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1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2

To establish national voter registration procedures for Federal elections, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 1993

Mr. SWIFT (for himself, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DERRICK, Mrs. KENNELLY, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. ROSE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. FROST, Mr. MANTON, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MAZZOLI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DICKS, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. UNSOELD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. KREIDLER, Mr. KLEIN, AND Mr. BROWN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To establish national voter registration procedures for Federal elections, 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 “National Voter Reg-  
5 istration Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

1 (1) the right of citizens of the United States to  
2 vote is a fundamental right;

3 (2) it is the duty of the Federal, State, and  
4 local governments to promote the exercise of that  
5 right; and

6 (3) discriminatory and unfair registration laws  
7 and procedures can have a direct and damaging ef-  
8 fect on voter participation in elections for Federal  
9 office and disproportionately harm voter participa-  
10 tion by various groups, including racial minorities.

11 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

12 (1) to establish procedures that will increase  
13 the number of eligible citizens who register to vote  
14 in elections for Federal office;

15 (2) to make it possible for Federal, State, and  
16 local governments to implement this Act in a man-  
17 ner that enhances the participation of eligible citi-  
18 zens as voters in elections for Federal office;

19 (3) to protect the integrity of the electoral proc-  
20 ess; and

21 (4) to ensure that accurate and current voter  
22 registration rolls are maintained.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 As used in this Act—

1           (1) the term “election” has the meaning stated  
2           in section 301(1) of the Federal Election Campaign  
3           Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431(1));

4           (2) the term “Federal office” has the meaning  
5           stated in section 301(3) of the Federal Election  
6           Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431(3));

7           (3) the term “motor vehicle driver’s license” in-  
8           cludes any personal identification document issued  
9           by a State motor vehicle authority;

10          (4) the term “State” means a State of the  
11          United States and the District of Columbia; and

12          (5) the term “voter registration agency” means  
13          an office designated under section 7(a)(1) to per-  
14          form voter registration activities.

15 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR VOTER REGISTRA-**  
16 **TION FOR ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.**

17          (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection

18 (b), notwithstanding any other Federal or State law, in  
19 addition to any other method of voter registration pro-  
20 vided for under State law, each State shall establish proce-  
21 dures to register to vote in elections for Federal office—

22           (1) by application made simultaneously with an  
23           application for a motor vehicle driver’s license pursu-  
24           ant to section 5;

1 (2) by mail application pursuant to section 6;  
2 and

3 (3) by application in person—

4 (A) at the appropriate registration site  
5 designated with respect to the residence of the  
6 applicant in accordance with State law; and

7 (B) at a Federal, State, or nongovern-  
8 mental office designated under section 7.

9 (b) NONAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN STATES.—This  
10 Act does not apply to a State described in either or both  
11 of the following paragraphs:

12 (1) A State in which there is no voter registra-  
13 tion requirement for any voter in the State with re-  
14 spect to an election for Federal office.

15 (2) A State in which all voters in the State may  
16 register to vote at the polling place at the time of  
17 voting in a general election for Federal office.

18 **SEC. 5. SIMULTANEOUS APPLICATION FOR VOTER REG-**  
19 **ISTRATION AND APPLICATION FOR MOTOR**  
20 **VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Except as provided in sub-  
22 section (b), each State motor vehicle driver's license appli-  
23 cation (including any renewal application) submitted to  
24 the appropriate State motor vehicle authority under State

1 law shall serve as an application for voter registration with  
2 respect to elections for Federal office.

3 (2) An application for voter registration submitted  
4 under paragraph (1) shall be considered as updating any  
5 previous voter registration by the applicant.

6 (b) DECLINATION TO REGISTER.—(1) An applicant  
7 for a State motor vehicle driver’s license may decline in  
8 writing to be registered by means of the motor vehicle  
9 driver’s license application.

10 (2) No information relating to a declination pursuant  
11 to paragraph (1) may be used for any purpose other than  
12 voter registration.

13 (c) FORMS AND PROCEDURES.—(1) Each State shall  
14 include a voter registration application form for elections  
15 for Federal office as part of an application for a State  
16 motor vehicle driver’s license.

