AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. MILLER OF FLORIDA

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

Subtitle K—Uniformed Services Voting

SEC. 599. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the “Safeguarding Elections for our Nation’s Troops through Reforms and Improvements Act” or SENTRI Act.

SEC. 599A. PROVISION OF ANNUAL VOTER ASSISTANCE.

(a) Annual Voter Assistance.—

(1) In general.—Chapter 80 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1566a the following new section:

“§ 1566b. Annual voter assistance
“(a) In general.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out the following activities:

“(1) In coordination with the Secretary of each military department—

“(A) affirmatively offer, on an annual basis, each member of the armed forces on active duty (other than active duty for training)
the opportunity, through the online system de-
veloped under paragraph (2), to—

“(i) register to vote in an election for
Federal office;

“(ii) update the member’s voter reg-
istration information; or

“(iii) request an absentee ballot;

“(B) provide services to such members for
the purpose of carrying out the activities in
clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A);
and

“(C) require any such member who de-
clines the offer for voter assistance under sub-
paragraph (A) to indicate and record that deci-
sion.

“(2) Implement an online system that, to the
extent practicable, is integrated with the existing
systems of each of the military departments and
that—

“(A) provides an electronic means for car-
rying out the requirements of paragraph (1);

“(B) in the case of an individual reg-
istering to vote in a State that accepts elec-
tronic voter registration and operates its own
electronic voter registration system using a
form that meets the requirements for mail voter registration forms under section 9(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–7(b)), directs such individual to that system; and

“(C) in the case of an individual using the official postcard form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff(b)(2)) to register to vote and request an absentee ballot—

“(i) pre-populates such official postcard form with the personal information of such individual, and

“(ii)(I) produces the pre-populated form and a pre-addressed envelope for use in transmitting such official postcard form; or

“(II) transmits the completed official postcard form electronically to the appropriate State or local election officials.

“(3) Implement a system (either independently or in conjunction with the online system under paragraph (2)) by which any change of address by a member of the armed forces on active duty who is
undergoing a permanent change of station, deploying overseas for at least six months, or returning from an overseas deployment of at least six months automatically triggers a notification via electronic means to such member that—

“(A) indicates that such member’s voter registration or absentee mailing address should be updated with the appropriate State or local election officials; and

“(B) includes instructions on how to update such voter registration using the online system developed under paragraph (2).

“(b) DATA COLLECTION.—The online system developed under subsection (a)(2) shall collect and store all data required to meet the reporting requirements of section 599A(b) of the Safeguarding Elections for our Nation’s Troops through Reforms and Improvements Act and section 105A(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–4a(b)(2)) in a manner that complies with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, (commonly known as the Privacy Act of 1974) and imposes no new record management burden on any military unit or military installation.

“(c) TIMING OF VOTER ASSISTANCE.—To the extent practicable, the voter assistance under subsection (a)(1)
shall be offered as a part of each servicemember’s annual training.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations implementing the requirements of subsection (a). Such regulations shall include procedures to inform those members of the armed forces on active duty (other than active duty for training) experiencing a change of address about the benefits of this section and the timeframe for requesting an absentee ballot to ensure sufficient time for State delivery of the ballot.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 80 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1566a the following new item:

“1566b. Annual voter assistance.”.

(b) REPORT ON STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report on the status of the implementation of the requirements of section 1566b of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include—
(A) a detailed description of any specific steps already taken towards the implementation of the requirements of such section 1566b;

(B) a detailed plan for the implementation of such requirements, including milestones and deadlines for the completion of such implementation;

(C) the costs expected to be incurred in the implementation of such requirements;

(D) a description of how the annual voting assistance and system under subsection (a)(3) of such section will be integrated with Department of Defense personnel databases that track military servicemembers’ address changes;

(E) an estimate of how long it will take an average member to complete the voter assistance process required under subsection (a)(1) of such section;

(F) an explanation of how the Secretary of Defense will collect reliable data on the utilization of the online system under subsection (a)(2) of such section; and

(G) a summary of any objections, concerns, or comments made by State or local elec-
tion officials regarding the implementation of such section.

(3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “relevant committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Rules and Administration of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and House Administration of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 599B. REPEAL OF ELECTRONIC VOTING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.


SEC. 599C. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

(a) In general.—Subsection (b) of section 705 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595) is amended—

(1) by striking “a person who is absent from a State because the person is accompanying the person’s spouse who is absent from that same State
in compliance with military or naval orders shall not, solely by reason of that absence” and inserting “a dependent of a person who is absent from a State in compliance with military orders shall not, solely by reason of absence, whether or not accompanying that person”; and

(2) in the heading by striking “SPOUSES” and inserting “DEPENDENTS”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 705 of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595) is amended by striking “SPOUSES” and inserting “DEPENDENTS”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to absences from States described in section 705(b) of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595(b)), as amended by subsection (a), after the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of the date of the military orders concerned.

SEC. 599C. DESIGNATION OF VOTER ASSISTANCE OFFICES.

Section 1566a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “Not later than” and all that follows through “subsection (f), the Secretaries” and inserting “The Secretaries”; and
(B) by striking “shall designate” and inserting “may designate”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “shall ensure” and all that follows through “necessity,” and inserting “may ensure”; 

(3) in subsection (d), by striking “shall” and inserting “may”;

(4) in subsection (c), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “Any office so designated may provide voting assistance described in this section.”; and

(5) in subsection (f)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(ii) by striking “the requirements of”;

and

(B) by striking the second sentence.