A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING PROCEDURES THAT FACILITATE VOTING BY MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries.)

Currently, the internet-based voting pilot program fund consists of only gifts, grants, and donations, and the pilot program cannot be implemented until enough gifts, grants, and donations are received to cover the costs of the pilot program. The bill directs the state treasurer to transfer $100,000 from the department of state cash fund to the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.
internet-based voting pilot program fund so that the secretary of state may begin implementing the pilot program.

Additionally, the bill allows a uniformed services elector to verbally provide a commissioned officer with the information necessary for the officer to request a mail-in ballot on behalf of the uniformed services elector.

Finally, the bill adds a veteran identification card issued by the veterans health administration within the United States department of veterans affairs to the list of acceptable forms of identification for voter registration purposes.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-1-104, add (19.5)
(a) (XII) as follows:

1-1-104. Definitions. As used in this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

(19.5) (a) "Identification" means:

(XII) A VALID VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WITH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ELIGIBLE ELECTOR.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-5.5-101, amend (1) introductory portion and (4); and repeal (5) as follows:

1-5.5-101. Pilot program - internet voting system - absent uniformed services elector - secretary of state - fund - rules.

(1) Subject to the availability of funds pursuant to subsection (4) of this section, The secretary of state, in coordination with the county clerk and recorders, shall develop an internet-based voting pilot program to facilitate voting by absent uniformed services electors serving outside the United States commencing with the general election held in 2012. The secretary of state shall select one or more political subdivisions to participate in the pilot program. The internet-based voting system
developed for use by political subdivisions that participate in the pilot program shall:

(4) There is hereby created in the state treasury the internet-based voting pilot program fund to provide for the direct and indirect costs associated with implementing this article. The fund shall consist of CONSISTS OF ANY MONEYS APPROPRIATED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO THE FUND AND ANY gifts, grants, and donations to the fund from private or public sources for the purposes of this article. All private and public funds received through gifts, grants, and donations shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall credit the same to the fund. Moneys in the fund shall be subject to annual appropriation by the general assembly to the department of state for the purposes specified in this article. Any unexpended and unencumbered moneys remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall remain in the fund and shall not be transferred to the general fund or any other fund.

(5) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section, the department of state shall not implement the internet-based voting system until sufficient gifts, grants, and donations are obtained to cover the costs of implementing the system.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 1-8.3-108, add (7) as follows:

1-8.3-108. Methods of applying for ballot - definition. (7) (a) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A COVERED VOTER IN A HOSTILE FIRE ZONE MAY PROVIDE TO AN OFFICER, EITHER VERBALLY OR IN WRITING, THE INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR THE COVERED VOTER TO APPLY FOR A BALLOT, AND THE OFFICER MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A BALLOT ON BEHALF OF THE COVERED VOTER. A
COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER SHALL ACCEPT AN UNSIGNED FEDERAL POSTCARD APPLICATION OR AN UNSIGNED LETTER OF APPLICATION FOR A BALLOT THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION IF THE OFFICER SUBMITS WITH THE APPLICATION A SIGNED STATEMENT THAT THE COVERED VOTER IN A HOSTILE FIRE ZONE PROVIDED TO THE OFFICER, EITHER VERBALLY OR IN WRITING, THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR A BALLOT.

(b) As used in this subsection (7), "COVERED VOTER IN A HOSTILE FIRE ZONE" means a covered voter, as that term is defined in section 1-8.3-102 (2) (a), who is located in an area that is designated as hostile fire zone by the United States Secretary of Defense at the time he or she makes the request for a ballot.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.