

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1546

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish a minimum period for early voting in elections for Federal office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2019

Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish a minimum period for early voting in elections for Federal office.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. EARLY VOTING.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of the
5 Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.)
6 is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as
8 sections 305 and 306; and

1 (2) by inserting after section 303 the following
2 new section:

3 **“SEC. 304. EARLY VOTING.**

4 “(a) REQUIRING VOTING PRIOR TO DATE OF ELEC-
5 TION.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall allow indi-
7 viduals to vote in an election for Federal office dur-
8 ing an early voting period which occurs prior to the
9 date of the election, in the same manner as voting
10 is allowed on such date.

11 “(2) LENGTH OF PERIOD.—The early voting
12 period required under this subsection with respect to
13 an election shall consist of a period of consecutive
14 days (including weekends) which begins on the 15th
15 day before the date of the election (or, at the option
16 of the State, on a day prior to the 15th day before
17 the date of the election) and ends on the date of the
18 election.

19 “(b) MINIMUM EARLY VOTING REQUIREMENTS.—
20 Each polling place which allows voting during an early vot-
21 ing period under subsection (a) shall—

22 “(1) allow such voting for no less than 4 hours
23 on each day, except that the polling place may allow
24 such voting for fewer than 4 hours on Sundays; and

1 “(2) have uniform hours each day for which
2 such voting occurs.

3 “(c) LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES NEAR PUBLIC
4 TRANSPORTATION.—To the greatest extent practicable, a
5 State shall ensure that each polling place which allows vot-
6 ing during an early voting period under subsection (a) is
7 located within walking distance of a stop on a public trans-
8 portation route.

9 “(d) STANDARDS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall issue
11 standards for the administration of voting prior to
12 the day scheduled for a Federal election. Such
13 standards shall include the nondiscriminatory geo-
14 graphic placement of polling places at which such
15 voting occurs.

16 “(2) DEVIATION.—The standards described in
17 paragraph (1) shall permit States, upon providing
18 adequate public notice, to deviate from any require-
19 ment in the case of unforeseen circumstances, such
20 as a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or a change
21 in voter turnout.

22 “(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply
23 with respect to elections held on or after January 1,
24 2020.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO
2 ISSUANCE OF VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE BY ELECTION AS-
3 SISTANCE COMMISSION.—Section 311(b) of such Act (52
4 U.S.C. 21101(b)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph
6 (2);

7 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-
8 graph (3) and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

11 “(4) in the case of the recommendations with
12 respect to section 304, June 30, 2020.”.

13 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
14 of such Act, is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
16 tions 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and
17 306; and

18 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
19 tion 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Early voting.”.

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