

Senate Study Bill 3037 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED SECRETARY OF
STATE BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to absentee voting by uniformed and overseas
2 citizens.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 53.45, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code
2 2016, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. The application for a special absentee ballot shall not
4 be filed earlier than ~~ninety~~ one hundred twenty days prior to
5 the general election. The special absentee ballot shall list
6 the offices and measures, if known, scheduled to appear on the
7 general election ballot. The eligible elector may use the
8 special absentee ballot to write in the name of any eligible
9 candidate for each office and may vote on any measure.

10 Sec. 2. Section 53.53, subsection 1, Code 2016, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 1. Upon receipt of an official federal write-in ballot, the
13 commissioner shall examine the voter's written declarations
14 on the envelope. ~~If it appears that the voter is eligible to~~
15 ~~vote under the provisions of this subchapter, has applied in a~~
16 ~~timely fashion for an absentee ballot,~~ and has complied with
17 all requirements for the federal write-in ballot, then the
18 federal write-in ballot is valid unless ~~the~~ an Iowa absentee
19 ballot is received from the voter in time to be counted.

20 Sec. 3. Section 53.53, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code 2016,
21 is amended by striking the paragraph.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to absentee voting by uniformed and
26 overseas citizens.

27 Under current law, eligible electors may request and then
28 vote using a special absentee ballot for general elections if
29 the eligible elector will be residing, stationed, or working
30 outside of the continental United States and if the eligible
31 elector will be unable to vote and return a regular absentee
32 ballot through normal mail delivery. The bill extends the
33 allowable time for filing an application for a special absentee
34 ballot from 90 to 120 days.

35 Under current law, military and overseas voters are allowed

1 to vote in primary and general elections, as well as certain
2 special elections, by voting and submitting a federal write-in
3 absentee ballot. The bill strikes current requirements
4 related to a voter's submission of a regular absentee ballot
5 application for a voter's federal write-in absentee ballot to
6 be counted.