

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 156

To ensure election integrity and security and enhance Americans' access to the ballot box by establishing consistent standards and procedures for voter registration and voting in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure election integrity and security and enhance Americans' access to the ballot box by establishing consistent standards and procedures for voter registration and voting in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

- 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. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**
- 4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 “Restoring Faith in Elections Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Federal standards for mail-in ballots.

Sec. 103. Federal standards for reporting election results.

TITLE II—AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 201. Short title; findings and purpose.

Sec. 202. Automatic registration of eligible individuals.

Sec. 203. Contributing agency assistance in registration.

Sec. 204. One-time contributing agency assistance in registration of eligible voters in existing records.

Sec. 205. Voter protection and security in automatic registration.

Sec. 206. Registration portability and correction.

Sec. 207. Payments and grants.

Sec. 208. Treatment of exempt States.

Sec. 209. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 210. Definitions.

Sec. 211. Effective date.

TITLE III—PROMOTING STANDARDIZED ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

Sec. 301. Requiring parity in treatment of methods of voting.

Sec. 302. Requiring standard election administration procedures in all jurisdictions in State.

TITLE IV—PROMOTING ACCURACY OF VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS

Sec. 401. Establishment of National Deconfliction Voting Database and Clearinghouse.

Sec. 402. Pre-election maintenance and certification of official voter registration list.

Sec. 403. Requiring applicants for motor vehicle driver's licenses in new State to indicate whether State serves as residence for voter registration purposes.

TITLE I—FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS

5 SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Verifiable, Orderly, and Timely Election Results Act”.

1 **SEC. 102. FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America
3 Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as
5 sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

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

8 **“SEC. 304. FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR MAIL-IN BALLOTS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—When otherwise permitted by
10 State law, any vote-by-mail system used in an election for
11 Federal office must be designed and implemented to en-
12 sure a secure, uniform, and timely system to cast a mail-
13 in ballot in accordance with this section.

14 “(b) REQUESTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Requests for a mail-in bal-
16 lot under such system may be submitted electroni-
17 cally or by postal mail using a standardized form ap-
18 proved for such requests by the chief State election
19 official.

20 “(2) REQUEST.—The form for such requests
21 must enable an election official who receives the re-
22 quest to confirm—

23 “(A) the identity of the individual submit-
24 ting the request;

1 “(B) that the individual is validly reg-
2 istered to vote in the jurisdiction where the re-
3 quest is submitted; and

4 “(C) that the individual continues to reside
5 at the physical address where the individual is
6 registered to vote (if different than the mailing
7 address where the ballot is requested to be
8 sent).

9 “(3) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.—Such re-
10 quest must be submitted by an individual and re-
11 ceived by the office of the State or local election su-
12 pervisor not later than 21 days before the date of
13 the election for Federal office.

14 “(4) MAILING OF BALLOTS.—Upon receipt of
15 such a request, the State or local election supervisor
16 shall fulfill the request by mailing a mail-in ballot to
17 the individual within 3 days.

18 “(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR STATE OR LOCAL ELEC-
19 TION OFFICIALS.—The office of the State or local election
20 supervisor shall—

21 “(1) record the total number of mail-in ballots
22 sent to voters pursuant to this section; and

23 “(2) include a notation on the voter rolls main-
24 tained by the office and provided to the individual
25 polling locations, which identifies that a voter has

1 received a mail-in ballot and the date that mail-in
2 ballot was sent to the voter.

3 “(d) BALLOT REQUIREMENTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be considered validly
5 cast and eligible to be counted in an election for
6 Federal office, a mail-in ballot must—

7 “(A) be marked using blue or black ink,
8 and properly designate the individual’s vote for
9 each candidate;

10 “(B) be signed by the individual using the
11 same signature the individual used to register
12 to vote;

13 “(C) be dated;

14 “(D) be received by the appropriate elec-
15 tion official no later than the time polls close on
16 the date of the election; and

17 “(E) include an attestation, signed by the
18 individual, that the individual submitting the
19 mail-in ballot is—

20 “(i) the individual to whom the ballot
21 was mailed;

22 “(ii) registered to vote in the jurisdic-
23 tion where the ballot is being submitted;
24 and

1 “(iii) submitting the mail-in ballot in
2 lieu of casting a ballot in-person, and will
3 not attempt to cast a ballot in-person after
4 submitting the mail-in ballot.

5 “(2) RETURN OF BALLOTS IN-PERSON.—An in-
6 dividual may choose to return a mail-in ballot in-per-
7 son to the polling place where the individual is reg-
8 istered to vote in lieu of returning the ballot by mail.

9 “(e) OPTION TO VOTE IN-PERSON.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual who receives
11 a mail-in ballot with respect to an election for Fed-
12 eral office may instead vote in-person in such elec-
13 tion if the individual turns in the blank or incom-
14 plete mail-in ballot received by the individual to the
15 polling location where the individual plans to vote in-
16 person.

17 “(2) PROVISIONAL BALLOT.—If the individual
18 attempts to vote in-person but does not bring their
19 blank or incomplete mail-in ballot to the polling loca-
20 tion, the individual shall be directed to complete a
21 provisional ballot.

