

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 499

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 1993

Mr. CONYERS introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Post Office and Civil Service

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 “Universal Voter Reg-
5 istration Act of 1993”.

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

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

8 (1) the right to vote is fundamental in a democ-
9 racy, and it is the duty of the Federal, State, and

1 local governments to promote and maximize the ex-
2 ercise of that right in elections for Federal office;

3 (2) the Congress has the authority to regulate
4 the time and manner in which citizens may register
5 for, and vote in, elections for Federal office;

6 (3) the establishment of national standards for
7 voter registration with respect to elections for Fed-
8 eral office would facilitate the participation of citi-
9 zens in the electoral process and would remove bar-
10 riers to, and maximize, such participation; and

11 (4) discriminatory and unfair registration laws
12 and procedures can have a direct and damaging ef-
13 fect on voter participation in elections for Federal
14 office and disproportionately harm voter participa-
15 tion by various groups, including racial minorities.

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

17 (1) to establish procedures that will increase
18 the number of eligible citizens who register to vote
19 in elections for Federal office;

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

24 (3) to protect the integrity of the electoral proc-
25 ess; and

1 (4) to ensure that accurate and current voter
2 registration rolls are maintained.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 As used in this Act—

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

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

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

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

16 (5) the term “voter registration agency” means
17 an office designated under section 7(a)(1) to per-
18 form voter registration activities; and

19 (6) the terms “registrar’s jurisdiction” and “ju-
20 risdiction of the same registrar” mean—

21 (A) an incorporated city, town, borough, or
22 other form of municipality;

23 (B) if voter registration is maintained by a
24 county, parish, or other unit of government that
25 governs a larger geographic area than a municipi-

1 pality, the geographic area governed by that
2 unit of government; or

3 (C) if voter registration is maintained on a
4 consolidated basis for more than one municipal-
5 ity or other unit of government by an office
6 that performs all the functions of a voting reg-
7 istrar, the geographic area of the consolidated
8 municipalities or other geographic units.

9 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR VOTER REGISTRA-**
10 **TION FOR ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
12 (b), notwithstanding any other Federal or State law, in
13 addition to any other method of voter registration pro-
14 vided for under State law, each State shall establish proce-
15 dures to register to vote in elections for Federal office—

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

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

21 (3) by application in person—

22 (A) at the appropriate registration site
23 designated with respect to the residence of the
24 applicant in accordance with State law; and

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

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

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

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

12 **SEC. 5. SIMULTANEOUS APPLICATION FOR VOTER REG-**
13 **ISTRATION AND APPLICATION FOR MOTOR**
14 **VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Except as provided in sub-
16 section (b), each State motor vehicle driver's license appli-
17 cation (including any renewal application) submitted to
18 the appropriate State motor vehicle authority under State
19 law shall serve as an application for voter registration with
20 respect to elections for Federal office.

21 (2) An application for voter registration submitted
22 under paragraph (1) shall be considered as updating any
23 previous voter registration by the applicant.

24 (b) DECLINATION TO REGISTER.—(1) An applicant
25 for a State motor vehicle driver's license may decline in

1 writing to be registered by means of the motor vehicle
2 driver's license application.

3 (2) No information relating to a declination pursuant
4 to paragraph (1) may be used for any purpose other than
5 voter registration.

6 (c) FORMS AND PROCEDURES.—(1) Each State shall
7 include a voter registration application form for elections
8 for Federal office as part of an application for a State
9 motor vehicle driver's license.

10 (2) The voter registration application portion of an
11 application for a State motor vehicle driver's license—

12 (A) may not require any information that dupli-
13 cates information required in the driver's license
14 portion of the form (other than a second signature
15 or other information necessary under subparagraph
16 (C));

17 (B) shall include a means by which an applicant
18 may decline to register to vote pursuant to sub-
19 section (b);

20 (C) may require only the minimum amount of
21 information necessary to—

22 (i) prevent duplicate voter registrations;

23 and

24 (ii) enable State election officials to assess
25 the eligibility of the applicant and to administer

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

3 (D) shall include a statement that—

4 (i) states each eligibility requirement (in-
5 cluding citizenship);

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

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

10 (E) shall be made available (as submitted by
11 the applicant, or in machine readable or other for-
12 mat) to the appropriate State election official as pro-
13 vided by State law.

14 (d) CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Any change of address
15 form submitted in accordance with State law for purposes
16 of a State motor vehicle driver's license shall serve as noti-
17 fication of change of address for voter registration with
18 respect to elections for Federal office for the registrant
19 involved unless the registrant states on the form that the
20 change of address is not for voter registration purposes.

