

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1951

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require the availability of early voting or no-excuse absentee voting.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2015

Mr. SCHUMER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require the availability of early voting or no-excuse absentee voting.

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. AVAILABILITY OF EARLY VOTING AND NO-EX-**

4 **CUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.**

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

8 (1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as  
9 sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

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

3   **“SEC. 304. AVAILABILITY OF VOTING PRIOR TO ELECTION**  
4                           **DAY.**

5           “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall—

6                       “(1) allow individuals to vote in an election for  
7           Federal office prior to the date of the election  
8           through—

9                               “(A) early voting which meets the require-  
10                           ments of subsection (b); or

11                               “(B) voting by mail which meets the re-  
12                           quirements of subsection (c); and

13                       “(2) publicize the details of any voting allowed  
14           under paragraph (1).

15           “(b) EARLY VOTING.—Early voting meets the re-  
16           quirements of this subsection if such voting occurs—

17                       “(1) over a period of 7 consecutive days (in-  
18           cluding weekend days) during the 10-day period pre-  
19           ceding the date of the election;

20                       “(2) for no less than 8 hours on each day such  
21           early voting occurs; and

22                       “(3) in each registrar’s jurisdiction and at a  
23           sufficient number of locations to permit all citizens  
24           of the State reasonable access to voting prior to the  
25           date of the election.

1       “(c) VOTING BY MAIL.—Voting by mail meets the re-  
2 requirements of this subsection if—

3           “(1) the State does not require an excuse in  
4 order to obtain and cast a ballot by mail for any  
5 Federal election; and

6           “(2) the State does not include any require-  
7 ments for notarization.

8       “(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply  
9 with respect to elections held on or after January 1,  
10 2017.”.

11       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-  
12 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111)  
13 is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and  
14 304”.

15       (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
16 of such Act is amended—

17           (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-  
18 tions 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and  
19 306, respectively; and

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

“Sec. 304. Early voting.”.

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