

## FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON - OCTOBER 1 -- State absentee registration and voting procedures should conform to new national guidelines, according to a study released today by the Federal Election Commission.

The report, The Analysis of Laws and Procedures Governing Absentee Registration and Absentee Voting in the United States, recommends that, "the Congress in cooperation with state governments, public and private professional and interest groups and the Federal Election Commission design and enact legislation setting out (new) standards for the conduct of Federal Elections."

The report proposes establishing a federal-state-local cost-sharing program administered through the Federal Election Commission to states and localities complying with the national standards.

The study was done by the research division of Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs under contract from the General Accounting Office. The report was completed and administered by the Clearinghouse of the Federal Election Commission.

The study further advises that "state governments exert control and authority over local election practices in order to achieve the benefits of modern management and technology as well as to achieve economies of scale. A vital part of management would be a centralized voter registration computer system....to serve as a near foolproof check on absentee registration and absentee voting requests."

Other specific recommendations include:

- 1) more effective training of election staff and officials;
- 2) the establishment of special absentee precinct for registration and ballot-counting;
- 3) emergency applications for absentee ballots to be acceptable up to seven days before an elections, and;
- 4) absentee registration to be permitted uniformly among the states.