

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7068

To expand vote by mail and early voting, and to improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of in-person voting during elections for Federal office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2020

Mr. CLYBURN (for himself, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HECK, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VEASEY, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To expand vote by mail and early voting, and to improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of in-person voting during 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VoteSafe Act of 2020”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The right to vote is the foundation of Amer-
8 ican democracy. Voting provides the citizenry with a
9 vital check on their elected officials and grants peo-
10 ple the political power necessary to exercise and de-
11 fend the rights guaranteed by the United States
12 Constitution.

13 (2) The Elections Clause of the United States
14 Constitution gives Congress sweeping power to regu-
15 late the time, place, and manner of Federal elections
16 (Article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the
17 United States; see also *Arizona v. Inter Tribal*
18 *Council of Arizona, Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1 (2013)). Con-
19 gress also has enforcement power under the Four-
20 teenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the Constitu-
21 tion of the United States.

22 (3) As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., explained
23 in a speech delivered on May 17, 1957, “So long as
24 I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to
25 vote I do not possess myself. I cannot make up my

1 mind—it is made up for me. I cannot live as a
2 democratic citizen, observing the laws I have helped
3 to enact—I can only submit to the edict of others.”.

4 (4) The right to vote was not guaranteed to all
5 Americans at our Nation’s founding. The ratification
6 of the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments, the
7 civil rights movement’s struggle for justice and
8 equality, and the enactment of the Voting Rights
9 Act of 1965 and its subsequent amendments suc-
10 ceeded in expanding access to the franchise.

11 (5) Unfortunately, the barriers faced by voters
12 who have historically experienced the greatest obsta-
13 cles to voting are exacerbated by the coronavirus
14 (COVID–19) pandemic.

15 (6) Strategies to mitigate the spread of
16 COVID–19 include “social distancing”, a practice
17 that requires individuals to maintain a distance be-
18 tween themselves and other people in order to avoid
19 acquiring or transmitting the virus. The need to em-
20 brace such precautions will require States to quickly
21 modify voting processes to minimize person-to-per-
22 son contact.

23 (7) Voting by mail is a critical part of the solu-
24 tion and must be expanded as quickly as possible,
25 not simply as a means of ensuring access during

1 public health emergencies, but also as a means of ex-
2 panding access to the franchise to those whose work,
3 health, or ability to access the ballot may be limited.

4 (8) However, safe and secure in-person voting
5 remains vitally important for large groups of voters,
6 including voters with disabilities, language minority
7 voters, American Indian and Alaska Native voters,
8 and African-American voters.

9 (9) The Americans with Disabilities Act of
10 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and the Rehabilita-
11 tion Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) require
12 that individuals with disabilities have equal access to
13 every aspect of the voting process. Vote-by-mail
14 poses various accessibility challenges for voters with
15 disabilities, including blind, low-vision, or other
16 print-disabled voters who may require in-person vot-
17 ing or assistive technology in order to privately and
18 independently mark their ballots. Remedies for vot-
19 ers with disabilities require an investment of re-
20 sources to ensure State and local election websites,
21 online voter registration portals, and vote-by-mail
22 systems are accessible; that in-person voting loca-
23 tions permit a safe, dignified, and accessible voting
24 experience; and that the right of voters with disabil-

1 ities to a secret ballot is not sacrificed due to the
2 pandemic.

3 (10) Language minority voters face unique bar-
4 riers to voting that require additional resources and
5 support to ensure full and equal access, including
6 additional resources to ensure local compliance with
7 the language minority voting protections in section
8 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
9 10503) and greater language assistance services, in-
10 cluding additional bilingual or multilingual poll
11 workers and election workers.

12 (11) American Indian and Alaska Native voters
13 face unique obstacles in a vote-by-mail system. Trib-
14 al communities in rural areas often do not have tra-
15 ditional residential mailing addresses and have lim-
16 ited access to transportation. Tribal members have
17 distant rural post offices, slow mail routes, limited
18 numbers of post office operation, and too few post
19 office boxes. As a result, rural Tribal communities
20 require distinct voting accommodations to ensure
21 participation in a vote-by-mail system.

22 (12) Finally, in-person voting holds great sig-
23 nificance for African-American voters, for whom the
24 right to vote was hard won. African Americans have
25 been excluded from the franchise through State and

1 local laws, poll taxes, voting literacy tests, physical
2 violence, and lynchings. For many African-American
3 voters today, casting a ballot at one's polling place
4 is a solemn ritual that honors those who sacrificed
5 their safety and their lives in order to secure the
6 right to vote. However, COVID–19 poses substantial
7 risks to the African-American population and has in-
8 fected and killed African Americans in the United
9 States at disproportionately high rates, highlighting
10 longstanding inequalities in resources and access to
11 health care.

