

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to overseas absentee ballots; amending
 3 s. 101.697, F.S.; requiring the Department of State to
 4 develop instructions and procedures for the electronic
 5 submission of voted absentee ballots from overseas
 6 voters; requiring the department, in consultation with
 7 supervisors of elections, to develop security
 8 measures; prescribing requirements for such security
 9 measures; requiring the department to perform an
 10 annual security assessment; providing an effective
 11 date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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15 Section 1. Section 101.697, Florida Statutes, is amended
 16 to read:

17 101.697 Electronic transmission of election materials.—The
 18 Department of State shall ~~determine whether secure electronic~~
 19 ~~means can be established for receiving ballots from overseas~~
 20 ~~voters. If such security can be established, the department~~
 21 shall adopt rules to authorize a supervisor of elections to
 22 accept from an overseas voter, including uniformed and civilian
 23 overseas absentee voters, a request for an absentee ballot or a
 24 voted absentee ballot by secure facsimile machine transmission
 25 or other secure electronic means. The rules must provide that in
 26 order to accept a voted ballot, the verification of the voter

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27 | must be established, the security of the transmission must be
28 | established, and each ballot received must be recorded. The
29 | department shall provide instructions, procedures, and services
30 | for the secure return of voted absentee ballots by electronic
31 | means under this section. The department shall, in consultation
32 | with supervisors of elections, develop security measures to
33 | ensure the accuracy and integrity of absentee voting by
34 | electronic means and to reasonably secure the transmission,
35 | processing, and storage of voter data from interception and
36 | unauthorized access. The department shall perform an annual
37 | security assessment after each election to evaluate the number
38 | of or any discrepancy in the votes received electronically.

39 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.