

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2197

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. FISCHER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

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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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Military
3 Voters Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT**
5 **ON IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIFORMED AND**
6 **OVERSEAS CITIZENS ABSENTEE VOTING ACT**
7 **AND IMPROVING ACCESS TO VOTER REG-**
8 **ISTRATION INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE**
9 **FOR ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the
11 United States shall conduct—

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

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

22 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—

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

1 (A) Data and information pertaining to the
2 transmission of ballots to absent uniformed
3 services voters.

4 (B) Data and information pertaining to
5 the methods of transmission of voted ballots
6 from absent uniformed services voters, includ-
7 ing the efficacy and security of such methods.

8 (C) Data and information pertaining to the
9 treatment by election officials of voted ballots
10 transmitted by absent uniformed services vot-
11 ers, including—

12 (i) the rate at which such ballots are
13 counted in elections;

14 (ii) the rate at which such ballots are
15 rejected in elections; and

16 (iii) the reasons for such rejections.

17 (D) An analysis of the effectiveness of the
18 assistance provided to absent uniformed serv-
19 ices voters by Voting Assistance Officers of the
20 Federal Voting Assistance Program of the De-
21 partment of Defense.

22 (E) A review of the extent of coordination
23 between Voting Assistance Officers and State
24 and local election officials.

1 (F) Information regarding such other
2 issues relating to the ability of absent uni-
3 formed services voters to register to vote, vote,
4 and have their ballots counted in elections for
5 Federal office.

6 (G) Data and information pertaining to—

7 (i) the awareness of members of the
8 Armed Forces and their family members of
9 the requirement under section 1566a of
10 title 10, United States Code, that the Sec-
11 retaries of the military departments pro-
12 vide voter registration information and as-
13 sistance; and

14 (ii) whether members of the Armed
15 Forces and their family members received
16 such information and assistance at the
17 times required by subsection (c) of that
18 section.

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

21 (A) An assessment of potential actions to
22 be undertaken by the Secretary of each military
23 department to increase access to voter registra-
24 tion information and assistance for members of
25 the Armed Forces and their family members.

1 (B) An estimate of the costs and require-
2 ments to fully meet the needs of members of
3 the Armed Forces for access to voter registra-
4 tion information and assistance.

5 (c) METHODS.—In conducting the analysis and study
6 required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall,
7 in cooperation and consultation with the Secretaries of the
8 military departments—

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

11 (2) acquire, through the Comptroller General’s
12 own investigations, interviews, and analysis, such
13 other information as the Comptroller General re-
14 quires to conduct the analysis and study.

15 (d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than September
16 30, 2025, the Comptroller General shall submit to the
17 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate and
18 the Committee on House Administration of the House of
19 Representatives a report on the analysis and study re-
20 quired by subsection (a).

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER.—
23 The term “absent uniformed services voter” has the
24 meaning given that term in section 107 of the Uni-

1 formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act
2 (52 U.S.C. 20310).

3 (2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family mem-
4 ber”, with respect to a member of the Armed
5 Forces, means a spouse and other dependent (as de-
6 fined in section 1072 of title 10, United States
7 Code) of the member.

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