

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6183

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to meet standards for the location and operation of polling places used in elections for Federal office, including a standard requiring States to ensure that no individual waits for longer than one hour to cast a vote at a polling place, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2020

Mr. GRIJALVA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to meet standards for the location and operation of polling places used in elections for Federal office, including a standard requiring States to ensure that no individual waits for longer than one hour to cast a vote at a polling place, 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 “Voting Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING STATES TO MEET STANDARDS FOR LO-**
2 **CATION AND OPERATION OF POLLING**
3 **PLACES USED IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL**
4 **OFFICE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help Amer-
7 ica Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is
8 amended by inserting after section 303 the following
9 new section:

10 **“SEC. 303A. COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR LOCATION**
11 **AND OPERATION OF POLLING PLACES.**

12 “(a) COMPLIANCE.—Each State shall comply with
13 the standards established by the Commission under this
14 section for the location and operation of polling places
15 used in elections for Federal office.

16 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—

17 “(1) STANDARDS DESCRIBED.—In consultation
18 with the chief State election officials of the States,
19 the Commission shall establish national standards
20 for the location and operation of polling places used
21 in elections for Federal office (other than sites used
22 as polling places on dates other than the date of the
23 election), including the following:

24 “(A) A requirement that no individual
25 shall be required to wait for longer than one
26 hour in order to cast a vote at a polling place.

1 “(B) Standards for determining the num-
2 ber of polling places within a jurisdiction on the
3 basis of the voting age population of the juris-
4 diction, taking into consideration factors which
5 include the linguistic preferences of voters in
6 the jurisdiction, the availability of same-day
7 voter registration in the jurisdiction, and other
8 relevant factors.

9 “(C) Standards for the nondiscriminatory
10 placement and location of polling places within
11 a jurisdiction, including standards to ensure
12 that polling places are accessible to voters with
13 disabilities and voters using public transpor-
14 tation.

15 “(D) Standards for ensuring that each
16 polling place has sufficient resources, including
17 voting systems, ballots, and election officials, to
18 meet the requirement described in subpara-
19 graph (A).

20 “(E) Standards for ensuring that voters
21 are given timely, accurate, and current informa-
22 tion in clear and concise language regarding
23 ballot information and the location of polling
24 places.

1 “(F) Best practices for preventing viola-
2 tions of laws prohibiting the intimidation or
3 harassment of voters at polling places.

4 “(G) Standards for ensuring and improv-
5 ing the security of voting systems and polling
6 places.

7 “(2) PROCESS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STAND-
8 ARDS.—The establishment of the standards under
9 this section shall be carried out by the Commission
10 in a manner that provides for each of the following:

11 “(A) Publication of notice of the proposed
12 standards in the Federal Register.

13 “(B) An opportunity for public comment
14 on the proposed standards.

15 “(C) Publication of the final standards in
16 the Federal Register.

17 “(c) DEADLINE; EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Commis-
18 sion shall establish the standards under this section not
19 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
20 section, and each State shall comply with the standards
21 with respect to all elections for Federal office held on or
22 after the expiration of the 180-day period which begins
23 on the date the Commission establishes the standards.”.

1 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
2 tents of such Act is amended by inserting after the
3 item relating to section 303 the following new item:

 “Sec. 303A. Compliance with standards for location and operation of polling
 places.”.

4 (b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52
5 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “and 303” and in-
6 serting “303, and 303A”.

7 (c) FUNDING.—Section 257(a) of such Act (52
8 U.S.C. 21007(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following new paragraph:

10 “(5) For the first fiscal year during which
11 States are subject to the requirements of section
12 303A (relating to standards established by the Com-
13 mission for the location and operation of polling
14 places), such sums as are necessary for requirements
15 of payments to enable the States to meet the re-
16 quirements of such section.”.

17 **SEC. 3. STUDIES AND REPORTS ON MISIDENTIFICATION OF**
18 **INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRA-**
19 **TION AND PURGING OF VOTER REGISTRA-**
20 **TION LISTS.**

21 (a) STUDIES.—

22 (1) MISIDENTIFICATION OF POLITICAL PARTY
23 REGISTRATION.—The Election Assistance Commis-
24 sion shall conduct a study of instances of the

1 misidentification by election officials of the political
2 party registration of individuals attempting to vote
3 in primary elections for Federal office, including an
4 analysis of the frequency of such misidentification
5 among various jurisdictions.

6 (2) PURGING OF VOTER ROLLS.—The Election
7 Assistance Commission shall conduct a study of in-
8 stances in which States carry out purges of the offi-
9 cial voter registration list or implement similar “use
10 it or lose it” policies which automatically remove in-
11 dividuals who fail to vote from the official voter reg-
12 istration list.

13 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
14 of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit
15 to Congress a report on the studies conducted under sub-
16 section (a), and shall include in the report such rec-
17 ommendations as the Commission considers appropriate—

18 (1) to prevent and respond to the misidentifica-
19 tion of an individual’s political party registration, in-
20 cluding recommendations to permit individuals to
21 correct their political party registration at the poll-
22 ing place on the date of voting; and

23 (2) to respond to purges of official voter reg-
24 istration lists, including recommendations for noti-
25 fying a registrant when a State initiates a process

- 1 to remove the registrant from the list and providing
- 2 instructions on how the registrant may renew the
- 3 registrant's registration.

