

(2) a State absentee ballot is required to be available to any voter described in section 1973ff-6(5)(B) or (C) of this title, as soon as the official list of candidates in the general, special, primary, or runoff election for Federal office is complete.

(Pub. L. 99-410, title I, §103, Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 925; Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, §566(c), (d), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1919; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §§581(a)(1), (b), 582(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2326, 2327; Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title X, §1075(d)(3), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4372.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-383 amended Pub. L. 111-84, §581(a)(1)(C). See 2009 Amendment note below.

2009—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-84, §581(b), substituted “In general” for “In General” in subsec. (a) heading, designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted par. (1) heading, and added par. (2).

Pub. L. 111-84, §581(a)(1)(A), substituted “general, special, primary, and runoff elections for Federal office” for “general elections for Federal office”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111-84, §581(a)(1)(B), substituted “a general, special, primary, or runoff election for Federal office” for “a general election” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 111-84, §582(b)(2), added subsec. (f). Former subsec. (f) redesignated (g).

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-84, §582(b)(1), redesignated subsec. (f) as (g).

Pub. L. 111-84, §581(a)(1)(C), as amended by Pub. L. 111-383, substituted “the general, special, primary, or runoff election for Federal office” for “the general election” in pars. (1) and (2).

2004—Pub. L. 108-375, §566(d)(1), substituted “Federal write-in absentee ballot in general elections for Federal office for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters” for “Federal write-in absentee ballot for overseas voters in general elections for Federal office” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-375, §566(c)(1), substituted “absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters” for “overseas voters”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-375, §566(c)(2), inserted second sentence and struck out former second sentence which read as follows: “A Federal write-in absentee ballot of an overseas voter shall not be counted—

“(1) if the ballot is submitted from any location in the United States;

“(2) if the application of the overseas voter for a State absentee ballot is received by the appropriate State election official less than 30 days before the general election; or

“(3) if a State absentee ballot of the overseas voter is received by the appropriate State election official not later than the deadline for receipt of the State absentee ballot under State law.”

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 108-375, §566(c)(3), substituted “absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter” for “overseas voter”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 108-375, §566(c)(4), (d)(2), substituted “absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter” for “overseas voter” in heading and two places in text.

Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 108-375, §566(c)(5), substituted “absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters” for “overseas voters”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2011 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-383, div. A, title X, §1075(d), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4372, provided that the amendment by section 1075(d)(3) is effective as of Oct. 28, 2009, and as if included in Pub. L. 111-84 as enacted.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §581(a)(2), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2326, provided that: “The amendments made

by this subsection [amending this section] shall take effect on December 31, 2010, and apply with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after such date.”

Amendment by section 582(b) of Pub. L. 111-84 applicable with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2010 and each succeeding election for Federal office, see section 582(c) of Pub. L. 111-84, set out as a note under section 1973ff-1 of this title.

### § 1973ff-2a. Procedures for collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters

#### (a) Establishment of procedures

The Presidential designee shall establish procedures for collecting marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters in regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office, including absentee ballots prepared by States and the Federal write-in absentee ballot prescribed under section 1973ff-2 of this title, and for delivering such marked absentee ballots to the appropriate election officials.

#### (b) Delivery to appropriate election officials

##### (1) In general

Under the procedures established under this section, the Presidential designee shall implement procedures that facilitate the delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters for regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office to the appropriate election officials, in accordance with this section, not later than the date by which an absentee ballot must be received in order to be counted in the election.

##### (2) Cooperation and coordination with the United States Postal Service

The Presidential designee shall carry out this section in cooperation and coordination with the United States Postal Service, and shall provide expedited mail delivery service for all such marked absentee ballots of absent uniformed services voters that are collected on or before the deadline described in paragraph (3) and then transferred to the United States Postal Service.

##### (3) Deadline described

###### (A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the deadline described in this paragraph is noon (in the location in which the ballot is collected) on the seventh day preceding the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.

