

John Cornyn

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens  
Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to  
uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for  
other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 1st Sess.

**S. 1197**

To a	<b>AMENDMENT N<sup>o</sup></b>	<b>2384</b>	ilitary
			ilitary
	By <u>Cornyn</u>		depart-
	To: <u>S. 1197</u>		onnel
			poses.
Ref			and
	<u>24</u>		
	<b>Page(s)</b>		
	GPO: 2012 77-320 (mac)		

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. CORNYN (for  
himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WARNER, Mr.  
WICKER, and Mr. BROWN)

Viz:

- 1 At the end of division A, add the following:
- 2 **TITLE XVI—MILITARY VOTING**
- 3 **SEC. 1601. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This title may be cited as the “Safeguarding Elec-  
5 tions for our Nation’s Troops through Reforms and Im-  
6 provements (SENTRI) Act”.

1 **Subtitle A—Amendments Related**  
2 **to the Uniformed and Overseas**  
3 **Citizens Absentee Voting Act**

4 **SEC. 1611. PRE-ELECTION REPORTING REQUIREMENT ON**  
5 **TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 102 of  
7 the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act  
8 (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(c)) is amended by striking “Not later  
9 than 90 days” and inserting the following:

10 “(1) PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON ABSENTEE  
11 BALLOTS TRANSMITTED.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 43  
13 days before any election for Federal office held  
14 in a State, the chief State election official of  
15 such State shall submit a report to the Attor-  
16 ney General and the Presidential Designee, and  
17 make that report publicly available that same  
18 day, confirming—

19 “(i) the number of absentee ballots  
20 validly requested by absent uniformed serv-  
21 ices voters and overseas voters whose re-  
22 quests were received by the 46th day be-  
23 fore the election, and

24 “(ii) whether those ballots were timely  
25 transmitted.

1           “(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The  
2           report under subparagraph (A) shall include the  
3           following information:

4                   “(i) Specific information about ballot  
5                   transmission, including the total numbers  
6                   of ballot requests received from such voters  
7                   and ballots transmitted to such voters by  
8                   the 46th day before the election from each  
9                   unit of local government that will admin-  
10                  ister the election.

11                   “(ii) If the chief State election official  
12                   has incomplete information on any items  
13                   required to be included in the report, an  
14                   explanation of what information is incom-  
15                   plete information and efforts made to ac-  
16                   quire such information.

17           “(C) REQUIREMENT TO SUPPLEMENT IN-  
18           COMPLETE INFORMATION.—If the report under  
19           subparagraph (A) has incomplete information  
20           on any items required to be included in the re-  
21           port, the chief State election official shall make  
22           all reasonable efforts to expeditiously supple-  
23           ment the report with complete information.

24           “(D) FORMAT.—The report under sub-  
25           paragraph (A) shall be in a format prescribed

1 by the Attorney General in consultation with  
2 the chief State election officials of each State.

3 “(2) POST ELECTION REPORT ON NUMBER OF  
4 ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RE-  
5 CEIVED.—Not later than 90 days”.

6 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading for  
7 subsection (c) of section 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
8 1973ff–1(c)) is amended by striking “REPORT ON NUM-  
9 BER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RE-  
10 CEIVED” and inserting “REPORTS ON ABSENTEE BAL-  
11 LOTS”.

12 **SEC. 1612. TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS; REPEAL OF**  
13 **WAIVER PROVISION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (8) of section 102(a)  
15 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting  
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)) is amended to read as fol-  
17 lows:

18 “(8) transmit a validly requested absentee bal-  
19 lot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas  
20 voter by the date and in the manner determined  
21 under subsection (g);”.

22 (b) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND  
23 REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.—Subsection (g) of sec-  
24 tion 102 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(g)) is amended  
25 to read as follows:

1 “(g) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection  
3 (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an  
4 absentee ballot is received at least 46 days before an  
5 election for Federal office, the following rules shall  
6 apply:

7 “(A) TRANSMISSION DEADLINE.—The  
8 State shall transmit the absentee ballot not  
9 later than 46 days before the election.

10 “(B) SPECIAL RULES IN CASE OF FAILURE  
11 TO TRANSMIT ON TIME.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the State fails  
13 to transmit any absentee ballot by the 46th  
14 day before the election as required by sub-  
15 paragraph (A) and the absent uniformed  
16 services voter or overseas voter did not re-  
17 quest electronic ballot transmission pursu-  
18 ant to subsection (f), the State shall trans-  
19 mit such ballot by express delivery.

