

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 479

By: Stanley and Jett of the
Senate

6 and

7 West (Josh) of the House

8
9
10 An Act relating to soldiers and sailors; amending 26
11 O.S. 2021, Section 14-137, which relates to Uniform
12 Military and Overseas Voters Act; modifying
13 definition; amending 72 O.S. 2021, Section 2, which
14 relates to certain definition; modifying definition;
15 updating statutory references; updating statutory
16 language; and providing an effective date.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

17 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 26 O.S. 2021, Section 14-137, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 As used in the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act:

20 1. "Covered voter" means:

21 a. a uniformed-service voter or an overseas voter who is
22 registered to vote in this state,

23 b. a uniformed-service voter defined in subparagraph a of
24 paragraph 9 of this section, whose voting residence is

1 in this state and who otherwise satisfies this state's
2 voter eligibility requirements,

3 c. an overseas voter who, before leaving the United
4 States, was last eligible to vote in this state and,
5 except for a state residency requirement, otherwise
6 satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements,

7 d. an overseas voter who, before leaving the United
8 States, would have been last eligible to vote in this
9 state had the voter then been of voting age and,
10 except for a state residency requirement, otherwise
11 satisfies this state's voter eligibility requirements,
12 or

13 e. an overseas voter who was born outside the United
14 States, is not described in subparagraph c or d of
15 this paragraph, and, except for a state residency
16 requirement, otherwise satisfies this state's voter
17 eligibility requirements, if:

18 (1) the last place where a parent or legal guardian
19 of the voter was, or under ~~this act~~ the Uniform
20 Military and Overseas Voters Act would have been,
21 eligible to vote before leaving the United States
22 is within this state, and

23 (2) the voter has not previously registered to vote
24 in any other state;

1 2. "Dependent" means an individual recognized as a dependent by
2 a uniformed service;

3 3. "Federal postcard application" means the application
4 prescribed under Section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed and Overseas
5 Citizens Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff(b)(2);

6 4. "Federal write-in absentee ballot" means the ballot
7 described in Section 103 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens
8 Absentee Voting Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 1973ff-2;

9 5. "Military-overseas ballot" means:

10 a. a federal write-in absentee ballot,

11 b. a ballot specifically prepared or distributed for use
12 by a covered voter in accordance with ~~this act~~ Section
13 14-136 et seq. of this title, or

14 c. a ballot cast by a covered voter in accordance with
15 ~~this act~~ the Uniform Military and Overseas Voters Act;

16 6. "Overseas voter" means a United States citizen who is
17 outside the United States;

18 7. "State" means a state of the United States, the District of
19 Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any
20 territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the
21 United States;

22 8. "Uniformed service" means:
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1 a. active and reserve components of the Army, Navy, Air
2 Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard of
3 the United States,

4 b. the Merchant ~~Marine~~ Marines, the commissioned corps of
5 the Public Health Service, or the commissioned corps
6 of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
7 of the United States, or

8 c. the National Guard and state militia;

9 9. "Uniformed-service voter" means an individual who is
10 qualified to vote and is:

11 a. a member of the active or reserve components of the
12 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or
13 Coast Guard of the United States who is on active
14 duty,

15 b. a member of the Merchant ~~Marine~~ Marines, the
16 commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, or
17 the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and
18 Atmospheric Administration of the United States,

19 c. a member on activated status of the National Guard or
20 state militia, or

21 d. a spouse or dependent of a member referred to in this
22 paragraph; and

23 10. "United States", used in the territorial sense, means the
24 several states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United

1 States Virgin Islands, and any territory or insular possession
2 subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

3 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 72 O.S. 2021, Section 2, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 The words "ex-service person", "veteran", or "war veteran" used
6 in ~~this act~~ Section 1 et seq. of this title shall be construed to
7 mean any person who:

8 1. Has served the full obligation for active duty, Reserve or
9 National Guard service in the ~~military~~ uniformed service as defined
10 in Section 14-137 of Title 26 of the Oklahoma Statutes, or received
11 an early discharge for a medical condition, hardship, or reduction
12 in force; and

13 2. Has been separated or discharged from such service honorably
14 or under honorable conditions.

15 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

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17 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS,
18 dated 04/04/2023 - DO PASS.

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