

House Bill 4443 (Substitute H-1)
Sponsor: Rep. Alvin Kukuk
Committee: Local Government

Complete to 9-6-95

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4443 (SUBSTITUTE H-1)

The bill would amend sections of the Michigan Election Law that apply to eligibility for absent voter ballots in a number of ways, including the following.

-- It would provide a definition of "armed services" as referring to the United States army, army reserves, navy, air force, air force reserves, marine corps, coast guard, Michigan army and air national guard, or merchant marines. The bill would delete a reference in Section 758 to "former residents who are serving in the United States army, navy, merchant marine, marine corps, or air force." Elsewhere the election law refers to "armed services." Civilian employees of the armed services, as well as members of the services, and citizens residing outside the country, who are qualified electors but not registered voters can apply for absent voter ballots when applying to register by mail.

-- A citizen temporarily residing in the District of Columbia would also specifically be permitted to apply for an absent voter ballot when applying to register by mail. (The act currently refers to citizens temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the United States and the District of Columbia.)

-- The state director of elections, pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, would be required to approve a ballot form and registration procedures for electors in the armed services and electors outside the United States, including the spouses and dependents accompanying those electors.

-- The bill would specify that a spouse or dependent of an elector living outside the U.S. (or in the District of Columbia) could apply for an absent voter ballot when applying to register by mail "notwithstanding that the spouse or dependent is not a qualified elector of a city or township of this state", as long as he or she is a U.S. citizen and is not a qualified elector anywhere else in the U.S. The spouse or dependent would be required to submit an affidavit stating that he or she meets the qualifications as an elector other than residency and that he or she has not established a residence for voting in any other place. Current language refers to a spouse or dependent "who is a qualified elector . . . but not registered for voting."

-- A member or a civilian employee of the armed services and an accompanying spouse or dependent residing outside the U.S. would be considered registered to vote in a special primary or special general election if he or she had been registered to vote in the primary or general election immediately preceding. The city or township clerk who received the completed registration forms in the primary or general election would be required to

forward an absent voter ballot for the special primary or special general election immediately upon receiving them.

MCL 168.758 and 168.759a

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