

**(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 20310(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.)

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973ff-2a of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## 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 20301 of this title.

**§ 20305. 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.)

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973ff-2b of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## 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 20301 of this title.

**§ 20306. 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 20301 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.)

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973ff-3 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

## 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.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-252, title VII, §706(b), Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1725, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office that occur after January 1, 2004.”

#### § 20307. Enforcement

##### (a) In general

The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declaratory or injunctive relief as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

##### (b) Report to Congress

Not later than December 31 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress an annual report on any civil action brought under subsection (a) during the preceding year.

(Pub. L. 99-410, title I, §105, Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 927; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §587, Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2333.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973ff-4 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

##### AMENDMENTS

2009—Pub. L. 111-84 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

#### § 20308. Reporting requirements

##### (a) Report on status of implementation and assessment of programs

Not later than 180 days after October 28, 2009, the Presidential designee shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report containing the following information:

(1) The status of the implementation of the procedures established for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters under sec-

tion 20304 of this title, and a detailed description of the specific steps taken towards such implementation for the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2010.

(2) An assessment of the effectiveness of the Voting Assistance Officer Program of the Department of Defense, which shall include the following:

(A) A thorough and complete assessment of whether the Program, as configured and implemented as of October 28, 2009, is effectively assisting absent uniformed services voters in exercising their right to vote.

(B) An inventory and explanation of any areas of voter assistance in which the Program has failed to accomplish its stated objectives and effectively assist absent uniformed services voters in exercising their right to vote.

(C) As necessary, a detailed plan for the implementation of any new program to replace or supplement voter assistance activities required to be performed under this Act.

(3) A detailed description of the specific steps taken towards the implementation of voter registration assistance for absent uniformed services voters under section 1566a of title 10.

##### (b) Biennial report on effectiveness of activities and utilization of certain procedures

Not later than September 30 of each odd-numbered year, the Presidential designee shall transmit to the President and to the relevant committees of Congress a report containing the following information with respect to the Federal elections held during the preceding calendar year:

(1) An assessment of the effectiveness of activities carried out under section 20305 of this title, including the activities and actions of the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, a separate assessment of voter registration and participation by absent uniformed services voters, a separate assessment of voter registration and participation by overseas voters who are not members of the uniformed services, and a description of the cooperation between States and the Federal Government in carrying out such section.

(2) A description of the utilization of voter registration assistance under section 1566a of title 10, which shall include the following:

(A) A description of the specific programs implemented by each military department of the Armed Forces pursuant to such section.

(B) The number of absent uniformed services voters who utilized voter registration assistance provided under such section.

(3) A description of the utilization of the procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots established pursuant to section 20304 of this title, which shall include the number of marked absentee ballots collected and delivered under such procedures and the number of such ballots which were not delivered by the time of the closing of the polls on the date of the election (and the reasons such ballots were not so delivered).