AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–23

OFFERED BY MRS. DAVIS OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of subtitle G of title V the following new section:

SEC. 575. ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACKING PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment and Operation of Program.—Section 102(h) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(h)) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) Absentee Ballot Tracking Program.—

“(1) Requiring establishment and operation of program.—The chief State election official, in coordination with local election jurisdictions, shall establish and operate an absentee ballot tracking program described in paragraph (2) for the use of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

“(2) Program described.—

“(A) Information on transmission and receipt of absentee ballots.—An absentee ballot tracking program described in this paragraph is a program under which—
“(i) the State or local election official responsible for the transmission of absentee ballots in an election for Federal office operates procedures to track and confirm the transmission of such ballots and to make information on the transmission of such a ballot available by means of online access using the Internet site of the official’s office; and

“(ii) the State or local election official responsible for the receipt of absentee ballots in an election for Federal office operates procedures to track and confirm the receipt of such ballots and (subject to subparagraph (B)) to make information on the receipt of such a ballot available by means of online access using the Internet site of the official’s office.

“(B) SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON RECEIPT OF VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS.—The information required to be made available under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to the receipt of a voted absentee ballot in an election for Federal office shall include information regarding whether the vote cast on the ballot was
counted, and, in the case of a vote which was not counted, the reasons therefor. The appropriate State or local election official shall make the information described in the previous sentence available during the 30-day period that begins on the date on which the results of the election are certified, or during such earlier 30-day period as the official may provide.

“(3) USE OF TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER BY OFFICIALS WITHOUT INTERNET SITE.—A program established and operated by a State or local election official whose office does not have an Internet site may meet the requirements of paragraph (2) if the official has established and operates a toll-free telephone number that may be used to obtain the information on the transmission or receipt of the absentee ballot which is required under such paragraph.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections held during 2018 or any succeeding year.