



House Ethics and Elections
September 28, 2021
Senate Bills 8, & 311: Support in concept with changes

Senate Bills 8 and 311 would allow overseas military to submit their ballot electronically. We support this expansion of access in concept but would like to see if go further to accommodate all citizens who are living overseas and fall under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). All UOCAVA voters face unique challenges in obtaining and returning absentee ballots within state deadlines and they should all be afforded equal protection and access.

There is already precedent for this expansion as most states that allow for the secure electronic transmission of absentee ballots extend that right to all UOCAVA voters.¹ In fact, Michigan would be an outlier by only increasing access for overseas military voting, while ignoring all other qualified electors residing outside of the United States.

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¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/internet-voting.aspx>