20 “(ii) EXTENDED FAILURE.—If the  
21 State fails to transmit any absentee ballot  
22 by the 41st day before the election, in ad-  
23 dition to transmitting the ballot as pro-  
24 vided in clause (i), the State shall—

1                   “(I) in the case of absentee bal-  
2                   lots requested by absent uniformed  
3                   services voters with respect to regu-  
4                   larly scheduled general elections, no-  
5                   tify such voters of the procedures es-  
6                   tablished under section 103A for the  
7                   collection and delivery of marked ab-  
8                   sentee ballots; and

9                   “(II) in any other case, provide  
10                  for the return of such ballot by ex-  
11                  press delivery.

12                  “(iii) COST OF EXPRESS DELIVERY.—  
13                  In any case in which express delivery is re-  
14                  quired under this subparagraph, the cost  
15                  of such express delivery—

16                  “(I) shall not be paid by the  
17                  voter, and

18                  “(II) may be required by the  
19                  State to be paid by a local jurisdiction  
20                  if the State determines that election  
21                  officials in such jurisdiction are re-  
22                  sponsible for the failure to transmit  
23                  the ballot by any date required under  
24                  this paragraph.

1                   “(iv) ENFORCEMENT.—A State’s com-  
2                   pliance with this subparagraph does not  
3                   bar the Attorney General from seeking ad-  
4                   ditional remedies necessary to effectuate  
5                   the purposes of this Act.

6                   “(2) REQUESTS RECEIVED AFTER 46TH DAY  
7                   BEFORE ELECTION.—For purposes of subsection  
8                   (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an  
9                   absentee ballot is received less than 46 days but not  
10                  less than 30 days before an election for Federal of-  
11                  fice, the State shall transmit the absentee ballot not  
12                  later than 3 business days after such request is re-  
13                  ceived.”.

14   **SEC. 1613. TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS TO CONFORM TO**  
15                   **2009 MOVE ACT AMENDMENTS RELATED TO**  
16                   **THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

17                  (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a)(3) of the Uni-  
18                  formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) 42  
19                  U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)(3)) is amended by striking “general  
20                  elections” and inserting “general, special, primary, and  
21                  runoff elections”.

22                  (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 103 of  
23                  such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-2) is amended—

24                         (1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking “gen-  
25                         eral”, and

1           (2) in the heading thereof, by striking “**GEN-**  
2       **ERAL**”.

3   **SEC. 1614. TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS.**

4       (a) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF  
5   APPLICATIONS ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION TO  
6   OVERSEAS VOTERS.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and  
7   Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–  
8   3) is amended—

9           (1) by inserting “or overseas voter” after “sub-  
10       mitted by an absent uniformed services voter”; and

11          (2) by striking “members of the uniformed  
12       services” and inserting “absent uniformed services  
13       voters or overseas voters”.

14       (b) USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT  
15   ELECTIONS.—

16          (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uni-  
17       formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act  
18       (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–3) is amended—

19               (A) by striking “A State” and inserting  
20       the following:

21       “(a) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS  
22   ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.—A State”, and

23               (B) by adding at the end the following new  
24       subsections:



1       “(b) APPLICATION TREATED AS VALID FOR SUBSE-  
2   QUENT ELECTIONS.—

3       “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State accepts and  
4       processes a request for an absentee ballot by an ab-  
5       sent uniformed services voter or overseas voter and  
6       the voter requests that the application be considered  
7       an application for an absentee ballot for each subse-  
8       quent election for Federal office held in the State  
9       through the next regularly scheduled general election  
10      for Federal office (including any runoff elections  
11      which may occur as a result of the outcome of such  
12      general election) and any special elections for Fed-  
13      eral office held in the State through the calendar  
14      year following such general election, the State shall  
15      provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such  
16      subsequent election.

17      “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not  
18      apply with respect to either of the following:

19              “(A) VOTERS CHANGING REGISTRATION.—  
20              A voter removed from the list of official eligible  
21              voters in accordance with subparagraph (A),  
22              (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3) of the National  
23              Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.  
24              1973gg-6(a)).

