1	H.334
2	Introduced by Representative Lippert of Hinesburg
3	Referred to Committee on
4	Date:
5	Subject: Elections; qualification of voters; residence; e-mailing ballots
6	Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to allow a person residing
7	temporarily out of state to receive an absentee ballot by e-mail on request.
8 9	An act relating to e-mailing ballots to voters residing temporarily out of state
10	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
11	Sec. 1. 17 V.S.A. § 2122(a) is amended to read:
12	(a) A person shall not gain or lose a residence solely by reason of presence
13	or absence while in the service of the state or of the United States; nor while
14	engaged in the navigation of the waters of the state or of the United States or
15	on the high seas; nor while in a hospital, nursing home, or other health care
16	facility; nor while confined in a prison or correctional institution; nor while a
17	member of a veterans' home; nor while a student at any educational institution
18	nor while living outside the United States; nor while certified as a participant

in the address confidentiality program under chapter 21, subchapter 3 of

Title 15; nor while residing temporarily out of state.

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- Sec. 2. 17 V.S.A. § 2532 is amended to read:
- § 2532. APPLICATIONS; FORM
 - (a)(1) An early or absentee voter, or an authorized family member or health care provider acting in the voter's behalf, may apply for an early voter absentee ballot by telephone, in person, <u>by e-mail</u>, or in writing. "Family member" here means a person's spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, spouse's parents, grandparents, and spouse's grandparents. Any other authorized person may apply in writing or in person. The application shall be in substantially the following form:

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- (2) If the application is made by telephone <u>or e-mail</u> or in writing, the information supplied must be in substantial conformance with the information requested on this form.
- (b) A person temporarily residing <u>out of state or</u> in a foreign country who is eligible to register to vote in this state, or a military service absentee voter who is eligible to register to vote in this state, may apply for early voter absentee ballots in the same manner and within the same time limits that apply for other early or absentee voters. An official federal postcard application shall suffice as a simultaneous request for an application for addition to the checklist and for an early voter absentee ballot, when properly submitted. Any other person

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also may make a simultaneous request for an application for addition to the checklist and for an early voter absentee ballot.

(c) If the request is received by the town clerk prior to the voter registration deadline set forth in subsection 2144(a) of this title, the town clerk shall mail or, upon the request of the voter or authorized person, e-mail a blank application for addition to the checklist, together with a full set of early voter absentee ballots, to the person who has applied for early voter absentee ballots. All such applications for addition to the checklist which are returned to the town clerk before the close of the polls on election day shall be considered and acted upon by the board of civil authority before the ballots are counted. The voter or authorized person may return the application to the town clerk by e-mail. If the application is approved and the name added to the checklist, the early voter absentee ballots cast by that voter shall be treated as other valid early voter absentee ballots.

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(f) The town clerk may, upon application, issue a duplicate early voter absentee ballot if the original ballot is not received by the voter within a reasonable period of time after mailing. The application may be made by a person entitled to apply for an early voter absentee ballot under subsection (a) of this section and, shall be accompanied by a sworn statement affirming that the voter has not received the original ballot, and may be sent to the town clerk

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1	by e-mail. The duplicate early voter absentee ballot may be sent to the voter
2	by e-mail, at the request of the voter or authorized person. If a duplicate early
3	voter absentee ballot is issued and both the duplicate and original early voter
4	absentee ballots are received before the close of the polls on election day, the
5	ballot with the earlier postmark shall be counted.
6	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE