SYNOPSIS
Establishes pilot project to permit overseas and military voters to vote in certain elections using Internet; makes an appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/28/2014)
AN ACT establishing a pilot project to permit overseas and military voters to vote in certain elections using the Internet, and making an appropriation.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. The Secretary of State shall establish a pilot project to permit overseas voters to vote using the Internet. The pilot project shall be for the primary election and general election occurring in the calendar year in which P.L., c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill) takes effect. As used in this act, the term "overseas voter" shall have the same meaning as the term is used in subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1967, c.23 (C.19:59:2) and includes any person in military service who, by reason of active duty or service, is absent on the date of the election from the place of residence in New Jersey where the person is or would be qualified to vote.

b. The secretary shall:
   (1) create an Internet-based voting system for the pilot project that: (a) uses such technology as may be available to ensure the security of the ballot being voted, the privacy of the voter casting the ballot and the integrity of the voting process for the elections at which Internet voting is to be available; and (b) employs to the extent possible any guidelines for an Internet voting pilot project that assists overseas voters that are proposed or promulgated by the United States Election Assistance Commission or any other agency of the federal government;
   (2) consult with representatives of the clerks of the counties, the superintendents of elections and the county boards of election with the regard to the development and implementation of the pilot project;
   (3) provide sufficient and accessible notice and information to the public and overseas voters with respect to the pilot project and the requirements for such voters to participate in the elections at which Internet voting is to be available; and
   (4) promulgate such temporary rules and regulations as the secretary deems necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act.

c. The secretary shall submit to the Governor and the Legislature no later than the 120th day following the day of the general election at which the pilot project is operative a written report with recommendations as to whether:
   (1) Internet voting for overseas voters should not be adopted at present; or
   (2) the pilot project should be expanded and a further assessment of its feasibility should be conducted; or
(3) Internet voting for overseas voters should be adopted permanently by law.

d. There shall be appropriated from the General Fund such sums as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Department of the Treasury shall deem as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

2. This act shall take effect on the January 1 next following enactment and shall expire upon the submission of the report to the Governor and the Legislature pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes a pilot project to permit overseas voters to vote in certain elections using the Internet. The pilot project would be for the primary election and general election occurring in the calendar year in which the bill takes effect. As used in this act, the term “overseas voter” has the same meaning as the term is used in N.J.S.A.19:59-2 and includes any person in military service who, by reason of active duty or service, is absent on the date of the election from the place of residence in New Jersey where the person is or would be qualified to vote.

Specifically, the bill requires the Secretary of State to: (1) create an Internet-based voting system for the pilot project that: (a) uses such technology as may be available to ensure the security of the ballot being voted, the privacy of the voter casting the ballot and the integrity of the voting process for the elections at which Internet voting is to be available; and (b) employs to the extent possible any guidelines for an Internet voting pilot project that assists overseas voters that are proposed or promulgated by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission or any other agency of the federal government; (2) consult with representatives of the clerks of the counties, the superintendents of elections and the county boards of election with the regard to the development and implementation of the pilot project; (3) provide sufficient and accessible notice and information to the public and overseas voters with respect to the pilot project and the requirements for such voters to participate in the elections at which Internet voting is to be available; and (4) promulgate such temporary rules and regulations as the secretary deems necessary to effectuate the purpose of this act.

The secretary must submit to the Governor and the Legislature no later than the 120th day following the day of the general election at which the pilot project is operative a written report with recommendations as to whether: (1) Internet voting for overseas voters should not be adopted at present; or (2) the pilot project
should be expanded and a further assessment of its feasibility should be conducted; or (3) Internet voting for overseas voters should be adopted permanently by law. The bill provides that there would be appropriated from the General Fund such sums as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Department of the Treasury deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.