21 **SEC. 6. MAIL REGISTRATION.**

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

1 (2) In addition to accepting and using the form de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1), a State may develop and use
3 a mail voter registration form that meets all of the criteria
4 stated in section 9(a)(2) for the registration of voters in
5 elections for Federal office.

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

9 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FORMS.—The chief State elec-
10 tion official of a State shall make the forms described in
11 subsection (a) available for distribution through govern-
12 mental and private entities, with particular emphasis on
13 making them available for organized voter registration
14 programs.

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

18 (A) the person was registered to vote in a local
19 jurisdiction by mail; and

20 (B) the person has not previously voted in that
21 jurisdiction.

22 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of a
23 person—

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

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

8 (C) who is entitled to vote otherwise than in
9 person under any other law.

10 **SEC. 7. VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.**

11 (a) DESIGNATION.—(1) Each State shall designate
12 agencies for the registration of voters in elections for Fed-
13 eral office.

14 (2) Each State shall designate as voter registration
15 agencies—

16 (A) all offices in the State that provide public
17 assistance, unemployment compensation, or related
18 services;

19 (B) all offices in the State that provide State-
20 funded programs primarily engaged in providing
21 services to persons with disabilities; and

22 (C) all universities and colleges in the State
23 that are State-funded, public schools, and public vo-
24 cational training centers.

1 (3)(A) In addition to voter registration agencies des-
2 igned under paragraph (2), each State shall designate
3 other offices within the State as voter registration agen-
4 cies.

5 (B) Voter registration agencies designated under sub-
6 paragraph (A) may include—

7 (i) State or local government offices such as
8 public libraries, offices of city and county clerks (in-
9 cluding marriage license bureaus), fishing and hunt-
10 ing license bureaus, government revenue offices, and
11 offices not described in paragraph (2)(B) that pro-
12 vide services to persons with disabilities; and

13 (ii) Federal and nongovernmental offices, with
14 the agreement of such offices.

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

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

19 (ii) Assistance to applicants in completing voter
20 registration application forms.

21 (iii) Acceptance of completed voter registration
22 application forms for transmittal to the appropriate
23 State election official.

24 (B) If a voter registration agency designated under
25 paragraph (2)(B) provides services to a person with a dis-

1 ability at the person's home, the agency shall provide the
2 services described in subparagraph (A) at the person's
3 home.

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

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

8 (B) display any such political preference or
9 party allegiance; or

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

13 (6) A voter registration agency that is an office that
14 provides service or assistance in addition to conducting
15 voter registration shall—

16 (A) distribute with each application for such
17 service or assistance, and with each recertification,
18 renewal, or change of address form relating to such
19 service or assistance—

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

22 (ii) the office's own form if it is substan-
23 tially equivalent to the form described in section
24 9(a)(2), unless the applicant, in writing, de-
25 clines to register to vote;

1 (B) to the greatest extent practicable, incor-
2 porate in application forms and other forms used at
3 those offices for purposes other than voter registra-
4 tion a means by which a person who completes the
5 form may decline, in writing, to register to vote in
6 elections for Federal office; and

7 (C) provide to each applicant who does not de-
8 cline to register to vote the same degree of assist-
9 ance with regard to the completion of the registra-
10 tion application form as is provided by the office
11 with regard to the completion of its own forms.

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

16 (b) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR
17 COOPERATION.—All departments, agencies, and other en-
18 tities of the executive branch of the Federal Government
19 shall, to the greatest extent practicable, cooperate with the
20 States in carrying out subsection (a), and all nongovern-
21 mental entities are encouraged to do so.

22 (c) TRANSMITTAL DEADLINE.—(1) subject to para-
23 graph (2), a completed registration application accepted
24 at a voter registration agency shall be transmitted to the

1 appropriate State election official not later than 10 days
2 after the date of acceptance.

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

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

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—In the administration of voter
11 registration for elections for Federal office, each State
12 shall—

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

15 (A) in the case of registration with a motor
16 vehicle application under section 5, if the valid
17 voter registration form of the applicant is sub-
18 mitted to the appropriate State motor vehicle
19 authority not later than the lesser of 30 days,
20 or the period provided by State law, before the
21 date of the election;

22 (B) in the case of registration by mail
23 under section 6, if the valid voter registration
24 form of the applicant is postmarked not later
25 than the lesser of 30 days, or the period pro-

1 vided by State law, before the date of the elec-
2 tion;

3 (C) in the case of registration at a voter
4 registration agency, if the valid voter registra-
5 tion form of the applicant is accepted at the
6 voter registration agency not later than the
7 lesser of 30 days, or the period provided by
8 State law, before the date of the election; and

