

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 528

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to modify the requirements for voter mail registration and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2001

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

A BILL

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to modify the requirements for voter mail registration 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 “Safeguard the Vote
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MAIL REGISTRATION.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS TO
8 PRESENT IDENTIFICATION.—Section 6(c)(1) of the Na-
9 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-
10 4(c)(1)) is amended by striking “a State may by law re-

1 require a person to vote in person if” and inserting “a State
 2 shall by law require a person to vote in person and present
 3 a picture identification if”.

4 (b) REMOVAL OF VOTERS IN RESPONSE TO UNDE-
 5 LIVERED NOTICES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(d) of the National
 7 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-
 8 4(d)) is amended by striking “may proceed” and all
 9 that follows through the end and inserting the fol-
 10 lowing: “shall—

11 “(1) proceed in accordance with section 8(d); or

12 “(2) if provided for under State law, remove the
 13 name of the registrant from the official list of eligi-
 14 ble voters in elections for Federal office provided
 15 that reasonable safeguards are available to prevent
 16 the removal of an eligible voter.”.

17 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (A) Section 8(a)(3)(C) of such Act (42
 19 U.S.C. 1973gg-6(a)(3)(C)) is amended by in-
 20 serting “or section 6(d)(2)” after “paragraph
 21 (4)”.

22 (B) Section 8(e)(2)(B) of such Act (42
 23 U.S.C. 1973gg-6(e)(2)(B)) is amended by in-
 24 serting “or section 6(d)(2)” after “subsection
 25 (a)”.

1 (c) CONTENTS OF MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION
2 FORM.—Section 9(b)(3) of the National Voter Registra-
3 tion Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–7(b)(3)) is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 “(3) may include a requirement for notarization
6 or other formal authentication as each State may by
7 law require; and”.

8 **SEC. 3. MAINTENANCE OF ACCURATE LIST OF ELIGIBLE**
9 **VOTERS.**

10 (a) REQUIRED VOTER REMOVAL PROGRAM.—Section
11 8(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42
12 U.S.C. 1973gg–(6)(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at
16 the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(7) conduct a program to determine whether
19 the number of eligible voters in any jurisdiction is
20 less than the number of eligible voters on the official
21 list for such jurisdiction and, if such determination
22 is made, remove the names of ineligible voters from
23 such list in accordance with paragraph (4).”.

24 (b) IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Section 8(e) of the
25 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.

1 1973gg-6(e)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(4) Any requirement under this section to make an
4 oral or written affirmation regarding the address of a reg-
5 istrant shall include a requirement that such registrant
6 present picture identification as part of such affirma-
7 tion.”.

8 (c) NOTIFICATION OF FELONY CONVICTIONS.—Sec-
9 tion 8(g) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993
10 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6(g)) is amended by adding at the end
11 the following:

12 “(6) The Attorney General shall provide, upon re-
13 quest of any chief State election official, expedited access
14 to applicable records regarding felony convictions of indi-
15 viduals in order to determine if an individual is eligible
16 to vote under any applicable State law.”.

17 (d) ADDITIONAL PENALTY FOR CONSPIRACY.—Sec-
18 tion 12(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993
19 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-(10)(2)) is amended—

20 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
21 by striking “process, by” and inserting “process”;

22 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or know-
23 ingly and willfully conspires with another person to
24 deprive, defraud, or attempt to deprive or defraud
25 the residents of a State of a fair and impartially

1 conducted election process, by” before “the procure-
2 ment”; and

3 (3) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “by” be-
4 fore “the procurement”.

5 **SEC. 4. PENALTIES UNDER VOTING RIGHTS ACT.**

6 (a) INCREASED PENALTIES.—Subsections (c) and
7 (e)(1) of section 11 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42
8 U.S.C. 1973i) are each amended by striking “\$10,000”
9 and inserting “\$30,000”.

10 (b) MISREPRESENTATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Section
11 11(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
12 1973i(c)) is amended by inserting “or gives false informa-
13 tion as to the individual’s status as a convicted felon”
14 after “voting district”.

15 **SEC. 5. VOTER ROLL COORDINATION DEMONSTRATION**
16 **PROJECT.**

17 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ESTABLISHED.—The
18 Federal Election Commission shall establish a demonstra-
19 tion project for the purpose of determining the feasibility
20 and advisability of requiring coordination of the official
21 list of registered voters and certain State records to
22 ensure—

23 (1) such list is accurate; and

24 (2) that eligible voters are not improperly re-
25 moved from the official list.

1 (b) PROJECT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The project conducted under
3 this section shall require a State to maintain accu-
4 rate records regarding individuals eligible to vote in
5 the project area by coordinating—

6 (A) State records of—

7 (i) individuals registered to vote with
8 respect to elections for Federal office
9 through the appropriate State motor vehi-
10 cle authority under section 5 of the Na-
11 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42
12 U.S.C. 1973gg-3);

13 (ii) deaths; and

14 (iii) individuals convicted of a felony;
15 with

16 (B) the official list of the appropriate ju-
17 risdiction of individuals registered, and other-
18 wise eligible, to vote in such elections.

19 (2) STUDY.—In conjunction with the dem-
20 onstration project under this subsection, the Federal
21 Election Commission shall conduct a study of—

22 (A) the current practices and methods of
23 voting jurisdictions used to maintain official
24 lists of registered voters; and

1 (B) reasons for any failure of such prac-
2 tices and methods to prevent voting fraud or in-
3 accurate lists.

4 (c) PROJECT AREA AND DURATION.—

5 (1) PROJECT AREA.—The Federal Election
6 Commission shall implement the project in the vot-
7 ing jurisdictions of St. Louis County, Missouri, and
8 St. Louis City, Missouri.

9 (2) DURATION.—The project conducted under
10 this section shall be implemented for a period ending
11 on the date of the next general election for the office
12 of President and Vice President.

13 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the com-
14 pletion of the demonstration project, the Federal Election
15 Commission shall submit a report to Congress on the dem-
16 onstration project and study conducted under subsection
17 (b) together with such recommendations as the Federal
18 Election Commission determines appropriate—

19 (1) regarding resources, technology, and per-
20 sonnel necessary for maintenance of accurate
21 records; and

22 (2) legislative and administrative action, includ-
23 ing the feasibility of national standards.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
3 necessary to carry out this section.

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