



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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## Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

### **S.B. 238**

130th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

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

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires generally that absent voter's ballots be ready for use on the 29th day before the day of an election.
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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

The bill shortens the period during which electors may cast absent voter's ballots before an election. Under the bill, absent voter's ballots generally must be ready for use, whether in person or by mail, on the 29th day, instead of 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 current period for absent voting includes days in which individuals may both register to vote and apply for and cast absent voter's ballots. The bill 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 bill, 3509.01, and 3511.10. See also Ohio Const. Art. V, Sec. 1.

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## HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

11-13-13

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