12 (13) Social distancing designed to curb the
13 COVID–19 pandemic will also greatly impact in-per-
14 son voter registration efforts, including voter reg-
15 istration drives and voter registration services re-
16 quired by the National Voter Registration Act. Many
17 government offices, like State departments of motor
18 vehicles, are currently closed to in-person traffic and
19 are likely to remain closed for an indefinite period
20 of time in 2020.

21 (14) Therefore, it is appropriate for Congress
22 to expand no-excuse absentee vote-by-mail while also
23 ensuring the safety and accessibility of in-person
24 voting and voter registration during exigent cir-
25 cumstances, including the current pandemic.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOT-**
2 **ING, EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING, AND PLAN**
3 **TO ENSURE POLLING PLACES IMPLEMENT**
4 **CDC GUIDANCE FOR FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN**
5 **2020.**

6 (a) **APPLICABLE FEDERAL ELECTION.**—For pur-
7 poses of this section, the term “applicable Federal elec-
8 tion” means any election for Federal office which occurs
9 on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act and before January 1, 2021.

11 (b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In the case of any applicable
12 Federal election, each State and local jurisdiction shall—

13 (1) permit no-excuse mail-in absentee voting as
14 described in subsection (c);

15 (2) maintain an early in-person voting period as
16 described in subsection (d); and

17 (3) establish a plan as described in subsection
18 (e) with respect to in-person voting, including during
19 early voting periods and on the day of the election.

20 (c) **NO-EXCUSE MAIL-IN ABSENTEE VOTING.**—

21 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—No-excuse mail-in absentee
22 voting meets the requirements described in this sub-
23 section with respect to an applicable Federal elec-
24 tion, if the State—

25 (A) provides a no-excuse mail-in ballot to
26 every registered voter who requests such a bal-

1 lot (or, in the case of any State that does not
2 register voters, to every individual who is eligi-
3 ble to vote and requests such a ballot);

4 (B) allows voters to request a mail-in bal-
5 lot online;

6 (C) if the State requires a signature for
7 absentee ballots, allows voters to sign the ballot
8 by providing a mark or signature stamp or by
9 providing a signature with the use of an assist-
10 ant because of age, disability, or other need;

11 (D) accepts and counts ballots received be-
12 fore the State's certification deadline if the bal-
13 lot—

14 (i) is postmarked by the date of the
15 election; or

16 (ii) includes an indication that it was
17 mailed by the date of the election;

18 (E) provides a pre-paid and self-sealing re-
19 turn envelope for each ballot furnished by mail;

20 (F) beginning with the date that is 45
21 days before the date of the election and ending
22 with the time that polls close on the date of the
23 election, provides in-person, secured drop boxes;

24 (G) before discarding any absentee ballot
25 for error or technicalities (including the failure

1 to meet any signature matching requirement
2 that is unrelated to voter qualification)—

3 (i) notifies the voter of any such de-
4 fects; and

5 (ii) provides the voter an opportunity
6 to cure such defects that—

7 (I) is uniform among all voters in
8 the State; and

9 (II) in the case of any error re-
10 lating to a signature requirement,
11 meets the requirements of paragraph
12 (2);

13 (H) in the case of any voter with disabil-
14 ities—

15 (i) provides the voter with access to
16 Remote Access Vote By Mail (RAVBM)
17 systems, ballot marking software, and
18 screen reading software; and

19 (ii) allows the voter to receive assist-
20 ance from a person of their choosing to
21 complete and submit a mail-in ballot; and

22 (I) ensures adequate support for language
23 minority voters, including multilingual versions
24 of vote-by-mail materials and language assist-
25 ance services.

1 (2) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SIGNATURE
2 DEFECTS.—The requirements of this paragraph re-
3 lating to any defect described in paragraph
4 (1)(G)(ii)(II) are the following:

5 (A) Except as provided in subparagraph
6 (B), the voter shall be allowed to cure the de-
7 fect through the same form of communication
8 with respect to which the notice of such defect
9 is provided.

10 (B) In any case in which a required signa-
11 ture is missing, the voter shall be provided an
12 opportunity to provide such signature on a form
13 provided by the State.