1                   “(B) UNDELIVERABLE BALLOTS.—A voter  
2                   whose ballot is returned by mail to the State or  
3                   local election officials as undeliverable or, in the  
4                   case of a ballot delivered electronically, if the  
5                   email sent to the voter was undeliverable or re-  
6                   jected due to an invalid email address.”.

7                   (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading  
8                   of section 104 of such Act is amended by striking  
9                   **“PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATIONS**  
10                  **ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION”** and in-  
11                  serting **“TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS”**.

12                  (3) REVISION TO POSTCARD FORM.—

13                  (A) IN GENERAL.—The Presidential des-  
14                  ignee shall ensure that the official postcard  
15                  form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the  
16                  Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Vot-  
17                  ing Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(2)) enables a  
18                  voter using the form to—

19                         (i) request an absentee ballot for each  
20                         election for Federal office held in a State  
21                         through the next regularly scheduled gen-  
22                         eral election for Federal office (including  
23                         any runoff elections which may occur as a  
24                         result of the outcome of such general elec-  
25                         tion) and any special elections for Federal

1 office held in the State through the cal-  
2 endar year following such general election;  
3 or

4 (ii) request an absentee ballot for a  
5 specific election or elections for Federal of-  
6 fice held in a State during the period de-  
7 scribed in paragraph (1).

8 (B) PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.—For pur-  
9 poses of this paragraph, the term “Presidential  
10 designee” means the individual designated  
11 under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and  
12 Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 1973ff(a)).

14 **SEC. 1615. APPLICABILITY TO COMMONWEALTH OF THE**  
15 **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.**

16 Paragraph (6) and (8) of section 107 of the Uni-  
17 formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42  
18 U.S.C. 1973ff–6(6)) are each amended by striking “and  
19 American Samoa” and inserting “American Samoa, and  
20 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

1   **SEC. 1616. BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**  
2                   **ACTIVITIES OF THE FEDERAL VOTING AS-**  
3                   **SISTANCE PROGRAM AND COMPTROLLER**  
4                   **GENERAL REVIEW.**

5           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 105A(b) of the Uniformed  
6 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 1973ff-4a(b)) is amended—

8           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

9                   (A) by striking “March 31 of each year”  
10                  and inserting “June 30 of each odd-numbered  
11                  year”; and

12                  (B) by striking “the following information”  
13                  and inserting “the following information with  
14                  respect to the Federal elections held during the  
15                  2 preceding calendar years”;

16           (2) in paragraph (1), by striking “separate as-  
17           sessment” each place it appears and inserting “sepa-  
18           rate assessment and statistical analysis”; and

19           (3) in paragraph (2)—

20                   (A) by striking “section 1566a” in the  
21                  matter preceding subparagraph (A) and insert-  
22                  ing “sections 1566a and 1566b”;

23                   (B) by striking “such section” each place  
24                  it appears in subparagraphs (A) and (B) and  
25                  inserting “such sections”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
2 subparagraphs:

3 “(C) The number of completed official  
4 postcard forms prescribed under section  
5 101(b)(2) that were completed by absent uni-  
6 formed services members and accepted and  
7 transmitted.

8 “(D) The number of absent uniformed  
9 services members who declined to register to  
10 vote under such sections.”.

11 (b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—Section  
12 105A of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
13 Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-4a) is amended by redesign-  
14 nating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by inserting  
15 after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

16 “(c) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEWS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

18 “(A) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General  
19 shall conduct a review of any reports submitted  
20 by the Presidential designee under subsection  
21 (b) with respect to elections occurring in cal-  
22 endar years 2014 through 2020.

23 “(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
24 after a report is submitted by the Presidential  
25 designee under subsection (b), the Comptroller

1 General shall submit to the relevant committees  
2 of Congress a report containing the results of  
3 the review conducted under subparagraph (A).

4 “(2) MATTERS REVIEWED.—A review conducted  
5 under paragraph (1) shall assess—

6 “(A) the methodology used by the Presi-  
7 dential designee to prepare the report and to  
8 develop the data presented in the report, includ-  
9 ing the approach for designing, implementing,  
10 and analyzing the results of any surveys,

11 “(B) the effectiveness of any voting assist-  
12 ance covered in the report provided under sub-  
13 section (b) and provided by the Presidential  
14 designee to absent overseas uniformed services  
15 voters and overseas voters who are not members  
16 of the uniformed services, including an assess-  
17 ment of—

18 “(i) any steps taken toward improving  
19 the implementation of such voting assist-  
20 ance; and

21 “(ii) the extent of collaboration be-  
22 tween the Presidential designee and the  
23 States in providing such voting assistance;  
24 and

1           “(C) any other information the Comp-  
2           troller General considers relevant to the re-  
3           view.”.