22 “(f) PERSONS PERMITTED TO POSSESS MAIL-IN
23 BALLOTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
25 person to possess or return a mail-in ballot com-

1 pleted by another person, except as provided in this
2 subsection.

3 “(2) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may possess
5 or return a mail-in ballot completed by an im-
6 mediate family member, provided that the per-
7 son does not possess more than two such com-
8 pleted mail-in ballots other than his or her own.

9 “(B) DEFINITION OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY
10 MEMBER.—In this paragraph, the term ‘imme-
11 diate family member’ means the spouse, child,
12 parent, grandparent, or sibling of the person.

13 “(3) CAREGIVER.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A caregiver may pos-
15 sess or return a mail-in ballot completed by a
16 person under the supervision or care of the
17 caregiver, provided that the caregiver does not
18 possess more than two such completed mail-in
19 ballots other than his or her own.

20 “(B) DEFINITION OF CAREGIVER.—In this
21 paragraph, the term ‘caregiver’ means an indi-
22 vidual who has the responsibility for the care of
23 an older individual, either voluntarily, by con-
24 tract, by receipt of payment for care, or as a re-
25 sult of the operation of law and means an indi-

1 vidual who provides (on behalf of such individual or of a public or private agency, organization, or institution) compensated or uncompensated care to an older individual.

5 “(4) INCIDENTAL POSSESSION EXCEPTED.—
6 The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply
7 to the incidental possession of mail-in ballots by a
8 postal worker or election official acting within the
9 scope of his or her official capacity.

10 “(5) PENALTY.—Any person who violates this
11 subsection shall be fined under title 18, United
12 States Code, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or
13 both.

14 “(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply
15 with respect to elections for Federal office held after the
16 date of the enactment of this section.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-
18 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111)
19 is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and
20 304”.

21 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
22 of such Act is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
24 tions 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and
25 306; and

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

“See. 304. Federal standards for mail-in ballots.”.

3 **SEC. 103. FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR REPORTING ELEC-**
4 **TION RESULTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America
6 Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.), as amended
7 by section 102(a), is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating sections 305 and 306 as
9 sections 306 and 307, respectively; and
10 (2) by inserting after section 304 the following
11 new section:

12 **“SEC. 305. FEDERAL STANDARDS FOR REPORTING ELEC-**
13 **TION RESULTS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The chief State election official
15 shall ensure that ballots validly cast in an election for Fed-
16 eral office are able to be counted and reported in a timely
17 manner as follows:

18 “(1) Mail-in ballots received prior to the date of
19 the election shall be counted beginning at least one
20 week prior to the date of the election.

21 “(2) One hour after polls close on the date of
22 the election, each voting precinct shall report to the
23 chief State election official the following:

24 “(A) The total number of mail-in ballots
25 received by the voting precinct.

1 “(B) The total number of ballots cast in-
2 person in the voting precinct.

3 “(C) Of the ballots reported under sub-
4 paragraphs (A) and (B), the number of such
5 ballots that have been counted and the number
6 of such ballots that remain to be counted.

7 “(3) All ballots validly cast in an election for
8 Federal office shall be counted and reported within
9 24 hours after the conclusion of voting on the date
10 of the election.

11 “(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply
12 with respect to elections for Federal office held after the
13 date of the enactment of this section.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-
15 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C.
16 21111), as amended by section 102(b), is amended by
17 striking “and 304” and inserting “304, and 305”.

18 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
19 of such Act, as amended by section 102(c), is amended—
20 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
21 tions 305 and 306 as relating to sections 306 and
22 307; and

23 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
24 tion 304 the following new item:

“Sec. 305. Federal standards for reporting election results.”.

1 **TITLE II—AUTOMATIC VOTER
2 REGISTRATION**

3 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the
5 “Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2023”.

6 (b) FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.—

7 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (A) the right to vote is a fundamental
9 right of citizens of the United States;

10 (B) it is the responsibility of the State and
11 Federal Governments to ensure that every eligi-
12 ble citizen is registered to vote;

13 (C) existing voter registration systems can
14 be inaccurate, costly, inaccessible and confus-
15 ing, with damaging effects on voter partici-
16 pation in elections and disproportionate impacts
17 on young people, persons with disabilities, and
18 racial and ethnic minorities; and

19 (D) voter registration systems must be up-
20 dated with 21st-century technologies and proce-
21 dures to maintain their security.

22 (2) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this title—

23 (A) to establish that it is the responsibility
24 of government at every level to ensure that all
25 eligible citizens are registered to vote;

5 (C) to modernize voter registration and list
6 maintenance procedures with electronic and
7 internet capabilities; and

(D) to protect and enhance the integrity, accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of the electoral process for all eligible citizens.

11 SEC. 202. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

13 (a) REQUIRING STATES TO ESTABLISH AND OPER-
14 ATE AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION SYSTEM.—

1 ment agencies to election officials of the State so
2 that, unless the individual affirmatively declines to
3 be registered, the individual will be registered to vote
4 in such elections.

5 (b) REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BASED ON NEW
6 AGENCY RECORDS.—The chief State election official
7 shall—

8 (1) not later than 15 days after a contributing
9 agency has transmitted information with respect to
10 an individual pursuant to section 203, ensure that
11 the individual is registered to vote in elections for
12 Federal office in the State if the individual is eligible
13 to be registered to vote in such elections; and

14 (2) send written notice to the individual, in ad-
15 dition to other means of notice established by this
16 part, of the individual's voter registration status.