9 (D) in any other case, if the valid voter
10 registration form of the applicant is received by
11 the appropriate State election official not later
12 than the lesser of 30 days, or the period pro-
13 vided by State law, before the date of the elec-
14 tion;

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

18 (3) provide that the name of a registrant may
19 not be removed from the official list of eligible voters
20 except—

21 (A) at the request of the registrant;

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

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

1 (4) conduct a general program that makes a
2 reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible
3 voters from the official lists of eligible voters by rea-
4 son of—

5 (A) the death of the registrant; or

6 (B) a change in the residence of the reg-
7 istrant, in accordance with subsections (b), (c),
8 and (d);

9 (5) inform applicants under sections 5, 6, and
10 7 of—

11 (A) voter eligibility requirements; and

12 (B) penalties provided by law for submis-
13 sion of a false voter registration application;
14 and

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

18 (b) CONFIRMATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION.—Any
19 State program or activity to protect the integrity of the
20 electoral process by ensuring the maintenance of an accu-
21 rate and current voter registration roll for elections for
22 Federal office—

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

1 (2) shall not result in the removal of the name
2 of any person from the official list of voters reg-
3 istered to vote in an election for Federal office by
4 reason of the person's failure to vote.

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

8 (A) change-of-address information supplied by
9 the Postal Service through its licensees is used to
10 identify registrants whose addresses may have
11 changed; and

12 (B) if it appears from information provided by
13 the Postal Service that—

14 (i) a registrant has moved to a different
15 residence address in the same registrar's juris-
16 diction in which the registrant is currently reg-
17 istered, the registrar changes the registration
18 records to show the new address and sends the
19 registrant a notice of the change by forwardable
20 first class mail and a postage prepaid
21 preaddressed return form by which the reg-
22 istrant may verify or correct the address infor-
23 mation; or

24 (ii) the registrant has moved to a different
25 residence address not in the same registrar's ju-

1 jurisdiction, the registrar uses the notice proce-
2 dure described in subsection (d)(2) to confirm
3 the change of address.

4 (2)(A) A State shall complete, not later than 60 days
5 prior to the date of a primary or general election for Fed-
6 eral office, any program the purpose of which is to system-
7 atically remove the names of ineligible voters from the offi-
8 cial lists of eligible voters.

9 (B) Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to pre-
10 clude—

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

14 (ii) correction of registration records pursuant
15 to this Act.

16 (d) REMOVAL OF NAMES FROM VOTING ROLLS.—(1)
17 A State shall not remove the name of a registrant from
18 the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal
19 office on the ground that the registrant has changed resi-
20 dence unless the registrant—

21 (A) confirms in writing that the registrant has
22 changed residence to a place outside the jurisdiction
23 in which the registrant is registered; or

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

1 (ii) has not voted or appeared to vote (and, if
2 necessary, correct the registrar's record of the reg-
3 istrant's address) in an election during the period
4 beginning on the date of the notice and ending on
5 the day after the date of the second general election
6 for Federal office that occurs after the date of the
7 notice.

8 (2) A notice is described in this paragraph if it is
9 a postage prepaid and preaddressed return card, sent by
10 first class, forwardable mail, on which the registrant may
11 state his or her current address, together with a notice
12 to the following effect:

13 (A) If the registrant did not change his or her
14 residence, or changed residence but remained in the
15 registrar's jurisdiction, the registrant should return
16 the card not later than the time provided for mail
17 registration under subsection (a)(1)(B). If the card
18 is not returned, affirmation or confirmation of the
19 registrant's address may be required before the reg-
20 istrant is permitted to vote in a Federal election
21 during the period beginning on the date of the notice
22 and ending on the day after the date of the second
23 general election for Federal office that occurs after
24 the date of the notice, and if the registrant does not
25 vote in an election during that period the reg-

1 istrant's name will be removed from the list of eligi-
2 ble voters.

3 (B) If the registrant has changed residence to
4 a place outside the jurisdiction in which the reg-
5 istrant is registered, information concerning how the
6 registrant can continue to be eligible to vote.

7 (3) A voting registrar shall correct an official list of
8 eligible voters in elections for Federal office in accordance
9 with change of residence information obtained in conform-
10 ance with this subsection.

11 (e) PROCEDURE FOR VOTING FOLLOWING FAILURE
12 TO RETURN CARD.—(1) A registrant who has moved from
13 an address in the area covered by a polling place to an
14 address in the same area shall, notwithstanding failure to
15 notify the registrar of the change of address prior to the
16 date of an election, be permitted to vote at the polling
17 place upon oral or written affirmation by the registrant
18 of the change of address before an election official at that
19 polling place.