###### (B) Authority to establish alternative deadline for certain locations

If the Presidential designee determines that the deadline described in subparagraph (A) is not sufficient to ensure timely delivery of the ballot under paragraph (1) with respect to a particular location because of remoteness or other factors, the Presidential designee may establish as an alternative deadline for that location the latest date occurring prior to the deadline described in subparagraph (A) which is sufficient to provide timely delivery of the ballot under paragraph (1).

**(4) No postage requirement**

In accordance with section 3406 of title 39, such marked absentee ballots and other balloting materials shall be carried free of postage.

**(5) Date of mailing**

Such marked absentee ballots shall be postmarked with a record of the date on which the ballot is mailed.

**(c) Outreach for absent overseas uniformed services voters on procedures**

The Presidential designee shall take appropriate actions to inform individuals who are anticipated to be absent overseas uniformed services voters in a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office to which this section applies of the procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots established pursuant to this section, including the manner in which such voters may utilize such procedures for the submittal of marked absentee ballots pursuant to this section.

**(d) Absent overseas uniformed services voter defined**

In this section, the term “absent overseas uniformed services voter” means an overseas voter described in section 1973ff-6(5)(A) of this title.

**(e) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Presidential designee such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 99-410, title I, §103A, as added Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §580(a), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2324.)

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2010 and each succeeding election for Federal office, see section 580(f) of Pub. L. 111-84, set out as an Effective Date of 2009 Amendment note under section 1973ff of this title.

**§ 1973ff-2b. Federal Voting Assistance Program Improvements****(a) Duties**

The Presidential designee shall carry out the following duties:

(1) Develop online portals of information to inform absent uniformed services voters regarding voter registration procedures and absentee ballot procedures to be used by such voters with respect to elections for Federal office.

(2) Establish a program to notify absent uniformed services voters of voter registration information and resources, the availability of the Federal postcard application, and the availability of the Federal write-in absentee ballot on the military Global Network, and shall use the military Global Network to notify absent uniformed services voters of the foregoing 90, 60, and 30 days prior to each election for Federal office.

**(b) Clarification regarding other duties and obligations**

Nothing in this section shall relieve the Presidential designee of their duties and obligations

under any directives or regulations issued by the Department of Defense, including the Department of Defense Directive 1000.04 (or any successor directive or regulation) that is not inconsistent or contradictory to the provisions of this section.

**(c) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the Department of Defense (or a successor program) such sums as are necessary for purposes of carrying out this section.

(Pub. L. 99-410, title I, §103B, as added Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §583(a)(1), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2327.)

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2010 and each succeeding election for Federal office, see section 583(a)(3) of Pub. L. 111-84, set out as an Effective Date of 2009 Amendment note under section 1973ff of this title.

**§ 1973ff-3. Prohibition of refusal of applications on grounds of early submission**

A State may not refuse to accept or process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application or absentee ballot application (including the postcard form prescribed under section 1973ff of this title) submitted by an absent uniformed services voter during a year on the grounds that the voter submitted the application before the first date on which the State otherwise accepts or processes such applications for that year submitted by absentee voters who are not members of the uniformed services.

(Pub. L. 99-410, title I, §104, Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 926; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title XVI, §1606(b), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1279; Pub. L. 107-252, title VII, §§704, 706(a), Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1724, 1725; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §585(a), (b)(2), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2331.)

## AMENDMENTS

2009—Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “Prohibition of refusal of applications on grounds of early submission” for “Use of single application for all subsequent elections” in section catchline, struck out subsecs. (a) to (d) which related, respectively, to provision of absentee ballot in subsequent elections after acceptance and processing of an official post card form, exception for voters changing registration, revision of official post card form, and construction of provisions with voter removal programs, and struck out subsec. (e) designation and heading before “A State”.

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-252, §704, substituted “through the next 2 regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general elections), the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such subsequent election” for “during that year, the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State during that year”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-252, §706(a), added subsec. (e). 2001—Pub. L. 107-107 amended section catchline and text generally, substituting provisions relating to use of single application for all subsequent elections for provisions relating to recommendations to States to maximize access to polls by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.