17 (c) ONE-TIME REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BASED ON
18 EXISTING CONTRIBUTING AGENCY RECORDS.—The chief
19 State election official shall—

20 (1) identify all individuals whose information is
21 transmitted by a contributing agency pursuant to
22 section 204 and who are eligible to be, but are not
23 currently, registered to vote in that State;

24 (2) promptly send each such individual written
25 notice, in addition to other means of notice estab-

1 lished by this title, which shall not identify the con-
2 tributing agency that transmitted the information
3 but shall include—

4 (A) an explanation that voter registration
5 is voluntary, but if the individual does not de-
6 cline registration, the individual will be reg-
7 istered to vote;

8 (B) a statement offering the opportunity to
9 decline voter registration through means con-
10 sistent with the requirements of this title;

11 (C) in the case of a State in which affiliation
12 or enrollment with a political party is re-
13 quired in order to participate in an election to
14 select the party's candidate in an election for
15 Federal office, a statement offering the indi-
16 vidual the opportunity to affiliate or enroll with
17 a political party or to decline to affiliate or en-
18 roll with a political party, through means con-
19 sistent with the requirements of this title;

20 (D) the substantive qualifications of an
21 elector in the State as listed in the mail voter
22 registration application form for elections for
23 Federal office prescribed pursuant to section 9
24 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
25 the consequences of false registration, and a

1 statement that the individual should decline to
2 register if the individual does not meet all those
3 qualifications;

4 (E) instructions for correcting any erroneous information; and

5 (F) instructions for providing any additional information which is listed in the mail
6 voter registration application form for elections
7 for Federal office prescribed pursuant to section
8 9 of the National Voter Registration Act of
9 1993;

10 (3) ensure that each such individual who is eligible to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State is promptly registered to vote not later than 45 days after the official sends the individual the written notice under paragraph (2), unless, during the 30-day period which begins on the date the election official sends the individual such written notice, the individual declines registration in writing, through a communication made over the internet, or by an officially logged telephone communication; and

11 (4) send written notice to each such individual, in addition to other means of notice established by this title, of the individual's voter registration status.

1 (d) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS
2 OF AGE.—A State may not refuse to treat an individual
3 as an eligible individual for purposes of this title on the
4 grounds that the individual is less than 18 years of age
5 at the time a contributing agency receives information
6 with respect to the individual, so long as the individual
7 is at least 16 years of age at such time.

8 (e) CONTRIBUTING AGENCY DEFINED.—In this part,
9 the term “contributing agency” means, with respect to a
10 State, an agency listed in section 203(e).

11 **SEC. 203. CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN REG-
12 ISTRATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this title, each
14 contributing agency in a State shall assist the State’s chief
15 election official in registering to vote all eligible individuals
16 served by that agency.

17 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTING AGEN-
18 CIES.—

19 (1) INSTRUCTIONS ON AUTOMATIC REGIS-
20 TRATION.—With each application for service or assist-
21 ance, and with each related recertification, renewal,
22 or change of address, or, in the case of an institu-
23 tion of higher education, with each registration of a
24 student for enrollment in a course of study, each
25 contributing agency that (in the normal course of its

1 operations) requests individuals to affirm United
2 States citizenship (either directly or as part of the
3 overall application for service or assistance) shall in-
4 form each such individual who is a citizen of the
5 United States of the following:

6 (A) Unless that individual declines to reg-
7 ister to vote, or is found ineligible to vote, the
8 individual will be registered to vote or, if appli-
9 cable, the individual's registration will be up-
10 dated.

11 (B) The substantive qualifications of an
12 elector in the State as listed in the mail voter
13 registration application form for elections for
14 Federal office prescribed pursuant to section 9
15 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
16 the consequences of false registration, and the
17 individual should decline to register if the indi-
18 vidual does not meet all those qualifications.

19 (C) In the case of a State in which affili-
20 ation or enrollment with a political party is re-
21 quired in order to participate in an election to
22 select the party's candidate in an election for
23 Federal office, the requirement that the indi-
24 vidual must affiliate or enroll with a political
25 party in order to participate in such an election.

1 (D) Voter registration is voluntary, and
2 neither registering nor declining to register to
3 vote will in any way affect the availability of
4 services or benefits, nor be used for other pur-
5 poses.

6 (2) OPPORTUNITY TO DECLINE REGISTRATION
7 REQUIRED.—Each contributing agency shall ensure
8 that each application for service or assistance, and
9 each related recertification, renewal, or change of
10 address, or, in the case of an institution of higher
11 education, each registration of a student for enroll-
12 ment in a course of study, cannot be completed until
13 the individual is given the opportunity to decline to
14 be registered to vote.

