

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8754

To require States to provide a minimum number of in-person, secured drop boxes in each county in the State at which individuals may drop off voted absentee ballots in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To require States to provide a minimum number of in-person, secured drop boxes in each county in the State at which individuals may drop off voted absentee ballots 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Dropbox Access Act
5 of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE SECURED DROP**
2 **BOXES FOR VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN**
3 **ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.**

4 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Help America Vote Act of
5 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.) is amended—

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

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

10 **“SEC. 304. USE OF SECURED DROP BOXES FOR VOTED AB-**
11 **SENTEE BALLOTS.**

12 “(a) REQUIREING USE OF DROP BOXES.—In each
13 county in the State, each State shall provide in-person,
14 secured drop boxes at which individuals may, at any time
15 during the period described in subsection (b), drop off
16 voted absentee ballots in an election for Federal office.

17 “(b) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR AVAILABILITY OF DROP
18 BOXES.—The period described in this subsection is, with
19 respect to an election, the period which begins 45 days
20 before the date of the election and which ends at the time
21 the polls close for the election in the county involved.

22 “(c) ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-
23 ABILITIES.—Each State shall ensure that the drop boxes
24 provided under this section are accessible for use by indi-
25 viduals with disabilities.

1 “(d) DETERMINATION OF NUMBER AND LOCATION
2 OF DROP BOXES.—In determining the number and loca-
3 tion of drop boxes provided under this section, the State
4 shall meet the following requirements:

5 “(1) The number of drop boxes provided by a
6 State in a county shall be a number equal to or
7 greater than the voting age population of the county
8 divided by 15,000 (rounded to the nearest whole
9 number).

10 “(2) The number and location of drop boxes
11 within particular areas of the county shall be deter-
12 mined by applying such factors as will provide the
13 maximum accessibility to the drop boxes for the
14 greatest number of voters in the county, without re-
15 gard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sex-
16 ual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability
17 status.

18 “(3) The drop boxes shall be placed at locations
19 which are convenient for use by individuals who use
20 public transportation.

21 “(4) The State shall ensure that drop boxes
22 provided in a county are located in urban, suburban,
23 and rural communities (if any) within the county
24 and on Tribal lands (if any) within the county,

1 based on the density of the population in such com-
2 munities.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-
4 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111)
5 is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and
6 304”.

7 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 of such Act is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
10 tions 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and
11 306; and

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

“Sec. 304. Use of secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots.”.

14 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall apply with respect to elections held dur-
16 ing 2021 or any succeeding year.

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