

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4251

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Federal Government in carrying out its responsibilities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to promote access to voting for absent uniformed services voters and an analysis of means for improving access to voter registration information and assistance for members of the Armed Forces and their family members, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida (for herself and Mr. NEGUSE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study of the effectiveness of the Federal Government in carrying out its responsibilities under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to promote access to voting for absent uniformed services voters and an analysis of means for improving access to voter registration information and assistance for members of the Armed Forces and their family members, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-**  
2 **PORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIFORMED**  
3 **AND OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING**  
4 **ACT AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO VOTER REG-**  
5 **ISTRATION INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**  
6 **FOR ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the  
8 United States shall conduct—

9 (1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the Fed-  
10 eral Government in carrying out its responsibilities  
11 under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absen-  
12 tee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) to promote  
13 access to voting for absent uniformed services voters;  
14 and

15 (2) a study on means for improving access to  
16 voter registration information and assistance for  
17 members of the Armed Forces and their family  
18 members.

19 (b) ELEMENTS.—

20 (1) ANALYSIS.—The analysis required by sub-  
21 section (a)(1) shall include analysis of the following:

22 (A) Data and information pertaining to the  
23 transmission of ballots to absent uniformed  
24 services voters.

25 (B) Data and information pertaining to  
26 the methods of transmission of voted ballots

1 from absent uniformed services voters, includ-  
2 ing the efficacy and security of such methods.

3 (C) Data and information pertaining to the  
4 treatment by election officials of voted ballots  
5 transmitted by absent uniformed services vot-  
6 ers, including—

7 (i) the rate at which such ballots are  
8 counted in elections;

9 (ii) the rate at which such ballots are  
10 rejected in elections; and

11 (iii) the reasons for such rejections.

12 (D) An analysis of the effectiveness of the  
13 assistance provided to absent uniformed serv-  
14 ices voters by Voting Assistance Officers of the  
15 Federal Voting Assistance Program of the De-  
16 partment of Defense.

17 (E) A review of the extent of coordination  
18 between Voting Assistance Officers and State  
19 and local election officials.

20 (F) Information regarding such other  
21 issues relating to the ability of absent uni-  
22 formed services voters to register to vote, vote,  
23 and have their ballots counted in elections for  
24 Federal office.

25 (G) Data and information pertaining to—

1 (i) the awareness of members of the  
2 Armed Forces and their family members of  
3 the requirement under section 1566a of  
4 title 10, United States Code, that the Sec-  
5 retaries of the military departments pro-  
6 vide voter registration information and as-  
7 sistance; and

8 (ii) whether members of the Armed  
9 Forces and their family members received  
10 such information and assistance at the  
11 times required by subsection (c) of that  
12 section.

13 (2) STUDY.—The study required by subsection  
14 (a)(2) shall include the following:

15 (A) An assessment of potential actions to  
16 be undertaken by the Secretary of each military  
17 department to increase access to voter registra-  
18 tion information and assistance for members of  
19 the Armed Forces and their family members.

20 (B) An estimate of the costs and require-  
21 ments to fully meet the needs of members of  
22 the Armed Forces for access to voter registra-  
23 tion information and assistance.

24 (c) METHODS.—In conducting the analysis and study  
25 required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall,

1 in cooperation and consultation with the Secretaries of the  
2 military departments—

3 (1) use existing information from available gov-  
4 ernment and other public sources; and

5 (2) acquire, through the Comptroller General’s  
6 own investigations, interviews, and analysis, such  
7 other information as the Comptroller General re-  
8 quires to conduct the analysis and study.

9 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September  
10 30, 2025, the Comptroller General shall submit to the  
11 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and  
12 the Committee on House Administration of the House of  
13 Representatives a report on the analysis and study re-  
14 quired by subsection (a).

15 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER.—  
17 The term “absent uniformed services voter” has the  
18 meaning given that term in section 107 of the Uni-  
19 formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act  
20 (52 U.S.C. 20310).

21 (2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family mem-  
22 ber”, with respect to a member of the Armed  
23 Forces, means a spouse and other dependent (as de-

1 fined in section 1072 of title 10, United States  
2 Code) of the member.

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