14 (C) Any determination of the validity of
15 the ballot shall be made by a group of 2 or
16 more election officials.

17 (D) The voter shall have the opportunity
18 to appeal any rejection of the ballot based on
19 the defect.

20 (d) EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING PERIOD.—The early
21 in-person voting period described in this subsection with
22 respect to an applicable Federal election is a period of at
23 least 20 days. Such period must include at least one Sat-
24 urday and one Sunday. For each day of early in-person
25 voting during such period, polls must be open for a min-

1 imum of 10 hours, including hours before and after the
2 standard work day.

3 (e) PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CDC GUIDANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The requirement described
5 in this subsection with respect to in person voting is
6 met if the State establishes a plan to ensure that
7 polling places are implementing Centers for Disease
8 Control and Prevention guidance relating to
9 COVID–19 preparedness. Such plan must be final-
10 ized and approved by the State within 30 days of the
11 date of enactment of this Act.

12 (2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—At a minimum,
13 a State plan established under this subsection must
14 include a plan—

15 (A) to keep as many voting locations as
16 possible open during the pandemic;

17 (B) to prepare polling locations to imple-
18 ment social distancing protocols in lines and at
19 voting booths;

20 (C) to provide sufficient quantities of hy-
21 giene and cleaning supplies at polling locations;

22 (D) to increase the number of—

23 (i) paper ballots and provisional bal-
24 lots (including the numbers of such ballots
25 that are translated, multilingual, or in-lan-

1 guage ballots) available at each polling
2 place; and

3 (ii) disposable ballot marking utensils
4 available at each polling place;

5 (E) to provide masks and other personal
6 protective equipment to poll workers;

7 (F) to provide additional compensation to
8 poll workers during the pandemic;

9 (G) to increase the number of poll workers
10 who can reliably staff voting locations;

11 (H) to provide training to poll workers on
12 pandemic conditions and COVID–19 prepared-
13 ness; and

14 (I) to educate voters on changes to proce-
15 dures or voting opportunities during the pan-
16 demic.

17 (f) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person ag-
18 grieved by a violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection
19 (a) (relating to requirements for no-excuse mail-in absen-
20 tee voting and early in-person voting period) may bring
21 an action for all appropriate remedies, including injunctive
22 relief and compensatory and punitive damages, in a Fed-
23 eral district court of competent jurisdiction.

24 (g) PAYMENTS TO STATES TO CARRY OUT REQUIRE-
25 MENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance
2 Commission shall make a payment to each State to
3 carry out the requirements under this section. Such
4 payments shall be made not later than 30 days after
5 the date of enactment of this Act.

6 (2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of pay-
8 ment made to a State under this subsection
9 shall be the voting age population proportion
10 amount described in subparagraph (B).

11 (B) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPOR-
12 TION AMOUNT.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—The voting age
14 population proportion amount described in
15 this paragraph is the product of—

16 (I) the amount made available
17 for payments under paragraph (3)
18 section; and

19 (II) the voting age population
20 proportion for the State (as defined in
21 clause (ii)).

22 (ii) VOTING AGE POPULATION PRO-
23 PORTION DEFINED.—The term “voting age
24 population proportion” means, with respect

1 to any State, the amount equal to the
2 quotient of—

3 (I) the voting age population of
4 the State (as determined by the most
5 recent American Community Survey
6 conducted by the Bureau of the Cen-
7 sus); and

8 (II) the total voting age popu-
9 lation of all States (as determined by
10 the most recent American Community
11 Survey conducted by the Bureau of
12 the Census).

13 (3) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be ap-
14 propriated to make payments under this subsection
15 \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

16 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO PROMOTE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND EF-**
17 **FICIENT IN-PERSON VOTING.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help
19 America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21001 et seq.) is
20 amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“PART VII—GRANT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE**
2 **SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND EFFICIENT IN-PER-**
3 **SON VOTING**

4 **“SEC. 297. PAYMENTS TO STATES.**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make a
6 payment to each eligible State (as described in section
7 298(a)). Such payments shall be made not later than 30
8 days after the date of enactment of this part.

9 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible State shall use the
10 payment received under this part to carry out one or more
11 of the authorized activities described in section 298(b)
12 with respect to elections for Federal office.

13 “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of payment
15 made to an eligible State under this section shall be
16 the voting age population proportion amount de-
17 scribed in paragraph (2) plus any additional amount
18 determined by the Commission under paragraph (3).

