AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 311

Urging the President and Congress to take actions to fill vacancies on the Election Assistance Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2013

Mr. HOYER (for himself, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Ms. CHU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

---

RESOLUTION

Urging the President and Congress to take actions to fill vacancies on the Election Assistance Commission.

Whereas the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) on a bipartisan basis, with the approval of 357 Members of the House of Representatives and 92 Senators;

Whereas under section 202 of HAVA (42 U.S.C. 15322), the EAC was established to ''serve as a national clearinghouse and resource for the compilation of information and review of procedures with respect to the administration of Federal elections'', and its conferences, reference works, and instructional videos have saved State and local governments and election officials millions of dollars since its establishment;

Whereas the EAC was established by Congress to help it carry out its duty to oversee Federal elections as provided in article I, section IV of the Constitution of the United States while respecting the primary role of States in the administration of elections;

Whereas EAC's guidance can help States avoid contested elections that can cost tens of millions of dollars and 2012's Hurricane Sandy showed how election administrators can need the help that EAC's Federal experts can provide in dealing with unexpected situations such as natural disasters, both of which demonstrate the value of EAC-produced materials covering Election Management Guidelines and Contingency and Disaster Planning and of having a Federal agency that election officials can call upon for guidance and advice in the event that an election may be affected by unusual circumstances;

Whereas HAVA strives to ensure that the EAC is bipartisan by authorizing "the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives" under section 203 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 15323) to each submit recommendations to the President for nominations of individuals to serve as commissioners; and

Whereas in spite of the great value that the EAC has provided to Federal, State, and particularly local governments in administering their elections efficiently as well as effectively, the EAC has been without a working quorum of commissioners since 2010 and without any commissioners since December 2011, denying the American people the full assistance the Commission can provide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to exercise the authority granted by section 203 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15323) by each submitting to the President a recommendation for a candidate to fill their respective vacancies on the Election Assistance Commission;

(2) urges President Obama to consider such recommendations promptly and to submit to the Senate nominations to fill all 4 vacancies;

(3) urges the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate to hold hearings and votes promptly on those nominations; and

(4) urges the full Senate to provide each nominee who is reported favorably by the Committee with an up-or-down vote on confirmation.

○