17 (2) The voter registration application portion of an  
18 application for a State motor vehicle driver’s license—

19 (A) may not require any information that dupli-  
20 cates information required in the driver’s license  
21 portion of the form (other than a second signature  
22 or other information necessary under subparagraph  
23 (C));

1 (B) shall include a means by which an applicant  
2 may decline to register to vote pursuant to sub-  
3 section (b);

4 (C) may require only the minimum amount of  
5 information necessary to—

6 (i) prevent duplicate voter registrations;

7 and

8 (ii) enable State election officials to assess  
9 the eligibility of the applicant and to administer  
10 voter registration and other parts of the elec-  
11 tion process;

12 (D) shall include a statement that—

13 (i) states each eligibility requirement (in-  
14 cluding citizenship);

15 (ii) contains an attestation that the appli-  
16 cant meets each such requirement; and

17 (iii) requires the signature of the applicant,  
18 under penalty of perjury; and

19 (E) shall be made available (as submitted by  
20 the applicant, or in machine readable or other for-  
21 mat) to the appropriate State election official as pro-  
22 vided by State law.

23 (d) CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Any change of address  
24 form submitted in accordance with State law for purposes  
25 of a State motor vehicle driver's license shall serve as noti-

1 fication of change of address for voter registration with  
2 respect to elections for Federal office for the registrant  
3 involved unless the registrant states on the form that the  
4 change of address is not for voter registration purposes.

5 **SEC. 6. MAIL REGISTRATION.**

6 (a) FORM.—(1) Each State shall accept and use the  
7 mail voter registration application form prescribed by the  
8 Federal Election Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2)  
9 for the registration of voters in elections for Federal office.

10 (2) In addition to accepting and using the form de-  
11 scribed in paragraph (1), a State may develop and use  
12 a mail voter registration form that meets all of the criteria  
13 stated in section 9(b) for the registration of voters in elec-  
14 tions for Federal office.

15 (3) A form described in paragraph (1) or (2) shall  
16 be accepted and used for notification of a registrant's  
17 change of address.

18 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FORMS.—The chief State elec-  
19 tion official of a State shall make the forms described in  
20 subsection (a) available for distribution through govern-  
21 mental and private entities, with particular emphasis on  
22 making them available for organized voter registration  
23 programs.

1 (c) FIRST-TIME VOTERS.—(1) Subject to paragraph  
2 (2), a State may by law require a person to vote in person  
3 if—

4 (A) the person was registered to vote in a juris-  
5 diction by mail; and

6 (B) the person has not previously voted in that  
7 jurisdiction.

8 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of a  
9 person—

10 (A) who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot  
11 under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absen-  
12 tee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1 et seq.);

13 (B) who is provided the right to vote otherwise  
14 than in person under section 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the  
15 Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handi-  
16 capped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee–1(b)(2)(B)(ii)); or

17 (C) who is entitled to vote otherwise than in  
18 person under any other Federal law.

19 **SEC. 7. VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.**

20 (a) DESIGNATION.—(1) Each State shall designate  
21 agencies for the registration of voters in elections for Fed-  
22 eral office.

23 (2) Each State shall designate as voter registration  
24 agencies—

1 (A) all offices in the State that provide public  
2 assistance, unemployment compensation, or related  
3 services; and

4 (B) all offices in the State that provide State-  
5 funded programs primarily engaged in providing  
6 services to persons with disabilities.

7 (3)(A) In addition to voter registration agencies des-  
8 ignated under paragraph (2), each State shall designate  
9 other offices within the State as voter registration agen-  
10 cies.

11 (B) Voter registration agencies designated under sub-  
12 paragraph (A) may include—

13 (i) State or local government offices such as  
14 public libraries, public schools, offices of city and  
15 county clerks (including marriage license bureaus),  
16 fishing and hunting license bureaus, government rev-  
17 enue offices, and offices not described in paragraph  
18 (2)(B) that provide services to persons with disabil-  
19 ities; and

20 (ii) Federal and nongovernmental offices, with  
21 the agreement of such offices.

