



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

H.B. 309

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Clyde, Lepore-Hagan, Fedor, K. Smith, Antonio, Phillips, Ramos

BILL SUMMARY

- Eliminates the requirement that absent voter's ballots received by a board of elections by mail during the ten days after an election be postmarked in order for the ballots to be valid.
- Prohibits those ballots from being counted if they are legibly postmarked on or after Election Day or if the ballot identification envelope is signed on or after Election Day.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill eliminates the requirement that absent voter's ballots received by a board of elections by mail during the ten days after an election be postmarked in order for the ballots to be valid. But, the bill prohibits those ballots from being counted if they are legibly postmarked on or after Election Day or if the ballot identification envelope is signed on or after Election Day.

Continuing law generally requires absent voter's ballots to be returned to the board of elections in person or by mail not later than the close of the polls on Election Day. Ballots received before that deadline are not required to be postmarked. However, if the ballots are returned by mail and the board receives them after the close of the polls but not later than the 10th day following the election, they may be counted, so long as they were mailed prior to Election Day.¹

The bill does not affect the counting requirements for uniformed services and overseas absent voter's ballots. Under continuing law, those ballots need not be

¹ R.C. 3509.05.

postmarked. If a board of elections receives those ballots after the close of the polls but before the 11th day after the election, the ballots are eligible to be counted unless they are postmarked, or the identification envelope is signed, after the close of the polls.²

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	08-31-15

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² R.C. 3511.09, not in the bill.