15 (3) INFORMATION TRANSMITTAL.—Upon the
16 expiration of the 30-day period which begins on the
17 date the contributing agency informs the individual
18 of the information described in paragraph (1), each
19 contributing agency shall electronically transmit to
20 the appropriate State election official, in a format
21 compatible with the statewide voter database main-
22 tained under section 303 of the Help America Vote
23 Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083), the following infor-
24 mation, unless during such 30-day period the indi-
25 vidual declined to be registered to vote:

- 1 (A) The individual's given name(s) and
2 surname(s).
- 3 (B) The individual's date of birth.
- 4 (C) The individual's residential address.
- 5 (D) Information showing that the indi-
6 vidual is a citizen of the United States.
- 7 (E) The date on which information per-
8 taining to that individual was collected or last
9 updated.
- 10 (F) If available, the individual's signature
11 in electronic form.
- 12 (G) Information regarding the individual's
13 affiliation or enrollment with a political party,
14 if the individual provides such information.
- 15 (H) Any additional information listed in
16 the mail voter registration application form for
17 elections for Federal office prescribed pursuant
18 to section 9 of the National Voter Registration
19 Act of 1993, including any valid driver's license
20 number or the last 4 digits of the individual's
21 social security number, if the individual pro-
22 vided such information.
- 23 (c) ALTERNATE PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN CON-
24 TRIBUTING AGENCIES.—With each application for service
25 or assistance, and with each related recertification, re-

1 newal, or change of address, or in the case of an institu-
2 tion of higher education, with each registration of a stu-
3 dent for enrollment in a course of study, any contributing
4 agency that in the normal course of its operations does
5 not request individuals applying for service or assistance
6 to affirm United States citizenship (either directly or as
7 part of the overall application for service or assistance)
8 shall—

9 (1) complete the requirements of section 7(a)(6)
10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52
11 U.S.C. 20506(a)(6));

12 (2) ensure that each applicant's transaction
13 with the agency cannot be completed until the appli-
14 cant has indicated whether the applicant wishes to
15 register to vote or declines to register to vote in elec-
16 tions for Federal office held in the State; and

17 (3) for each individual who wishes to register to
18 vote, transmit that individual's information in ac-
19 cordance with subsection (b)(3).

20 (d) REQUIRED AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC REG-
21 ISTRATION OPPORTUNITY WITH EACH APPLICATION FOR
22 SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE.—Each contributing agency
23 shall offer each individual, with each application for serv-
24 ice or assistance, and with each related recertification, re-
25 newal, or change of address, or in the case of an institu-

1 tion of higher education, with each registration of a stu-
2 dent for enrollment in a course of study, the opportunity
3 to register to vote as prescribed by this section without
4 regard to whether the individual previously declined a reg-
5 istration opportunity.

6 (e) CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES.—

7 (1) STATE AGENCIES.—In each State, each of
8 the following agencies shall be treated as a contrib-
9 uting agency:

10 (A) Each agency in a State that is re-
11 quired by Federal law to provide voter registra-
12 tion services, including the State motor vehicle
13 authority and other voter registration agencies
14 under the National Voter Registration Act of
15 1993.

16 (B) Each agency in a State that admin-
17 isters a program pursuant to title III of the So-
18 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501 et seq.), title
19 XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396
20 et seq.), or the Patient Protection and Afford-
21 able Care Act (Public Law 111–148).

22 (C) Each State agency primarily respon-
23 sible for regulating the private possession of
24 firearms.

1 (D) Each State agency primarily respon-
2 sible for maintaining identifying information for
3 students enrolled at public secondary schools,
4 including, where applicable, the State agency
5 responsible for maintaining the education data
6 system described in section 6201(e)(2) of the
7 America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C.
8 9871(e)(2)).

9 (E) In the case of a State in which an in-
10 dividual disenfranchised by a criminal convic-
11 tion may become eligible to vote upon comple-
12 tion of a criminal sentence or any part thereof,
13 or upon formal restoration of rights, the State
14 agency responsible for administering that sen-
15 tence, or part thereof, or that restoration of
16 rights.

17 (F) Any other agency of the State which is
18 designated by the State as a contributing agen-
19 cy.

20 (2) FEDERAL AGENCIES.—In each State, each
21 of the following agencies of the Federal Government
22 shall be treated as a contributing agency with re-
23 spect to individuals who are residents of that State
24 (except as provided in subparagraph (C)):

1 (A) The Social Security Administration,
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs, the De-
3 fense Manpower Data Center of the Depart-
4 ment of Defense, the Employee and Training
5 Administration of the Department of Labor,
6 and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Serv-
7 ices of the Department of Health and Human
8 Services.

9 (B) The Bureau of Citizenship and Immi-
10 gration Services, but only with respect to indi-
11 viduals who have completed the naturalization
12 process.

13 (C) In the case of an individual who is a
14 resident of a State in which an individual
15 disenfranchised by a criminal conviction under
16 Federal law may become eligible to vote upon
17 completion of a criminal sentence or any part
18 thereof, or upon formal restoration of rights,
19 the Federal agency responsible for admin-
20 istering that sentence or part thereof (without
21 regard to whether the agency is located in the
22 same State in which the individual is a resi-
23 dent), but only with respect to individuals who
24 have completed the criminal sentence or any
25 part thereof.

1 (5) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The chief State elec-
2 tion official of each State, in collaboration with each
3 contributing agency, shall take appropriate measures
4 to educate the public about voter registration under
5 this section.