22 (4)(A) At each voter registration agency, the follow-  
23 ing services shall be made available:

24 (i) Distribution of mail voter registration appli-  
25 cation forms in accordance with paragraph (6).

1           (ii) Assistance to applicants in completing voter  
2 registration application forms.

3           (iii) Acceptance of completed voter registration  
4 application forms for transmittal to the appropriate  
5 State election official.

6           (B) If a voter registration agency designated under  
7 paragraph (2)(B) provides services to a person with a dis-  
8 ability at the person's home, the agency shall provide the  
9 services described in subparagraph (A) at the person's  
10 home.

11          (5) A person who provides service described in para-  
12 graph (4) shall not—

13           (A) seek to influence an applicant's political  
14 preference or party registration;

15           (B) display any such political preference or  
16 party allegiance; or

17           (C) make any statement to an applicant or take  
18 any action the purpose or effect of which is to dis-  
19 courage the applicant from registering to vote.

20          (6) A voter registration agency that is an office that  
21 provides service or assistance in addition to conducting  
22 voter registration shall—

23           (A) distribute with each application for such  
24 service or assistance, and with each recertification,

1 renewal, or change of address form relating to such  
2 service or assistance—

3 (i) the mail voter registration application  
4 form described in section 9(a)(2); or

5 (ii) the office's own form if it is substan-  
6 tially equivalent to the form described in section  
7 9(a)(2),

8 unless the applicant, in writing, declines to register  
9 to vote;

10 (B) to the greatest extent practicable, incor-  
11 porate in application forms and other forms used at  
12 those offices for purposes other than voter registra-  
13 tion a means by which a person who completes the  
14 form may decline, in writing, to register to vote in  
15 elections for Federal office; and

16 (C) provide to each applicant who does not de-  
17 cline to register to vote the same degree of assist-  
18 ance with regard to the completion of the registra-  
19 tion application form as is provided by the office  
20 with regard to the completion of its own forms.

21 (7) No information relating to a declination to reg-  
22 ister to vote in connection with an application made at  
23 an office described in paragraph (6) may be used for any  
24 purpose other than voter registration.

1 (b) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR  
2 COOPERATION.—All departments, agencies, and other en-  
3 tities of the executive branch of the Federal Government  
4 shall, to the greatest extent practicable, cooperate with the  
5 States in carrying out subsection (a), and all nongovern-  
6 mental entities are encouraged to do so.

7 (c) TRANSMITTAL DEADLINE.—(1) Subject to para-  
8 graph (2), a completed registration application accepted  
9 at a voter registration agency shall be transmitted to the  
10 appropriate State election official not later than 10 days  
11 after the date of acceptance.

12 (2) If a registration application is accepted within 5  
13 days before the last day for registration to vote in an elec-  
14 tion, the application shall be transmitted to the appro-  
15 priate State election official not later than 5 days after  
16 the date of acceptance.

17 **SEC. 8. REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRA-**  
18 **TION OF VOTER REGISTRATION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the administration of voter  
20 registration for elections for Federal office, each State  
21 shall—

22 (1) ensure that any eligible applicant is reg-  
23 istered to vote in an election—

24 (A) in the case of registration with a motor  
25 vehicle application under section 5, if the valid

1 voter registration form of the applicant is sub-  
2 mitted to the appropriate State motor vehicle  
3 authority not later than the lesser of 30 days,  
4 or the period provided by State law, before the  
5 date of the election;

6 (B) in the case of registration by mail  
7 under section 6, if the valid voter registration  
8 form of the applicant is postmarked not later  
9 than the lesser of 30 days, or the period pro-  
10 vided by State law, before the date of the elec-  
11 tion;

12 (C) in the case of registration at a voter  
13 registration agency, if the valid voter registra-  
14 tion form of the applicant is accepted at the  
15 voter registration agency not later than the  
16 lesser of 30 days, or the period provided by  
17 State law, before the date of the election; and

18 (D) in any other case, if the valid voter  
19 registration form of the applicant is received by  
20 the appropriate State election official not later  
21 than the lesser of 30 days, or the period pro-  
22 vided by State law, before the date of the elec-  
23 tion;

1           (2) require the appropriate State election offi-  
2           cial to send notice to each applicant of the disposi-  
3           tion of the application;

4           (3) provide that the name of a registrant may  
5           not be removed from the official list of eligible voters  
6           except—

7                   (A) at the request of the registrant;

8                   (B) as provided by State law, by reason of  
9                   criminal conviction or mental incapacity; or

10                  (C) as provided under paragraph (4);

11           (4) conduct a general program that makes a  
12           reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible  
13           voters from the official lists of eligible voters by rea-  
14           son of—

15                   (A) the death of the registrant; or

16                   (B) a change in the residence of the reg-  
17                   istrant, in accordance with subsections (b), (c),  
18                   and (d);

19           (5) inform applicants under sections 5, 6, and  
20           7 of—

21                   (A) voter eligibility requirements; and

22                   (B) penalties provided by law for submis-  
23                   sion of a false voter registration application;  
24                   and

1           (6) ensure that the identity of the voter reg-  
2           istration agency through which any particular voter  
3           is registered is not disclosed to the public.

4           (b) CONFIRMATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION.—Any  
5           State program or activity to protect the integrity of the  
6           electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of an accu-  
7           rate and current voter registration roll for elections for  
8           Federal office—

9           (1) shall be uniform, nondiscriminatory, and in  
10          compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42  
11          U.S.C. 1973 et seq.); and

12          (2) shall not result in the removal of the name  
13          of any person from the official list of voters reg-  
14          istered to vote in an election for Federal office by  
15          reason of the person’s failure to vote.

16          (c) VOTER REMOVAL PROGRAMS.—(1) A State may  
17          meet the requirement of subsection (a)(4) by establishing  
18          a program under which—

19                (A) change-of-address information supplied by  
20                the Postal Service through its licensees is used to  
21                identify registrants whose addresses may have  
22                changed; and

23                (B) if it appears from information provided by  
24                the Postal Service that—

1 (i) a registrant has moved to a different  
2 residence address in the same registrar's juris-  
3 diction in which the registrant is currently reg-  
4 istered, the registrar changes the registration  
5 records to show the new address and sends the  
6 registrant a notice of the change by forwardable  
7 mail and a postage prepaid pre-addressed re-  
8 turn form by which the registrant may verify or  
9 correct the address information; or

10 (ii) the registrant has moved to a different  
11 residence address not in the same registrar's ju-  
12 risdiction, the registrar uses the notice proce-  
13 dure described in subsection (d)(2) to confirm  
14 the change of address.

15 (2)(A) A State shall complete, not later than 90 days  
16 prior to the date of a primary or general election for Fed-  
17 eral office, any program the purpose of which is to system-  
18 atically remove the names of ineligible voters from the offi-  
19 cial lists of eligible voters.

20 (B) Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to  
21 preclude—

22 (i) the removal of names from official lists of  
23 voters on a basis described in paragraph (3) (A) or  
24 (B) or (4)(A) of subsection (a); or

1           (ii) correction of registration records pursuant  
2           to this Act.

3           (d) REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM VOTING ROLLS.—(1)

4           A State shall not remove the name of a registrant from  
5           the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal  
6           office on the ground that the registrant has changed resi-  
7           dence unless the registrant—

8           (A) confirms in writing that the registrant has  
9           changed residence to a place outside the registrar’s  
10          jurisdiction in which the registrant is registered; or

11          (B)(i) has failed to respond to a notice de-  
12          scribed in paragraph (2); and

13          (ii) has not voted or appeared to vote (and, if  
14          necessary, correct the registrar’s record of the reg-  
15          istrant’s address) in an election during the period  
16          beginning on the date of the notice and ending on  
17          the day after the date of the second general election  
18          for Federal office that occurs after the date of the  
19          notice.

