

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1558

To prohibit States from denying any individual the right to register to vote for an election for Federal office, or the right to vote in an election for Federal office, on the grounds that the individual has been convicted of a Federal crime, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2001

Mr. HILLIARD (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. FRANK, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CLAY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. WYNN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. NADLER, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To prohibit States from denying any individual the right to register to vote for an election for Federal office, or the right to vote in an election for Federal office, on the grounds that the individual has been convicted of a Federal crime, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Voter Registration  
3 Protection Act of 2001”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING DENIAL OF RIGHT TO VOTE IN FED-  
5 ERAL ELECTIONS ON BASIS OF CONVICTION  
6 OF FEDERAL CRIME.**

7 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
8 sion of law, no State may prohibit any individual from reg-  
9 istering to vote for an election for Federal office, or from  
10 voting in an election for Federal office, on the grounds  
11 that the individual has been convicted of a Federal crime  
12 (except as provided in subsection (b)).

13 (b) **EXCEPTION FOR INDIVIDUALS REMAINING IN  
14 GOVERNMENT CUSTODY OR SUPERVISION.**—Subsection  
15 (a) shall not apply with respect to any individual who is  
16 in the custody of, or subject to supervision by, the State  
17 or the Federal government as a result of the individual’s  
18 conviction of a Federal crime at the time the individual  
19 seeks to register to vote or vote.

20 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

21 (a) **FEDERAL CRIME.**—In this section, the term  
22 “Federal crime” means—

23 (1) any offense under title 18, United States  
24 Code; or

1           (2) any offense under chapter 47 of title 10,  
2           United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military  
3           Justice).

4           (b) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms  
5           “election” and “Federal office” have the meaning given  
6           such terms in section 301 of the Federal Election Cam-  
7           paign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431).

8           **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9           This Act shall apply with respect to elections occur-  
10          ring after December 31, 2000.

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