.03, 3509.05, 3511.02, and 3511.10; see also R.C. 3509.01(B)(3), not in the bill, and Settlement Agreement, *NAACP v. Husted* (Case No. 2:14-CV-404).

