

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4961

To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to clarify the intent of Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2000

Mr. WATT of North Carolina (for himself, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. WYNN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. LEE, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DIXON, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FORD, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HILLIARD, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. JEFFERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to clarify the intent of 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 “Voting Rights Clari-
5 fication Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that—

3 (1) the Department of Justice has consistently
4 enforced section 5 of the Voting Rights Act by inter-
5 posing objections to changes in qualifications, pre-
6 requisites, standards, practices, or procedures relat-
7 ing to voting where those changes were motivated by
8 any purpose or intent to discriminate on the basis
9 of race or color, not just the limited purpose or in-
10 tent to retrogress;

11 (2) certain aspects of recent decisions and opin-
12 ions of the Supreme Court have unduly narrowed
13 the standard of review applied to changes affecting
14 voting under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of
15 1965; and

16 (3) legislative action is necessary to restore the
17 prior consistent and longstanding executive branch
18 interpretation of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

19 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF PURPOSE TO DENY OR**
20 **ABRIDGE.**

21 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is amend-
22 ed by inserting “As used in this subsection, ‘purpose . . .
23 of denying or abridging’ is not limited to the purpose or
24 intent to retrogress but can be any purpose or intent to

- 1 discriminate.” after “procedure:” and before “*Provided*,”
- 2 in the first sentence.

