

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-61
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 5, line 13, strike “this Act” and insert “this Act or any amendment made by this Act”.

Add at the end the following:

1 SEC. 6. RULES FOR TREATMENT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America
3 Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended
4 by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 303A. RULES FOR TREATMENT OF ABSENTEE BAL-**
6 **LOTS.**

7 “(a) METHODS FOR REQUESTING BALLOT.—In addi-
8 tion to such other methods as the State may establish for
9 an individual to request an absentee ballot, the State shall
10 permit an individual to submit a request for an absentee
11 ballot through the Internet or mobile application and by
12 telephone. The State shall be considered to meet the re-
13 quirements of this paragraph if the website of the appro-
14 priate State or local election official allows an absentee
15 ballot request application to be completed and submitted
16 online and if the website permits the individual—

1 “(1) to print the application so that the indi-
2 vidual may complete the application and return it to
3 the official; or

4 “(2) to request that a paper copy of the appli-
5 cation be transmitted to the individual by mail or
6 electronic mail so that the individual may complete
7 the application and return it to the official.

8 “(b) METHODS FOR RETURNING BALLOTS.—In addi-
9 tion to permitting an individual to whom an absentee bal-
10 lot in an election was provided to return the ballot to an
11 election official by mail, the State shall permit the indi-
12 vidual to cast the ballot by delivering the ballot at such
13 times and to such locations as the State may establish,
14 including—

15 “(1) permitting the individual to deliver the bal-
16 lot to a polling place on any date on which voting
17 in the election is held at the polling place; and

18 “(2) permitting the individual to deliver the bal-
19 lot to a designated ballot drop-off location.

20 “(c) DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF BALLOTS.—A
21 State may not refuse to accept or process an absentee bal-
22 lot submitted by an individual by mail with respect to an
23 election for Federal office in the State on the grounds that
24 the individual did not meet a deadline for returning the
25 ballot to the appropriate State or local election official if—

1 “(1) the ballot is postmarked, signed, or other-
2 wise indicated by the United States Postal Service to
3 have been mailed on or before the date of the elec-
4 tion; and

5 “(2) the ballot is received by the appropriate
6 election official prior to the expiration of the 10-day
7 period (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal
8 public holidays) which begins on the date of the elec-
9 tion.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-
11 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111)
12 is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and
13 303A”.

14 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
15 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
16 to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 303A. Rules for treatment of absentee ballots.”.