6 **SEC. 204. ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSISTANCE**
7 **IN REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN**
8 **EXISTING RECORDS.**

9 (a) INITIAL TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION.—For
10 each individual already listed in a contributing agency's
11 records as of the date of enactment of this Act, and for
12 whom the agency has the information listed in section
13 203(b)(3), the agency shall promptly transmit that infor-
14 mation to the appropriate State election official in accord-
15 ance with section 203(b)(3) not later than the effective
16 date described in section 211(a).

17 (b) TRANSITION.—For each individual listed in a con-
18 tributing agency's records as of the effective date de-
19 scribed in section 211(a) (but who was not listed in a con-
20 tributing agency's records as of the date of enactment of
21 this Act), and for whom the agency has the information
22 listed in section 203(b)(3), the Agency shall promptly
23 transmit that information to the appropriate State election
24 official in accordance with section 203(b)(3) not later than

1 6 months after the effective date described in section
2 211(a).

3 **SEC. 205. VOTER PROTECTION AND SECURITY IN AUTO-**
4 **MATIC REGISTRATION.**

5 (a) PROTECTIONS FOR ERRORS IN REGISTRATION.—
6 An individual shall not be prosecuted under any Federal
7 law, adversely affected in any civil adjudication concerning
8 immigration status or naturalization, or subject to an alle-
9 gation in any legal proceeding that the individual is not
10 a citizen of the United States on any of the following
11 grounds:

12 (1) The individual notified an election office of
13 the individual's automatic registration to vote under
14 this title.

15 (2) The individual is not eligible to vote in elec-
16 tions for Federal office but was automatically reg-
17 istered to vote under this title.

18 (3) The individual was automatically registered
19 to vote under this title at an incorrect address.

20 (4) The individual declined the opportunity to
21 register to vote or did not make an affirmation of
22 citizenship, including through automatic registration,
23 under this title.

24 (b) LIMITS ON USE OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRA-
25 TION.—The automatic registration of any individual or the

1 fact that an individual declined the opportunity to register
2 to vote or did not make an affirmation of citizenship (in-
3 cluding through automatic registration) under this title
4 may not be used as evidence against that individual in any
5 State or Federal law enforcement proceeding, and an indi-
6 vidual's lack of knowledge or willfulness of such regis-
7 tration may be demonstrated by the individual's testimony
8 alone.

9 (c) PROTECTION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY.—Noth-
10 ing in subsection (a) or (b) may be construed to prohibit
11 or restrict any action under color of law against an indi-
12 vidual who—

13 (1) knowingly and willfully makes a false state-
14 ment to effectuate or perpetuate automatic voter
15 registration by any individual; or

16 (2) casts a ballot knowingly and willfully in vio-
17 lation of State law or the laws of the United States.

18 (d) CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES' PROTECTION OF IN-
19 FORMATION.—Nothing in this title authorizes a contrib-
20 uting agency to collect, retain, transmit, or publicly dis-
21 close any of the following:

22 (1) An individual's decision to decline to reg-
23 ister to vote or not to register to vote.

24 (2) An individual's decision not to affirm his or
25 her citizenship.

4 (e) ELECTION OFFICIALS' PROTECTION OF INFOR-
5 MATION.—

6 (1) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PROHIBITED.—

13 (i) The identity of the contributing
14 agency.

22 (iv) Any portion of the individual's so-
23 cial security number.

24 (v) Any portion of the individual's
25 motor vehicle driver's license number.

1 (vi) The individual's signature.

2 (vii) The individual's telephone num-
3 ber.

4 (viii) The individual's email address.

5 (B) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS REG-
6 ISTERED TO VOTE.—With respect to any indi-
7 vidual for whom any State election official re-
8 ceives information from a contributing agency
9 and who, on the basis of such information, is
10 registered to vote in the State under this part,
11 the State election officials shall not publicly dis-
12 close any of the following:

13 (i) The identity of the contributing
14 agency.

15 (ii) Any information not necessary to
16 voter registration.

17 (iii) Any voter information otherwise
18 shielded from disclosure under State law or
19 section 8(a) of the National Voter Reg-
20 istration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
21 20507(a)).

22 (iv) Any portion of the individual's so-
23 cial security number.

24 (v) Any portion of the individual's
25 motor vehicle driver's license number.

(vi) The individual's signature.

1 (C) publish the standards developed pursuant
2 to this paragraph on the Director's website
3 and make those standards available in written
4 form upon request.

5 (4) SECURITY POLICY.—The Director of the
6 National Institute of Standards and Technology
7 shall, after providing the public with notice and the
8 opportunity to comment, publish privacy and security
9 standards for voter registration information.
10 The standards shall require the chief State election
11 official of each State to adopt a policy that shall
12 specify—

13 (A) each class of users who shall have authorized
14 access to the computerized statewide voter registration list, specifying for each class the permission and levels of access to be granted, and setting forth other safeguards to protect the privacy, security, and accuracy of the information on the list; and

20 (B) security safeguards to protect personal information transmitted through the information transmittal processes of section 203 or section 204, the online system used pursuant to section 207, any telephone interface, the maintenance of the voter registration database, and

1 any audit procedure to track access to the sys-
2 tem.

