



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Emily E. Wendel

Am. S.B. 238

130th General Assembly
(As Passed by the Senate)

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

BILL SUMMARY

- 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.

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 first day after the close of voter registration before the election, instead of on the 35th day before the day of the election.¹ 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.²

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.³

¹ R.C. 3509.01(B) and 3511.10.

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

³ R.C. 3503.01, not in the bill, 3509.01, and 3511.10. See also Ohio Const. Art. V, Sec. 1.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	11-13-13
Reported, S. State Gov't Oversight & Reform	11-20-13
Passed Senate (23-10)	11-20-13

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