19 “(2) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPORTION
20 AMOUNT.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The voting age popu-
22 lation proportion amount described in this para-
23 graph is the product of—

24 “(i) the aggregate amount made avail-
25 able for payments under this section minus
26 the total of all of the additional payment

1 amounts determined under paragraph (3);
2 and

3 “(ii) the voting age population propor-
4 tion for the State (as defined in subpara-
5 graph (B)).

6 “(B) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPOR-
7 TION DEFINED.—The term ‘voting age popu-
8 lation proportion’ means, with respect to an eli-
9 gible State, the amount equal to the quotient
10 of—

11 “(i) the voting age population of the
12 State (as determined by the most recent
13 American Community Survey conducted by
14 the Bureau of the Census); and

15 “(ii) the total voting age population of
16 all States (as determined by the most re-
17 cent American Community Survey con-
18 ducted by the Bureau of the Census).

19 “(3) DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNT
20 BASED ON NEEDS OF VOTING AGE POPULATION IN
21 STATE.—The Commission shall, with respect to each
22 eligible State, determine an amount of payment for
23 the State in addition to the amount determined
24 under paragraph (2) based on the needs of the vot-
25 ing age population in the State. In determining such

1 additional amount of payment with respect to an eli-
2 gible State, the Commission shall take into ac-
3 count—

4 “(A) the number of individuals with in-
5 come below 250 percent of the poverty line ap-
6 plicable to a family of the size involved (as de-
7 termined under section 673(2) of the Commu-
8 nity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
9 9902(2)));

10 “(B) the number of individuals in the vot-
11 ing age population of the State covered by sec-
12 tion 203 of the Voting Rights Act (52 U.S.C.
13 10503);

14 “(C) the number of individuals with a dis-
15 ability as defined in section 3 of the Americans
16 with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
17 12102);

18 “(D) the number of individuals who live in
19 a nonmetropolitan area (as determined by the
20 Bureau of the Census); and

21 “(E) the number of individuals who belong
22 to an Indian tribe (as such term is defined in
23 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
24 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

1 “(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO UNITS OF
2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—At least 70 percent of funds
3 provided to a State under this part shall be distrib-
4 uted to units of local government to carry out one
5 or more of the authorized activities described in sec-
6 tion 298(b) with respect to elections for Federal of-
7 fice.

8 **“SEC. 298. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT; AUTHORIZED AC-**
9 **TIVITIES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State that desires to re-
11 ceive a payment under this part shall submit a certifi-
12 cation of intent to use such funds for at least one of the
13 authorized activities described in subsection (b) with re-
14 spect to elections for Federal office.

15 “(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Funds
16 provided under this part shall be used for one or more
17 of the following authorized activities:

18 “(1) FUNDING TO ENSURE ELECTIONS ARE AC-
19 CESSIBLE DURING PANDEMIC.—Ensuring voters can
20 safely access polling sites during the COVID–19
21 pandemic, including—

22 “(A) expanding the number of voting loca-
23 tions, as well as the days and hours of early in-
24 person voting;

1 “(B) providing mobile voting centers and
2 temporary voting stations, including advance
3 notice of schedule and locations;

4 “(C) increasing the ratio of machines and
5 poll workers to voters in each precinct;

6 “(D) preparing polling locations to imple-
7 ment social distancing protocols in lines and
8 voting booths;

9 “(E) providing sufficient quantities of hy-
10 giene and cleaning supplies, including materials
11 to sanitize voting machines after each use;

12 “(F) increasing the number of paper bal-
13 lots available at each polling location;

14 “(G) providing masks, gloves, and other
15 personal protective equipment to poll workers;

16 “(H) increasing pay for poll workers dur-
17 ing the COVID–19 pandemic; and

18 “(I) providing voter education on changes
19 or improvements to election procedures, accessi-
20 bility, or voting opportunities during the pan-
21 demic.

