

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 501
Version: As introduced

DATE: February 13, 2015

Authors: Fenton and others

Subject: Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voting

Analyst: Matt Gehring, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill expands the existing special procedures for absentee voting by members of the military and other citizens residing overseas to include members of the Minnesota National Guard.

The bill also allows adult children of citizens residing permanently overseas to vote in Minnesota elections, if a parent resided in Minnesota prior to leaving the country.

Section

- 1 Military.** Updates a definition of “military” to conform to the definition provided in the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), and expands the definition to include members of the Minnesota National Guard, in the section of law that establishes eligibility to use special absentee voting procedures for members of the military and other citizens residing overseas.
- 2 Military service; temporary residence outside United States.** Updates a citation to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).
- 3 Indefinite residence outside United States.** Permits citizens indefinitely residing outside of the United States, but who meet all the requirements for voting except residence in Minnesota, to vote in Minnesota elections if the citizen’s parent maintained appropriate residence in Minnesota prior to departure from the United States.

Section

- 4** **Submission of application.** Eliminates obsolete language related to use of a Social Security number on an absentee ballot application (Social Security numbers are no longer required on absentee ballot applications for military and other voters), and provides a conforming reference to reflect changes made in section 3.
- 5** **Required information.** Provides a conforming reference to the changes made in section 3, to update the conditions under which an absentee ballot application from a uniformed or overseas voter would be accepted.
- 6** **Special federal ballot.** Updates a citation to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA).