

CHAPTER 125.

[S. B. 111.]

METHOD OF VOTING FOR MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES.

AN ACT relating to elections and providing a method of voting for members of the armed forces of the United States absent from their places of residence.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Any person who shall be otherwise eligible to vote and who shall be absent from the place of his residence and serving in the armed forces of the United States may vote by absentee ballot as in this act provided. Such person shall make application to the registration office of his precinct, which application shall be subscribed and sworn to before any commissioned officer of any branch of the armed forces of the United States. Such application shall state the place of residence of such person prior to entering such military service, shall state that such person is eligible to vote at the election for which application to vote is made and that such person is prevented from registering and voting as required by the general election laws of this State because of his service in such armed forces. The registration officer shall thereupon prepare in duplicate a certificate for such person stating that he is a registered voter or that he has been prevented by reason of military service from registering as such voter, as the case may be, and which certificate shall state the place of residence of such person prior to the time of entering such military service. All certificates shall be executed and signed in duplicate, the registration officer retaining one in his permanent files for a period of six months after the date of such election. The registration officer shall send the other copy of such certificate to the County Auditor of the county in which such

Absentees in armed forces may vote.

Application under oath.

Officers may administer oaths.

Duty of registration officer.

Execute in duplicate.

Ballot shall be sent.

person resides, or to the City Clerk of the city in which such person resides, as the case may be. As early as possible after the printing of the ballots the County Auditor, if the election be a primary or general election, and the City Clerk, if it be a city primary or general city election, shall send a blank ballot for such election and shall also send a small envelop which shall not have any mark upon it which shall serve to identify it or the ballot within it with the voter, and shall also send a large envelop upon which shall be printed the name and post office address of the Auditor or City Clerk issuing the same, as the case may be, and have printed on the outside thereof a blank affidavit in substantially the following form:

Affidavit.

Form of affidavit.

State of }
 County of } ss.

I,, do solemnly swear that I am a resident of and qualified voter in precinct of city in County, Washington; that I have the legal right to vote at the election to be held in said precinct on the day of, 19....., and that I have herein enclosed my ballot for such election, duly marked as required by law in the presence of, a in and for County, State of.....

(Signed)

Voter.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of, 19

(Signature of Official)

(Official Title)

How voting shall be done.

Such person upon receiving the blank ballot and envelopes shall have the right thereupon to appear before any officer authorized by law to administer oaths or before any commissioned officer of the

armed forces of the United States and identify himself and thereupon mark such ballot. He shall then fold said ballot and enclose and seal the same in the smaller envelop and shall then enclose said smaller envelop in the large envelop and make, subscribe and swear to the affidavit printed on the large envelop before such officer and mail the same. Such marking of such ballot and mailing of such large envelop shall be had and done not later than the election day on which the election is held.

The County Auditor or City Clerk, as the case may be, upon receiving such absentee ballot shall file the same in his office and keep the same until the votes are canvassed as hereinafter provided. The County Auditor or the City Clerk, as the case may be, shall receive such large envelop and as nearly as possible follow the law and practice set forth for counting absentee ballots: *Provided, however,* That all ballots received by the County Auditor or City Clerk which are received prior to the time when the canvassing board finally completes its final canvass of the vote shall be counted as though such person had been present at the election and voted in person.

Ballot counting practice.

Proviso.

SEC. 2. The method of voting herein provided is supplemental to and in addition to the method of absentee voting provided by the general laws, and the provisions of this act shall be liberally construed to accomplish its purposes.

Supplemental method.

SEC. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety and for the immediate support of the state government and its existing public institutions and shall take effect immediately.

Effective immediately.

Passed the Senate February 8, 1943.

Passed the House March 10, 1943.

Approved by the Governor March 18, 1943.