22 “(2) FUNDING TO ENSURE ELECTIONS ARE AC-
23 CESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES DUR-
24 ING PANDEMIC.—Ensuring voters can safely reg-
25 ister, access polling sites, and vote by mail during

1 the COVID–19 pandemic, in accordance with this
2 Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42
3 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Voting Accessibility for
4 the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee
5 et seq.), and other applicable law, by improving poll-
6 ing place accessibility and providing accommodations
7 for individuals with disabilities, including—

8 “(A) purchasing Remote Access Vote By
9 Mail (RAVBM) systems, ballot marking devices
10 and software, and screen reading software, and
11 making them available to voters with disabili-
12 ties;

13 “(B) equipping polling locations with tech-
14 nologies that enable individuals with disabilities
15 to privately and independently mark, verify, and
16 cast their ballots, including through the avail-
17 ability of ballot marking devices, headsets, con-
18 trollers, and other assistive devices;

19 “(C) making permanent or temporary
20 modifications to render polling places accessible;

21 “(D) ensuring appropriate polling place
22 siting to avoid locations that pose higher health
23 risks to the public;

1 “(E) conducting analysis on polling place
2 reconfiguration to account for social distancing
3 and implementing changes;

4 “(F) providing training for poll workers on
5 how to best serve individuals during the pan-
6 demic, including specialized training for serving
7 individuals with disabilities;

8 “(G) assessing the accessibility of election
9 websites and remediating any accessibility prob-
10 lems to ensure voter information is clear and
11 accessible; and

12 “(H) providing fully accessible online voter
13 registration services.

14 “(3) FUNDING TO ENSURE CONTINUING PRO-
15 TECTIONS FOR LANGUAGE MINORITY VOTERS.—En-
16 suring continuing protections for language minority
17 voters, including—

18 “(A) ensuring compliance with section 203
19 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
20 10503)—

21 “(i) with respect to vote-by-mail and
22 new voter registration procedures; and

23 “(ii) with respect to voting materials
24 (as such term is defined in such section);

1 “(B) ensuring adequate support for such
2 individuals (including for language minority
3 voters who do not reside in jurisdictions covered
4 by section 203 of the Voting Rights Act), in-
5 cluding through—

6 “(i) language assistance hotlines in
7 covered languages;

8 “(ii) phone interpretation and inter-
9 preter services;

10 “(iii) funding to produce, print, and
11 distribute multi-lingual versions of mate-
12 rials;

13 “(iv) enhancing in-language media ad-
14 vertising regarding polling place changes;

15 “(v) recruiting and hiring bilingual or
16 multilingual election workers; and

17 “(vi) enhancing in-language media ad-
18 vertising regarding procedures for obtain-
19 ing and returning mail-in ballots; and

20 “(C) providing voter education on activities
21 carried out under this paragraph.

22 “(4) FUNDING TO ENSURE VOTING ACCESS BY
23 AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VOTERS AND
24 RURAL VOTERS.—Ensuring voting access American

1 Indian and Alaska Native voters and rural voters,
2 including—

3 “(A) ensuring polling place availability
4 within 20 miles of where voters live;

5 “(B) providing transportation services for
6 American Indian, Alaska Native, and rural vot-
7 ers to reach their nearest polling location;

8 “(C) establishing polling places in Indian
9 country, as defined in section 1151 of title 18,
10 United States Code, and on any land in Alaska
11 owned pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims
12 Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), that
13 are open for voting days and hours commensu-
14 rate with polling place days and hours in urban
15 areas within the State;

16 “(D) giving Indian tribes, as defined in
17 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
18 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304),
19 authority to designate buildings that can be
20 used as a residential address for voter registra-
21 tion and for physical sites for ballot pickup,
22 drop-off, and collection;

23 “(E) offering information in unwritten lan-
24 guages or languages not widely used in written

1 form, in consultation with relevant Tribal gov-
2 ernments;

3 “(F) collecting ballots from remote polling
4 locations, ballot collection boxes, and tribally
5 designated buildings;

6 “(G) carrying out any activities permitted
7 under paragraph (2) to improve accessibility for
8 American Indian and Alaska Native voters with
9 disabilities; and

10 “(H) providing voter education on the ac-
11 tivities carried out under this paragraph.

12 “(5) CURBSIDE VOTING.—The implementation
13 and promotion of curbside voting to allow individuals
14 to pick up ballots, complete them, and return them
15 to a poll worker from their vehicles.

16 “(6) FUNDING TO MEET MAXIMUM WAIT TIME
17 STANDARD AT POLLING LOCATIONS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The implementation
19 of standards that reduce wait times at polling
20 locations.

21 “(B) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—In
22 the case where the State uses funds for pur-
23 poses described in subparagraph (A) with re-
24 spect to an election for Federal office, the State
25 shall certify to the Commission within 120 days

1 of the election that wait time standards were
2 met in the State with respect to such election.

3 “(7) FUNDING FOR PUBLICATION OF WAIT
4 TIMES.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The development or
6 implementation of an accessible, web-based
7 platform for the publication of wait times for
8 voting in Federal elections.