20 (2) A registrant who has moved from an address in
21 the area covered by one polling place to an address in an
22 area covered by a second polling place within the jurisdic-
23 tion of the same registrar and who has failed to notify
24 the registrar of the change of address prior to the date

1 of an election shall be permitted to vote, at the option of
2 the registrant—

3 (A) at the second polling place, with confirma-
4 tion of the new address by such means as are re-
5 quired by law; or

6 (B) upon oral or written affirmation by the reg-
7 istrant of the new address before an election offi-
8 cial—

9 (i) at the registrant's former polling place
10 if that polling place is in the same congressional
11 district as the second polling place; or

12 (ii) at any other location where a list of eli-
13 gible voters is maintained and voting is con-
14 ducted.

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

22 (f) CHANGE OF VOTING ADDRESS WITHIN A JURIS-
23 DICTION.—In the case of a change of address, for voting
24 purposes, of a registrant to another address within the ju-
25 risdiction of the same voting registrar, the registrar shall

1 correct the voting registration list accordingly, and the
2 registrant's name may not be removed from the official
3 list of eligible voters by reason of such a change of address
4 except as provided in subsection (d).

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

11 (2) A notice given pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
12 include—

13 (A) the name of the offender;

14 (B) the offender's age and residence address;

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

16 (D) a description of the offenses of which the
17 offender was convicted; and

18 (E) the sentence imposed by the court.

19 (3) On request of the chief State election official of
20 a State or other State official with responsibility for deter-
21 mining the effect that a conviction may have on an offend-
22 er's qualification to vote, the United States attorney shall
23 provide such additional information as the United States
24 attorney may have concerning the offender and the offense
25 of which the offender was convicted.

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

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

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

12 **“SEC. 3629. REDUCED RATES FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**
13 **PURPOSES.**

14 “The Postal Service shall make available to a State
15 or local voting registration official the rate for any class
16 of mail that is available to a qualified nonprofit organiza-
17 tion under section 3626 for the purpose of making a mail-
18 ing (including a return mailing to the official using a pre-
19 paid envelope supplied by the official) that the official cer-
20 tifies is required or authorized by the Universal Voter
21 Registration Act of 1992.”

22 (2) Section 2401(c) of title 39, United States Code,
23 is amended by striking “and 3626(a)–(h)” and inserting
24 “3626(a)–(h), and 3629”.

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

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

“3629. Reduced rates for voter registration purposes.”

7 (i) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF VOTER REGISTRATION
8 ACTIVITIES.—(1) Each State shall maintain for at least
9 2 years and shall make promptly available for public in-
10 spection and, where available, photocopying at a reason-
11 able cost, all records concerning the implementation of
12 programs and activities conducted for the purpose of en-
13 suring the accuracy and currency of official lists of eligible
14 voters, except to the extent that such records relate to a
15 declination to register to vote or to the identify of a voter
16 registration agency through which any particular voter is
17 registered.

18 (2) The records maintained pursuant to paragraph
19 (1) shall include lists of the names and addresses of all
20 persons to whom notices described in subsection (d)(2) are
21 sent, and information concerning whether or not each per-
22 son has responded to the notice as of the date that inspec-
23 tion of the records is made.

24 (j) AFFIRMATION AND CONFIRMATION.—(1) For the
25 purposes of this Act, “affirmation” shall mean a sworn

1 statement under oath. Each State shall provide a brief,
2 preprinted form for this purpose, which requires only the
3 signature of the voter. Persons who cannot write will be
4 permitted to provide an oral affirmation.

5 (2) For the purposes of this section, the State shall
6 accept the following means of providing a voter's address
7 confirmation—

8 (A) a driver's license;

9 (B) a bill, notice, or letter from any govern-
10 mental unit, agency, or public utility; or

11 (C) lease, deed, or rent receipt,

12 as sufficient confirmation. The State may also designate
13 additional methods of providing such confirmation of a
14 voter's address.

15 (3) For the purposes of subsections (c), (d), and (e)
16 of this section, affirmation and confirmation may be ac-
17 complished by mail for persons voting by absentee ballot.

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 part (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 knowingly and willfully intimi-
7 dates, threatens, or coerces, or attempts to intimidate,
8 threaten, or coerce, any person for—

9 (1) registering to vote, or voting, or attempting
10 to register or vote;

11 (2) urging or aiding any person to register to
12 vote, to vote, or to attempt to register or vote; or

13 (3) exercising any right under this Act;

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

16 **SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 This Act shall take effect—

18 (1) with respect to a State that on the date of
19 enactment of this Act has a provision in the con-
20 stitution of the State that would preclude compliance
21 with this Act unless the State maintained separate
22 Federal and State official lists of eligible voters, on
23 January 1, 1996; and

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



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