20          (2) A notice is described in this paragraph if it is  
21          a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card, sent by  
22          forwardable mail, on which the registrant may state his  
23          or her current address, together with a notice to the fol-  
24          lowing effect:

1           (A) If the registrant did not change his or her  
2           residence, or changed residence but remained in the  
3           registrar's jurisdiction, the registrant should return  
4           the card not later than the time provided for mail  
5           registration under subsection (a)(1)(B). If the card  
6           is not returned, affirmation or confirmation of the  
7           registrant's address may be required before the reg-  
8           istrant is permitted to vote in a Federal election  
9           during the period beginning on the date of the notice  
10          and ending on the day after the date of the second  
11          general election for Federal office that occurs after  
12          the date of the notice, and if the registrant does not  
13          vote in an election during that period the reg-  
14          istrant's name will be removed from the list of eligi-  
15          ble voters.

16          (B) If the registrant has changed residence to  
17          a place outside the registrar's jurisdiction in which  
18          the registrant is registered, information concerning  
19          how the registrant can continue to be eligible to  
20          vote.

21          (3) A voting registrar shall correct an official list of  
22          eligible voters in elections for Federal office in accordance  
23          with change of residence information obtained in conform-  
24          ance with this subsection.

1 (e) PROCEDURE FOR VOTING FOLLOWING FAILURE  
2 TO RETURN CARD.—(1) A registrant who has moved from  
3 an address in the area covered by a polling place to an  
4 address in the same area shall, notwithstanding failure to  
5 notify the registrar of the change of address prior to the  
6 date of an election, be permitted to vote at that polling  
7 place upon oral or written affirmation by the registrant  
8 of the change of address before an election official at that  
9 polling place.

10 (2)(A) A registrant who has moved from an address  
11 in the area covered by one polling place to an address in  
12 an area covered by a second polling place within the same  
13 registrar’s jurisdiction and the same congressional district  
14 and who has failed to notify the registrar of the change  
15 of address prior to the date of an election, at the option  
16 of the registrant—

17 (i) shall be permitted to correct the voting  
18 records and vote at the registrant’s former polling  
19 place, upon oral or written affirmation by the reg-  
20 istrant of the new address before an election official  
21 at that polling place; or

22 (ii)(I) shall be permitted to correct the voting  
23 records and vote at a central location within the  
24 same registrar’s jurisdiction designated by the reg-  
25 istrar where a list of eligible voters is maintained,

1 upon written affirmation by the registrant of the  
2 new address on a standard form provided by the  
3 registrar at the central location; or

4 (II) shall be permitted to correct the voting  
5 records for purposes of voting in future elections at  
6 the appropriate polling place for the current address  
7 and, if permitted by State law, shall be permitted to  
8 vote in the present election, upon confirmation by  
9 the registrant of the new address by such means as  
10 are required by law.

11 (B) If State law permits the registrant to vote in the  
12 current election upon oral or written affirmation by the  
13 registrant of the new address at a polling place described  
14 in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), voting at the former polling  
15 place as described in subparagraph (A)(i) and at a central  
16 location as described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) need not  
17 be provided as alternative options.

18 (3) If the registration records indicate that a reg-  
19 istrant has moved from an address in the area covered  
20 by a polling place, the registrant shall, upon oral or writ-  
21 ten affirmation by the registrant before an election official  
22 at that polling place that the registrant continues to reside  
23 at the address previously made known to the registrar, be  
24 permitted to vote at that polling place.

1           (f) CHANGE OF VOTING ADDRESS WITHIN A JURIS-  
2 DICTION.—In the case of a change of address, for voting  
3 purposes, of a registrant to another address within the  
4 same registrar’s jurisdiction, the registrar shall correct the  
5 voting registration list accordingly, and the registrant’s  
6 name may not be removed from the official list of eligible  
7 voters by reason of such a change of address except as  
8 provided in subsection (d).

9           (g) CONVICTION IN FEDERAL COURT.—(1) On the  
10 conviction of a person of a felony in a district court of  
11 the United States, the United States attorney shall give  
12 written notice of the conviction to the chief State election  
13 official designated under section 10 of the State of the  
14 person’s residence.

15           (2) A notice given pursuant to paragraph (1) shall  
16 include—

17                   (A) the name of the offender;

18                   (B) the offender’s age and residence address;

19                   (C) the date of entry of the judgment;

20                   (D) a description of the offenses of which the  
21 offender was convicted; and

22                   (E) the sentence imposed by the court.