3 (5) STATE COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL
4 STANDARDS.—

5 (A) CERTIFICATION.—The chief executive
6 officer of the State shall annually file with the
7 Election Assistance Commission a statement
8 certifying to the Director of the National Insti-
9 tute of Standards and Technology that the
10 State is in compliance with the standards re-
11 ferred to in paragraphs (3) and (4). A State
12 may meet the requirement of the previous sen-
13 tence by filing with the Commission a statement
14 which reads as follows: “_____ hereby
15 certifies that it is in compliance with the stand-
16 ards referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4) of
17 section 205 of the Automatic Voter Registration
18 Act of 2023.” (with the blank to be filled in
19 with the name of the State involved).

20 (B) PUBLICATION OF POLICIES AND PRO-
21 CEDURES.—The chief State election official of a
22 State shall publish on the official’s website the
23 policies and procedures established under this
24 section, and shall make those policies and pro-

1 cedures available in written form upon public
2 request.

3 (C) FUNDING DEPENDENT ON CERTIFI-
4 CATION.—If a State does not timely file the cer-
5 tification required under this paragraph, it shall
6 not receive any payment under this title for the
7 upcoming fiscal year.

8 (D) COMPLIANCE OF STATES THAT RE-
9 QUIRE CHANGES TO STATE LAW.—In the case
10 of a State that requires State legislation to
11 carry out an activity covered by any certifi-
12 cation submitted under this paragraph, for a
13 period of not more than 2 years the State shall
14 be permitted to make the certification notwithstanding that the legislation has not been enacted at the time the certification is submitted, and such State shall submit an additional certification once such legislation is enacted.

19 (f) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF INFORMATION.—No
20 person acting under color of law may discriminate against
21 any individual based on, or use for any purpose other than
22 voter registration, election administration, or enforcement
23 relating to election crimes, any of the following:

24 (1) Voter registration records.

1 (2) An individual's declination to register to
2 vote or complete an affirmation of citizenship under
3 section 203(b).

4 (3) An individual's voter registration status.

5 (g) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF VOTER REGIS-
6 TRATION INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.—In-
7 formation collected under this title shall not be used for
8 commercial purposes. Nothing in this subsection may be
9 construed to prohibit the transmission, exchange, or dis-
10 semination of information for political purposes, including
11 the support of campaigns for election for Federal, State,
12 or local public office or the activities of political commit-
13 tees (including committees of political parties) under the
14 Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

15 **SEC. 206. REGISTRATION PORTABILITY AND CORRECTION.**

16 (a) CORRECTING REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT
17 POLLING PLACE.—Notwithstanding section 302(a) of the
18 Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082(a)), if
19 an individual is registered to vote in elections for Federal
20 office held in a State, the appropriate election official at
21 the polling place for any such election (including a location
22 used as a polling place on a date other than the date of
23 the election) shall permit the individual to—

24 (1) update the individual's address for purposes
25 of the records of the election official;

1 (2) correct any incorrect information relating to
2 the individual, including the individual's name and
3 political party affiliation, in the records of the elec-
4 tion official; and

5 (3) cast a ballot in the election on the basis of
6 the updated address or corrected information, and to
7 have the ballot treated as a regular ballot and not
8 as a provisional ballot under section 302(a) of such
9 Act.

10 (b) UPDATES TO COMPUTERIZED STATEWIDE VOTER
11 REGISTRATION LISTS.—If an election official at the poll-
12 ing place receives an updated address or corrected infor-
13 mation from an individual under subsection (a), the offi-
14 cial shall ensure that the address or information is
15 promptly entered into the computerized statewide voter
16 registration list in accordance with section
17 303(a)(1)(A)(vi) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002
18 (52 U.S.C. 21083(a)(1)(A)(vi)).

19 **SEC. 207. PAYMENTS AND GRANTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance Commis-
21 sion shall make grants to each eligible State to assist the
22 State in implementing the requirements of this title (or,
23 in the case of an exempt State, in implementing its exist-
24 ing automatic voter registration program).

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY; APPLICATION.—A State is eligible
2 to receive a grant under this section if the State submits
3 to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the
4 Commission may require, an application containing—

5 (1) a description of the activities the State will
6 carry out with the grant;

7 (2) an assurance that the State shall carry out
8 such activities without partisan bias and without
9 promoting any particular point of view regarding
10 any issue; and

11 (3) such other information and assurances as
12 the Commission may require.

13 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT; PRIORITIES.—The Commis-
14 sion shall determine the amount of a grant made to an
15 eligible State under this section. In determining the
16 amounts of the grants, the Commission shall give priority
17 to providing funds for those activities which are most like-
18 ly to accelerate compliance with the requirements of this
19 title (or, in the case of an exempt State, which are most
20 likely to enhance the ability of the State to automatically
21 register individuals to vote through its existing automatic
22 voter registration program), including—

23 (1) investments supporting electronic informa-
24 tion transfer, including electronic collection and

1 transfer of signatures, between contributing agencies
2 and the appropriate State election officials;

3 (2) updates to online or electronic voter reg-
4 istration systems already operating as of the date of
5 the enactment of this Act;

6 (3) introduction of online voter registration sys-
7 tems in jurisdictions in which those systems did not
8 previously exist; and

9 (4) public education on the availability of new
10 methods of registering to vote, updating registration,
11 and correcting registration.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to
14 be appropriated to carry out this section—

15 (A) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

16 (B) such sums as may be necessary for
17 each succeeding fiscal year.

18 (2) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

19 Any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authority
20 of this subsection shall remain available without fis-
21 cal year limitation until expended.

22 **SEC. 208. TREATMENT OF EXEMPT STATES.**

23 (a) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Except as pro-
24 vided in subsection (b), this title does not apply with re-
25 spect to an exempt State.

1 (b) EXCEPTIONS.—The following provisions of this
2 title apply with respect to an exempt State:

3 (1) Section 206 (relating to registration port-
4 ability and correction).

5 (2) Section 207 (relating to payments and
6 grants).

7 (3) Section 209(e) (relating to enforcement).

8 (4) Section 209(f) (relating to relation to other
9 laws).

10 **SEC. 209. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

11 (a) ACCESSIBILITY OF REGISTRATION SERVICES.—
12 Each contributing agency shall ensure that the services
13 it provides under this title are made available to individ-
14 uals with disabilities to the same extent as services are
15 made available to all other individuals.

16 (b) TRANSMISSION THROUGH SECURE THIRD PARTY
17 PERMITTED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to
18 prevent a contributing agency from contracting with a
19 third party to assist the agency in meeting the information
20 transmittal requirements of this title, so long as the data
21 transmittal complies with the applicable requirements of
22 this title, including the privacy and security provisions of
23 section 205.

24 (c) NONPARTISAN, NONDISCRIMINATORY PROVISION
25 OF SERVICES.—The services made available by contrib-

1 uting agencies under this title and by the State under sec-
2 tions 205 and 206 shall be made in a manner consistent
3 with paragraphs (4), (5), and (6)(C) of section 7(a) of
4 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
5 20506(a)).

6 (d) NOTICES.—Each State may send notices under
7 this title via electronic mail if the individual has provided
8 an electronic mail address and consented to electronic mail
9 communications for election-related materials. All notices
10 sent pursuant to this title that require a response must
11 offer the individual notified the opportunity to respond at
12 no cost to the individual.

13 (e) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 11 of the National
14 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510), relat-
15 ing to civil enforcement and the availability of private
16 rights of action, shall apply with respect to this title in
17 the same manner as such section applies to such Act.

18 (f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Except as pro-
19 vided, nothing in this title may be construed to authorize
20 or require conduct prohibited under, or to supersede, re-
21 strict, or limit the application of any of the following:

- 22 (1) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
23 10301 et seq.).
- 24 (2) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Ab-
25 sentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

1 (3) The National Voter Registration Act of
2 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

3 (4) The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52
4 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.).

5 **SEC. 210. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this title, the following definitions apply:

7 (1) The term “chief State election official”
8 means, with respect to a State, the individual des-
9 gnated by the State under section 10 of the Na-
10 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
11 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the
12 State’s responsibilities under such Act.

13 (2) The term “Commission” means the Election
14 Assistance Commission.

15 (3) The term “exempt State” means a State
16 which, under law which is in effect continuously on
17 and after the date of the enactment of this Act, op-
18 erates an automatic voter registration program
19 under which an individual is automatically registered
20 to vote in elections for Federal office in the State if
21 the individual provides the motor vehicle authority of
22 the State with such identifying information as the
23 State may require.

24 (4) The term “State” means each of the several
25 States and the District of Columbia.

1 **SEC. 211. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
3 (b), this title and the amendments made by this title shall
4 apply with respect to a State beginning January 1, 2025.

5 (b) WAIVER.—Subject to the approval of the Com-
6 mission, if a State certifies to the Commission that the
7 State will not meet the deadline referred to in subsection
8 (a) because of extraordinary circumstances and includes
9 in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet the
10 deadline, subsection (a) shall apply to the State as if the
11 reference in such subsection to “January 1, 2025” were
12 a reference to “January 1, 2027”.

13 **TITLE III—PROMOTING STAND-
14 ARDIZED ADMINISTRATION
15 OF ELECTIONS**

16 **SEC. 301. REQUIRING PARITY IN TREATMENT OF METHODS
17 OF VOTING.**

18 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 302 of the Help Amer-
19 ica Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082) is amended—
20 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
21 section (e); and

22 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
23 lowing new subsection:

24 “(d) REQUIRING PARITY IN TREATMENT OF METH-
25 ODS OF VOTING.—

1 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Each State and jurisdiction
2 shall administer an election for Federal office
3 under standards which apply equally to all methods
4 of voting used in the election, including standards
5 relating to signature verification, and shall not pre-
6 pay or otherwise subsidize the costs associated with
7 one method of voting in an election unless the State
8 or jurisdiction prepays or otherwise subsidizes the
9 costs associated with other methods of voting in the
10 election in an equivalent amount.

11 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN COSTS.—Para-
12 graph (1) does not apply with respect to costs pre-
13 paid or otherwise subsidized by a State or jurisdiction
14 in providing accommodations for disabled voters
15 or in meeting the requirements of the Uniformed
16 and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 302(e) of such Act,
18 as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by striking
19 the period at the end and inserting the following: “, except
20 that the requirements of subsection (d) shall apply with
21 respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Fed-
22 eral office held in November 2024 and each succeeding
23 election for Federal office.”.