4           (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5           (1) Section 101(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
6           1973ff(b)) is amended—

7                   (A) by striking paragraph (6); and

8                   (B) by redesignating paragraphs (7)  
9           through (11) as paragraphs (6) through (10),  
10          respectively.

11          (2) Section 102(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
12          1973ff-1(a)) is amended—

13                   (A) in paragraph (5), by striking  
14           “101(b)(7)” and inserting “101(b)(6)”; and

15                   (B) in paragraph (11), by striking  
16           “101(b)(11)” and inserting “101(b)(10)”.

17          (3) Section 105A(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
18          1973ff-4a(b)) is amended—

19                   (A) by striking “ANNUAL REPORT” in the  
20           subsection heading and inserting “BIENNIAL  
21           REPORT”; and

22                   (B) by striking “In the case of” in para-  
23           graph (3) and all that follows through “a de-  
24           scription” and inserting “A description”.

1 **SEC. 1617. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The amendments made by this subtitle shall apply  
3 with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for  
4 Federal office held in November 2014 and each succeeding  
5 election for Federal office.

6 **Subtitle B—Provision of Voter As-**  
7 **sistance to Members of the**  
8 **Armed Forces**

9 **SEC. 1621. PROVISION OF ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.**

10 (a) ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 80 of title 10,  
12 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
13 section 1566a the following new section:

14 **“§ 1556b. Annual voter assistance**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
16 carry out the following activities:

17 “(1) In coordination with the Secretary of each  
18 military department—

19 “(A) affirmatively offer, on an annual  
20 basis, each member of the armed forces on ac-  
21 tive duty (other than active duty for training)  
22 the opportunity, through the online system de-  
23 veloped under paragraph (2), to—

24 “(i) register to vote in an election for  
25 Federal office;



1                   “(ii) update the member’s voter reg-  
2                   istration information; or

3                   “(iii) request an absentee ballot;

4                   “(B) provide services to such members for  
5                   the purpose of carrying out the activities in  
6                   clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A);  
7                   and

8                   “(C) require any such member who de-  
9                   clines the offer for voter assistance under sub-  
10                  paragraph (A) to indicate and record that deci-  
11                  sion.

12                  “(2) Implement an online system that, to the  
13                  extent practicable, is integrated with the existing  
14                  systems of each of the military departments and  
15                  that—

16                  “(A) provides an electronic means for car-  
17                  rying out the requirements of paragraph (1);

18                  “(B) in the case of an individual reg-  
19                  istering to vote in a State that accepts elec-  
20                  tronic voter registration and operates its own  
21                  electronic voter registration system using a  
22                  form that meets the requirements for mail voter  
23                  registration forms under section 9(b) of the Na-  
24                  tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42

1 U.S.C. 1973gg-7(b)), directs such individual to  
2 that system; and

3 “(C) in the case of an individual using the  
4 official postcard form prescribed under section  
5 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-  
6 zens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 1973ff(b)(2)) to register to vote and request an  
8 absentee ballot—

9 “(i) pre-populates such official post-  
10 card form with the personal information of  
11 such individual, and

12 “(ii)(I) produces the pre-populated  
13 form and a pre-addressed envelope for use  
14 in transmitting such official postcard form;  
15 or

16 “(II) transmits the completed official  
17 postcard form electronically to the appro-  
18 priate State or local election officials.

19 “(3) Implement a system (either independently  
20 or in conjunction with the online system under para-  
21 graph (2)) by which any change of address by a  
22 member of the armed forces on active duty who is  
23 undergoing a permanent change of station, deploying  
24 overseas for at least six months, or returning from  
25 an overseas deployment of at least six months auto-

1       matically triggers a notification via electronic means  
2       to such member that—

3               “(A) indicates that such member’s voter  
4       registration or absentee mailing address should  
5       be updated with the appropriate State or local  
6       election officials; and

7               “(B) includes instructions on how to up-  
8       date such voter registration using the online  
9       system developed under paragraph (2).