9 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—If a State uses
10 funds for a purpose described in subparagraph
11 (A), the State shall take reasonable steps before
12 using such platform in an election for Federal
13 office—

14 “(i) to provide advance training to
15 election workers regarding use of the plat-
16 form;

17 “(ii) to notify voters of the platform;
18 and

19 “(iii) to test and verify the security
20 and functionality of the platform.

21 “(8) METHODS TO IMPROVE LINE MANAGE-
22 MENT.—Implementing standards to improve line
23 management systems and polling place management.

1 “(9) STANDARDS FOR TRAINING AND RECRUIT-
2 MENT OF POLL WORKERS.—Providing for the train-
3 ing and recruitment of poll workers, including—

4 “(A) developing poll worker training cur-
5 ricula and standards for serving individuals
6 with disabilities and language minority voters;

7 “(B) ensuring that poll workers receive
8 training, which—

9 “(i) may include remote training; and

10 “(ii) may cover applicable Federal and
11 State laws and regulations, recent changes
12 in election laws and processes, election se-
13 curity and cyber vulnerabilities, ballot re-
14 views, incident response, polling accessi-
15 bility for language minorities and individ-
16 uals with disabilities, and COVID–19 pre-
17 paredness;

18 “(C) expanding the number of election
19 workers hired;

20 “(D) hiring individuals to serve as election
21 workers from among high school and college
22 students and, where feasible, compensating
23 such individuals with course credits; and

1 “(E) hiring work-eligible non-citizens to
2 satisfy the need for bilingual poll workers,
3 where language assistance is required by law.

4 “(10) IMPROVING ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRA-
5 TION.—Improving access to voter registration, in-
6 cluding—

7 “(A) authorizing and implementing same
8 day registration;

9 “(B) ensuring that online voter registra-
10 tion systems are in place and have the capacity
11 to process registration applications electroni-
12 cally;

13 “(C) expanding online voter registration
14 systems to allow use by the maximum number
15 of individuals, including—

16 “(i) by allowing individuals to register
17 to vote without records in the department
18 of motor vehicle system of the State by
19 submitting their signatures online;

20 “(ii) by digitally uploading a picture
21 of the required signature;

22 “(iii) by allowing individuals to pro-
23 vide the required signature when voting at
24 the polls or when returning a mail-in bal-
25 lot; or

1 “(iv) by allowing individual to provide
2 a required signature with a mark or signa-
3 ture stamp or through the use of an assist-
4 ant because of age, disability, or other
5 need;

6 “(D) sending a voter registration mailer,
7 including a blank voter registration application,
8 a self-sealing prepaid return envelope, and in-
9 structions on additional methods to register if
10 the mailer is not accessible, to all eligible indi-
11 viduals with State records who are not cur-
12 rently registered to vote; and

13 “(E) testing capacity to ensure that exist-
14 ing online voter registration systems can with-
15 stand the likely increase in usage.

16 “(c) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—Not later than
17 15 days after the date of enactment of this part, the Com-
18 mission shall—

19 “(1) consult with the Centers for Disease Con-
20 trol and Prevention on preventing transmission of
21 COVID–19 at polling places and election offices; and

22 “(2) consult with the Civil Rights Division of
23 the Department of Justice to ensure changes to vot-
24 ing procedures made pursuant to this part are non-
25 discriminatory and comply with applicable Federal

1 laws, including this Act, the Americans with Disabil-
2 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Vot-
3 ing Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.), the Voting Rights
5 Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), the National
6 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et
7 seq.), and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52
8 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.).

9 **“SEC. 299. FUNDING; REPORTS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
11 priated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise
12 appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30,
13 2020, for making payments under this part,
14 \$2,500,000,000. Such amount shall be in addition to other
15 amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

16 “(b) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the
17 applicable election for which a payment was provided
18 under this part, each eligible State that received such
19 funds shall submit a report to the Commission on the ac-
20 tivities conducted using such payment and to substantiate
21 authorized activities described in section 298(b) carried
22 out using such funds. Not later than 30 days after receipt
23 of such reports, the Commission shall transmit such re-
24 ports to the Committee on Rules and Administration of

1 the Senate and the Committee on House Administration
2 of the House of Representatives.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
4 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
5 to section 296 the following:

“PART VII—GRANT PROGRAM TO PROTECT IN-PERSON VOTING

“Sec. 297. Payments to States.

“Sec. 298. Eligibility for payment; authorized activities.

“Sec. 299. Funding; reports.”.

