

**ELECTION CODE - MILITARY OVERSEAS BALLOT PROCEDURES**

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Matt Throckmorton**

**This act modifies statutes governing voting by military or overseas citizens. This act establishes criteria for declaring certain ballots invalid.**

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

AMENDS:

**20A-3-408**, as enacted by Chapter 1, Laws of Utah 1993

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **20A-3-408** is amended to read:

**20A-3-408. Voting of ballot by military or overseas citizen voter.**

(1) (a) The military or overseas citizen voter shall:

- (i) upon receipt of the ballot, mark it in secret;
- (ii) seal it in the ballot envelope provided for that purpose; and

(iii) execute the registration and voting certificate on the back of the envelope in the presence of a commissioned, noncommissioned, or petty officer not below the rank of sergeant, or other person authorized to administer oaths.

(b) (i) If the military or overseas citizen voter is physically disabled so as to be unable to see or write, he may request assistance from two persons, each of whom shall be qualified to certify to the registration and voting certificate.

(ii) The military or overseas citizen voter shall tell those persons how he wishes his ballot marked.

(iii) Those persons shall mark the ballot as directed by the military or overseas citizen voter in his presence.

(iv) One of the persons assisting the military or overseas citizen voter shall:

- (A) read to the voter the registration and voting certificate upon the ballot;
- (B) fill in its blanks as the voter directs; and
- (C) sign, on the line provided for the signature of the voter, the name of the voter and his

own name.

(2) (a) The ballot shall be sent by any available mail service to the county clerk who issued it.

(b) The military or overseas citizen voter is not required to return the ballot by registered mail.

(3) (a) The ballot is not valid unless it is:

(i) clearly postmarked by the appropriate military post office, the Fleet Post Office (FPO) or the Army/Air Force Post Office (APO), on or before election day and received in the office of the election officer before noon on the day of the official canvass following the election; or

(ii) in the possession of a military mail courier, en route to the appropriate fleet post office or army/air force post office, and can be certified as having been picked up on or before election day.

(b) If it is not possible to obtain the appropriate military post office postmark on or before election day, a noncommissioned officer or commissioned officer, may certify that the ballot was voted on or before election day by writing the following on the exterior of the ballot:

(i) "I certify that this ballot was voted on or before election day";

(ii) by signing and dating; and

(iii) clearly printing the noncommissioned officer or the commissioned officer's name, rank, and service number below the signature.