10       “(b) DATA COLLECTION.—The online system devel-  
11      oped under subsection (a)(2) shall collect and store all  
12      data required to meet the reporting requirements of sec-  
13      tion 1621(b) of the Safeguarding Elections for our Na-  
14      tion’s Troops through Reforms and Improvements  
15      (SENTRI) Act and section 105A(b)(2) of the Uniformed  
16      and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C.  
17      1973ff-4a(b)(2)) in a manner that complies with section  
18      552a of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as  
19      the Privacy Act of 1974) and imposes no new record man-  
20      agement burden on any military unit or military installa-  
21      tion.

22       “(c) TIMING OF VOTER ASSISTANCE.—To the extent  
23      practicable, the voter assistance under subsection (a)(1)  
24      shall be offered as a part of each service member’s annual  
25      training.

1       “(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the  
2 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of De-  
3 fense shall prescribe regulations implementing the require-  
4 ments of subsection (a). Such regulations shall include  
5 procedures to inform those members of the armed forces  
6 on active duty (other than active duty for training) experi-  
7 encing a change of address about the benefits of this sec-  
8 tion and the timeframe for requesting an absentee ballot  
9 to ensure sufficient time for State delivery of the ballot.”.

10       (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
11 tions at the beginning of chapter 80 of such title is  
12 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
13 tion 1566a the following new item:

“1566b. Annual voter assistance.”.

14       (b) REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

15       (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
17 retary of Defense shall submit to the relevant com-  
18 mittees of Congress a report on the status of the im-  
19 plementation of the requirements of section 1566b of  
20 title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection  
21 (a)(1).

22       (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph  
23 (1) shall include—

1 (A) a detailed description of any specific  
2 steps already taken towards the implementation  
3 of the requirements of such section 1566b;

4 (B) a detailed plan for the implementation  
5 of such requirements, including milestones and  
6 deadlines for the completion of such implemen-  
7 tation;

8 (C) the costs expected to be incurred in the  
9 implementation of such requirements;

10 (D) a description of how the annual voting  
11 assistance and system under subsection (a)(3)  
12 of such section will be integrated with applica-  
13 ble Department of Defense personnel databases  
14 that track military service members' address  
15 changes;

16 (E) an estimate of how long it will take an  
17 average member to complete the voter assist-  
18 ance process required under subsection (a)(1)  
19 of such section;

20 (F) an explanation of how the Secretary of  
21 Defense will collect reliable data on the utiliza-  
22 tion of the online system under subsection  
23 (a)(2) of such section; and

24 (G) a summary of any objections, con-  
25 cerns, or comments made by State or local elec-

1           tion officials regarding the implementation of  
2           such section.

3           (3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-  
4       FINED.—In this subsection, the term “relevant com-  
5       mittees of Congress” means—

6                   (A) the Committees on Appropriations,  
7                   Armed Services, and Rules and Administration  
8                   of the Senate; and

9                   (B) the Committees on Appropriations,  
10                  Armed Services, and House Administration of  
11                  the House of Representatives.

12           **Subtitle C—Electronic Voting**  
13                           **Systems**

14       **SEC. 1631. REPEAL OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DEMONSTRA-**  
15                           **TION PROJECT.**

16       Section 1604 of the National Defense Authorization  
17       Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (42 U.S.C. 1973ff note) is re-  
18       pealed.

1     **Subtitle D—Residency of Military**  
2                     **Family Members**

3     **SEC. 1641. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR**  
4                     **VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF**  
5                     **ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.**

6             (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 705 of  
7     the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595)  
8     is amended—

9             (1) by striking “a person who is absent from a  
10     State because the person is accompanying the  
11     persons’s spouse who is absent from that same State  
12     in compliance with military or naval orders shall not,  
13     solely by reason of that absence” and inserting “a  
14     dependent of a person who is absent from a State  
15     in compliance with military orders shall not, solely  
16     by reason of absence, whether or not accompanying  
17     that person”; and

18             (2) in the heading by striking “SPOUSES” and  
19     inserting “DEPENDENTS”.

20             (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of sec-  
21     tion 705 of such Act (50 U.S.C. App 595) is amended  
22     by striking “**SPOUSES**” and inserting “**DEPENDENTS**”.

23             (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
24     this section shall apply with respect to absences from  
25     States described in section 705(b) of the Servicemembers

1 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595(b)), as amended by  
2 subsection (a), after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
3 regardless of the date of the military orders concerned.