

KRIS W. KOBACH
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, 1st Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4575
www.sos.ks.gov

STATE OF KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Thursday, April 28, 2011

Contact Information
V. Kay Curtis, Public Affairs Director
Kansas Secretary of State
785-296-4580 | media@sos.ks.gov

Kansas Military and Overseas Voter Act Signed by Governor

TOPEKA (April 28, 2011) – Today Kansas Governor Sam Brownback held a signing ceremony for Senate Bill 103 at the Capitol. The official signing took place on April 7 of this year.

Within weeks of taking office, Secretary of State Kris Kobach proposed SB 103 to expand voting opportunities for certain absentee federal services voters and military employees or their family members. Overwhelming bipartisan support is evident as the Senate passed the bill unanimously 38 to 0 and the House of Representatives passed it 123 to 1.

Secretary Kobach commented, “Our military personnel are fighting to bring the right to vote to people overseas. It is the least we can do to ensure that their voting rights are every bit as complete as those of Kansans residing at home.”

Two federal laws govern the voting process for military and overseas voters: The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. With the enactment of SB 103, Kansas now allows military and overseas voters to vote on local ballot issues, as well as to vote for a federal write-in candidate.

Before SB 103, Kansas law excluded from overseas absentee ballots elections involving local questions and political party precinct committee positions. After SB 103, these absentee ballots include all officers and any proposition or question for which the voter otherwise would be entitled to vote. Before, even citizens who paid Kansas property taxes but lived abroad could not vote on local mill levy increases or bond issues. Now they can. And now U.S. military staff deployed overseas can also elect their precinct committee people back home.

“The streamlined methods allowed by SB 103 enable U.S. citizens located outside the United States at election time to vote their absentee ballots as quickly and reliably as possible,” said Kobach. “We have made a significant improvement in our election laws.”