

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT

PO BOX 208, ROCKY HILL, CT 06067

THIS FORM FOR USE IN PROPOSING RESOLUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Please fill out and email to the Department Adjutant: deptadj@ctlegion.necoxmail.com

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion states, in part, that we associate ourselves together to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut's Legionnaires honor and support the members of the armed forces of the United States of America serving in defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice personal safety to ensure our liberty, and Connecticut takes special pride in the many men and women from our home state who have fought valiantly for these freedoms; and

WHEREAS, The service men and women of Connecticut selflessly leave the comfort of home to maintain these freedoms, often risking life and limb, making extraordinary sacrifices without hesitation or complaint, to promote democracy and to protect the rights and liberties of every American citizen; and

WHEREAS, While serving their country in foreign lands, they seek to exercise their Constitutional right to vote, a right they risk their lives to protect for others; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut elections statistics demonstrate that nearly 40 percent of absentee ballots transmitted to members of the military overseas are not returned to the state to be counted in elections; and

WHEREAS, The meaningful right to vote is denied to service personnel by Connecticut's current voting system that does not allow for the option of returning a ballot through electronic mail or facsimile, thus effectively disenfranchising nearly 40 percent of those serving overseas, a situation which is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, There are currently 28 states in the nation that have adopted legislation that allows for overseas servicemen and women to cast their ballot through electronic mail or facsimile, and have confirmed that there have been positive responses and no negative incidents as a result of their allowing for electronic submission; and

WHEREAS, Our active servicemen and women are fighting for our nation's democratic right to vote, it is only just that their right to do so is not infringed; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that The American Legion Department of Connecticut encourages the Connecticut General Assembly to enact legislation that will allow servicemen and women who are stationed overseas to return their ballot by electronic mail or facsimile; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Department of Connecticut, in regular meeting assembled at Wolcott, Connecticut, on March 11th, 2013, adopts this resolution for submission to the Connecticut General Assembly for consideration and action as appropriate.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
IN REGULARLY SCHEDULED SESSION AT WOLCOTT, CONNECTICUT, ON MARCH 11TH, 2013

ORIGINAL SIGNED