23           (3) On request of the chief State election official of  
24 a State or other State official with responsibility for deter-  
25 mining the effect that a conviction may have on an offend-

1 er's qualification to vote, the United States attorney shall  
2 provide such additional information as the United States  
3 attorney may have concerning the offender and the offense  
4 of which the offender was convicted.

5 (4) If a conviction of which notice was given pursuant  
6 to paragraph (1) is overturned, the United States attorney  
7 shall give the official to whom the notice was given written  
8 notice of the vacation of the judgment.

9 (5) The chief State election official shall notify the  
10 voter registration officials of the local jurisdiction in which  
11 an offender resides of the information received under this  
12 subsection.

13 (h) REDUCED POSTAL RATES.—(1) Subchapter II of  
14 chapter 36 of title 39, United States Code, is amended  
15 by adding at the end the following:

16 **“§3629. Reduced rates for voter registration pur-**  
17 **poses**

18 “The Postal Service shall make available to a State  
19 or local voting registration official the rate for any class  
20 of mail that is available to a qualified nonprofit organiza-  
21 tion under section 3626 for the purpose of making a mail-  
22 ing that the official certifies is required or authorized by  
23 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.”.

1           (2) Section 2401(c) of title 39, United States Code,  
2 is amended by striking “and 3626(a)–(h)” and inserting  
3 “3626(a)–(h), and 3629”.

4           (3) Section 3627 of title 39, United States Code, is  
5 amended by striking “or 3626 of this title,” and inserting  
6 “, 3626, or 3629 of this title”.

7           (4) The table of sections for chapter 36 of title 39,  
8 United States Code, is amended by inserting after the  
9 item relating to section 3628 the following new item:

“3629. Reduced rates for voter registration purposes.”.

10           (i) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF VOTER REGISTRATION  
11 ACTIVITIES.—(1) Each State shall maintain for at least  
12 2 years and shall make available for public inspection and,  
13 where available, photocopying at a reasonable cost, all  
14 records concerning the implementation of programs and  
15 activities conducted for the purpose of ensuring the accu-  
16 racy and currency of official lists of eligible voters, except  
17 to the extent that such records relate to a declination to  
18 register to vote or to the identity of a voter registration  
19 agency through which any particular voter is registered.

20           (2) The records maintained pursuant to paragraph  
21 (1) shall include lists of the names and addresses of all  
22 persons to whom notices described in subsection (d)(2) are  
23 sent, and information concerning whether or not each such

1 person has responded to the notice as of the date that  
2 inspection of the records is made.

3 (j) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section,  
4 the term “registrar’s jurisdiction” means—

5 (1) an incorporated city, town, borough, or  
6 other form of municipality;

7 (2) if voter registration is maintained by a  
8 county, parish, or other unit of government that gov-  
9 erns a larger geographic area than a municipality,  
10 the geographic area governed by that unit of govern-  
11 ment; or

12 (3) if voter registration is maintained on a con-  
13 solidated basis for more than one municipality or  
14 other unit of government by an office that performs  
15 all of the functions of a voting registrar, the geo-  
16 graphic area of the consolidated municipalities or  
17 other geographic units.

18 **SEC. 9. FEDERAL COORDINATION AND REGULATIONS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Election Commis-  
20 sion—

21 (1) in consultation with the chief election offi-  
22 cers of the States, the heads of the departments,  
23 agencies, and other entities of the executive branch  
24 of the Federal Government, and representatives of

1 nongovernmental entities, shall prescribe such regu-  
2 lations as are necessary to carry out this Act;

3 (2) in consultation with the chief election offi-  
4 cers of the States, shall develop a mail voter reg-  
5 istration application form for elections for Federal  
6 office;

7 (3) not later than June 30 of each odd-num-  
8 bered year, shall submit to the Congress a report as-  
9 sassing the impact of this Act on the administration  
10 of elections for Federal office during the preceding  
11 2-year period and including recommendations for  
12 improvements in Federal and State procedures,  
13 forms, and other matters affected by this Act; and

14 (4) shall provide information to the States with  
15 respect to the responsibilities of the States under  
16 this Act.

