



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 563 Printer's No. 609

Prime Sponsor: Senator Stefano
Committee: State Government

SYNOPSIS:

Requires the Pennsylvania Department of State (Department) to develop a secure online system for military-overseas voters to return their absentee ballots electronically.

SUMMARY:

Amends Title 25 (Elections) to require the Department to develop an online system for military voters overseas to return their absentee ballots.

In order to create such a system, the bill amends Chapter 35 (pertaining to Uniform Military and Overseas Voters) of this Title as follows:

- Defines an "electronic submission of a paper ballot" to allow votes cast and transmitted through electronic means, including e-mail or facsimile;
- Includes an "electronic submission of a paper ballot" as an appropriate form of a "military-overseas ballot";
- Includes, among the duties of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to establish an electronic transmission system, in which military voters covered under Chapter 35 may cast an electronic ballot, and that the electronic transmission system is operational by January 1, 2019.

Effective Date: 60 Days.

AMENDMENT A03410:

Adds a regulatory component which would require the Department to publish final-form regulations relating to the electronic transmission system within 18 months.

BILL HISTORY:

Referred to State Government, March 28, 2017. Similar legislation (SB1052) was unanimously reported from the Senate State Government Committee during the 2015-2016 legislative session.

Prepared by: Totino 10/13/2017