1 **SEC. 302. REQUIRING STANDARD ELECTION ADMINISTRA-**
2 **TION PROCEDURES IN ALL JURISDICTIONS**
3 **IN STATE.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 302 of the Help Amer-
5 ica Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082), as amended by
6 section 301(a), is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
8 section (f); and

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing new subsection:

11 “(e) REQUIRING STANDARD ELECTION ADMINISTRA-
12 TION PROCEDURES IN ALL JURISDICTIONS.—Each State
13 shall ensure that the procedures used for the administra-
14 tion of elections for Federal office in the State, including
15 the procedures used to determine the conditions under
16 which individuals may cast provisional ballots and the cri-
17 teria for the acceptance and rejection of provisional bal-
18 lots, are standardized and uniform for all jurisdictions in
19 the State which administer such elections.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 302(f) of such Act,
21 as redesignated by subsection (a) and as amended by sec-
22 tion 301(b), is amended by striking “subsection (d)” and
23 inserting “subsections (d) and (e)”.

1 **TITLE IV—PROMOTING ACCU-**
2 **RACY OF VOTER REGISTRA-**
3 **TION LISTS**

4 **SEC. 401. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL DECONFLICITION**

5 **VOTING DATABASE AND CLEARINGHOUSE.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
7 the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency the
8 National Deconfliction Voting Database and Clearing-
9 house.

10 (b) PURPOSE.—The National Deconfliction Voting
11 Database and Clearinghouse shall assist States in ensur-
12 ing the integrity of elections for Federal office by serving
13 as a database and clearinghouse of voter registration
14 records and lists of eligible voters in elections for Federal
15 office, so that States may ensure that individual voters
16 are registered only in the one State in which they are dom-
17 iciled, deceased voters are purged from voting rolls, and
18 only citizens of the United States vote in such elections.

19 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “State”
20 has the meaning given such term in the National Voter
21 Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 402. PRE-ELECTION MAINTENANCE AND CERTIFI-**
2 **CATION OF OFFICIAL VOTER REGISTRATION**
3 **LIST.**

4 (a) REQUIRING STATE TO CERTIFY COMPLETION OF
5 PROGRAM TO REMOVE INELIGIBLE VOTERS PRIOR TO
6 DATE OF ELECTION AND TRANSFER CERTIFIED LIST OF
7 ELIGIBLE VOTERS TO CLEARINGHOUSE.—Section
8 8(c)(2)(A) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993
9 (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “A
10 State shall complete” and all that follows through “eligible
11 voters” and inserting the following: “Not later than 90
12 days prior to the date of an election for Federal office,
13 each State and the chief State election official of each
14 State shall certify to the Election Assistance Commission
15 and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
16 that the State has completed a program to remove the
17 names of ineligible voters from the official list of eligible
18 voters with respect to the election, and shall transfer to
19 the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (for
20 inclusion in the National Deconfliction Voting Database
21 and Clearinghouse) the certified list of eligible voters in
22 the election.”.

23 (b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO STATE AND
24 CISA BY UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND SOCIAL
25 SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.—Section 8(c)(2) of such Act
26 (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
2 paragraph (C); and

3 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
4 lowing new subparagraph:

5 “(B) Not later than 180 days before the date of each
6 regularly scheduled general election for Federal office—

7 “(i) the Postmaster General shall transmit to
8 the chief State election official of a State and the
9 Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
10 change-of-address information on individuals who,
11 since the previous regularly scheduled general elec-
12 tion for Federal office, are no longer residents of the
13 State; and

14 “(ii) the Director of the Social Security Admin-
15 istration shall transmit to the chief State election of-
16 ficial and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Secu-
17 rity Agency information on individuals from the
18 State who have died since the previous regularly
19 scheduled general election for Federal office.”.

20 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this section shall apply with respect to the regularly sched-
22 uled general election for Federal office held in November
23 2024 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

1 **SEC. 403. REQUIRING APPLICANTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE**
2 **DRIVER'S LICENSES IN NEW STATE TO INDIVI-**
3 **CATE WHETHER STATE SERVES AS RESI-**
4 **DENCE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION PUR-**
5 **POSES.**

6 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR LI-
7 CENSES.—Section 5(d) of the National Voter Registration
8 Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504(d)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “Any change” and inserting
10 “(1) Any change”; and
11 (2) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(2)(A) A State motor vehicle authority shall require
14 each individual applying for a motor vehicle driver’s li-
15 cense in the State—

16 “(i) to attest, under penalty of perjury, whether
17 the individual resides in another State or resided in
18 another State prior to applying for the license, and,
19 if so, to identify the State involved; and

20 “(ii) to attest, under penalty of perjury, wheth-
21 er the individual intends for the State to serve as
22 the individual’s residence for purposes of registering
23 to vote in elections for Federal office.

24 “(B) If pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) an indi-
25 vidual indicates to the State motor vehicle authority that
26 the individual intends for the State to serve as the individ-

1 ual's residence for purposes of registering to vote in elec-
2 tions for Federal office, the authority shall notify the
3 motor vehicle authority of the State identified by the indi-
4 vidual pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), who shall notify
5 the chief State election official of such State that the indi-
6 vidual no longer intends for that State to serve as the indi-
7 vidual's residence for purposes of registering to vote in
8 elections for Federal office.”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
10 subsection (a) shall take effect with respect to elections
11 occurring in 2023 or any succeeding year.

