



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Final Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

### Am. S.B. 238

130th General Assembly  
(As Passed by the General Assembly)

**Sens.** LaRose, Schaffer, Seitz, Jordan, Eklund, Coley, Widener, Burke, Lehner

**Reps.** J. Adams, Beck, Becker, Blessing, Boose, Brenner, Buchy, Damschroder, Green, Hayes, Henne, Hood, Huffman, Maag, McClain, Retherford, Roegner, Scherer, Sears, Terhar, Thompson, Wachtmann, Young, Batchelder

**Effective date:** June 1, 2014

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## ACT SUMMARY

- Effective June 1, 2014, requires generally that absent voter's ballots be ready for use on the first day after the close of voter registration before the day of an election.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

The act shortens the period during which electors may cast absent voter's ballots before an election. Under the act, absent voter's ballots generally must be ready for use, whether in person or by mail, on the first day after the close of voter registration before the election, instead of on the 35th day before the day of the election.<sup>1</sup> Under continuing Ohio and federal law, uniformed services and overseas absent voter's ballots must be ready for use by mail on the 45th day before the day of an election.<sup>2</sup>

Because continuing law allows an individual to register to vote not later than 30 days before the day of an election, the previous period for absent voting included days in which individuals could both register to vote and apply for and cast absent voter's ballots. The act eliminates this period for all individuals other than uniformed services or overseas absent voters who cast absent voter's ballots by mail.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3509.01(B) and 3511.10.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3509.01(B)(1) and 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1(a)(8).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3503.01, not in the act, 3509.01, and 3511.10. See also Ohio Const. Art. V, Sec. 1.

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	11-13-13
Reported, S. State Gov't Oversight & Reform	11-20-13
Passed Senate (23-10)	11-20-13
Reported, H. Policy & Legislative Oversight	02-12-14
Passed House (59-37)	02-19-14
Senate concurred in House amendments (22-10)	02-19-14

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