17 (b) CONTENTS OF MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION  
18 FORM.—The mail voter registration form developed under  
19 subsection (a)(2)—

20 (1) may require only such identifying informa-  
21 tion (including the signature of the applicant) and  
22 other information (including data relating to pre-  
23 vious registration by the applicant), as is necessary  
24 to enable the appropriate State election official to  
25 assess the eligibility of the applicant and to admin-

1       ister voter registration and other parts of the elec-  
2       tion process;

3           (2) shall include a statement that—

4               (A) specifies each eligibility requirement  
5               (including citizenship);

6               (B) contains an attestation that the appli-  
7               cant meets each such requirement; and

8               (C) requires the signature of the applicant,  
9               under penalty of perjury; and

10           (3) may not include any requirement for notari-  
11           zation or other formal authentication.

12 **SEC. 10. DESIGNATION OF CHIEF STATE ELECTION OFFI-**  
13 **CIAL.**

14       Each State shall designate a State officer or employee  
15 as the chief State election official to be responsible for co-  
16 ordination of State responsibilities under this Act.

17 **SEC. 11. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT AND PRIVATE RIGHT OF AC-**  
18 **TION.**

19       (a) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
20 may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court  
21 for such declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to  
22 carry out this Act.

23       (b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—(1) A person who  
24 is aggrieved by a violation of this Act may provide written

1 notice of the violation to the chief election official of the  
2 State involved.

3 (2) If the violation is not corrected within 90 days  
4 after receipt of a notice under paragraph (1), or within  
5 20 days after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred  
6 within 120 days before the date of an election for Federal  
7 office, the aggrieved person may bring a civil action in an  
8 appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive re-  
9 lief with respect to the violation.

10 (3) If the violation occurred within 30 days before  
11 the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved  
12 person need not provide notice to the chief election official  
13 of the State under paragraph (1) before bringing a civil  
14 action under paragraph (2).

15 (c) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—In a civil action under this  
16 section, the court may allow the prevailing party (other  
17 than the United States) reasonable attorney fees, includ-  
18 ing litigation expenses, and costs.

19 (d) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—(1) The rights and  
20 remedies established by this section are in addition to all  
21 other rights and remedies provided by law, and neither  
22 the rights and remedies established by this section nor any  
23 other provision of this Act shall supersede, restrict, or  
24 limit the application of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42  
25 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.).

1       (2) Nothing in this Act authorizes or requires con-  
2 duct that is prohibited by the Voting Rights Act of 1965  
3 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 12. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.**

5       A person, including an election official, who in any  
6 election for Federal office—

7           (1) knowingly and willfully intimidates, threat-  
8 ens, or coerces, or attempts to intimidate, threaten,  
9 or coerce, any person for—

10                  (A) registering to vote, or voting, or at-  
11 tempting to register or vote;

12                  (B) urging or aiding any person to register  
13 to vote, to vote, or to attempt to register or  
14 vote; or

15                  (C) exercising any right under this Act; or

16       (2) knowingly and willfully deprives, defrauds,  
17 or attempts to deprive or defraud the residents of a  
18 State of a fair and impartially conducted election  
19 process, by—

20                  (A) the procurement or submission of voter  
21 registration applications that are known by the  
22 person to be materially false, fictitious, or  
23 fraudulent under the laws of the State in which  
24 the election is held; or

1 (B) the procurement, casting, or tabulation  
2 of ballots that are known by the person to be  
3 materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent under  
4 the laws of the State in which the election is  
5 held,

6 shall be fined in accordance with title 18, United States  
7 Code, or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

8 **SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9 This Act shall take effect—

10 (1) with respect to a State that on the date of  
11 enactment of this Act has a provision in the con-  
12 stitution of the State that would preclude compliance  
13 with this Act unless the State maintained separate  
14 Federal and State official lists of eligible voters,  
15 on January 1, 1996; and

16 (2) with respect to any State not described in  
17 paragraph (1), on January 1, 1995.

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