

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 683

To protect and enforce the equal privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States and the constitutional rights of the people to choose Senators and Representatives in Congress.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5, 1995

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. SANTORUM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To protect and enforce the equal privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States and the constitutional rights of the people to choose Senators and Representatives in Congress.

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 “Electoral Rights En-
5 forcement Act of 1995”.

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

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

1 (1) The right of the people of the States to
2 choose their Senators and Representatives in Con-
3 gress is a fundamental right and a privilege and im-
4 munity of citizenship reserved to the States or the
5 people by the 10th amendment, and enforceable
6 under sections 4 and 8 of article I, section 4 of arti-
7 cle IV, and the 14th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 24th, and
8 26th amendments of the Constitution.

9 (2) A State and its people may reasonably con-
10 clude that requiring regular rotation in office of
11 their Senators and Representatives in Congress best
12 serves their needs and the interests of good govern-
13 ment.

14 (3) An overwhelming majority of the people in
15 every State favor term limits on their Senators and
16 Representatives in Congress.

17 (4) Long-time incumbents often have benefits
18 from their offices that have given them unequal ad-
19 vantages in obtaining reelection.

20 (5) Entrenched incumbency has had the effect
21 of denying equal rights to seek office.

22 (6) Entrenched incumbency has had the effect
23 of reducing the participation of racial minorities,
24 women, and young voters in elections for the Senate
25 and House of Representatives.

1 (7) Long-time incumbents often encourage un-
2 constitutional gerrymandering of congressional dis-
3 tricts to assist them in continuing in office.

4 (8) Long-time incumbents often become more
5 responsive to special interests than to the voters,
6 thus infringing on the voter's right to nondiscrim-
7 inatory treatment in the provision of government
8 services.

9 (9) Long-term incumbents often have advan-
10 tages in obtaining financial support for campaigns,
11 which result in greatly unequal opportunities among
12 candidates seeking election.

13 (10) For all of the reasons set forth in para-
14 graphs (1) through (9), the people in States in
15 which a majority choose to limit the terms of their
16 Members of Congress are denied a fully republican
17 form of government if they are not allowed to do so.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the Act are—

19 (1) to enforce the guarantees of equal protec-
20 tion of the laws and protect the privileges and im-
21 munities of citizens of the United States, as guaran-
22 teed by the 14th amendment, by authorizing the
23 people and the States to limit the terms of their
24 Senators and Representatives in Congress;

1 (2) to enforce the guarantees of the 10th
2 amendment to the same end;

3 (3) to enforce the guarantees of the 15th, 19th,
4 24th, and 26th amendments to the same end;

5 (4) to enforce the right of the people to choose
6 their Representatives in Congress guaranteed by ar-
7 ticle 1 of the Constitution;

8 (5) to enforce the right of the people to choose
9 their Senators guaranteed by the 17th amendment
10 to the Constitution;

11 (6) to regulate the manner of elections to Con-
12 gress; and

13 (7) to carry out the obligation of Congress to
14 guarantee to every State a republican form of gov-
15 ernment as set forth in section 4 of Article IV.

16 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT; SENATE.**

17 Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the
18 maximum number of terms to which a person may be
19 elected or appointed to the Senate of the United States.

20 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION AND ENFORCEMENT; HOUSE OF**
21 **REPRESENTATIVES.**

22 Each State or the people thereof may prescribe the
23 maximum number of terms to which a person may be

1 elected to the House of Representatives of the United
2 States.

