

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 617

To provide for full voting representation in Congress for the citizens of
the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2003

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DURBIN,
Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Ms.
LANDRIEU, and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read
twice and referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide for full voting representation in Congress for
the citizens of the District of Columbia, 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 “No Taxation Without
5 Representation Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The residents of the District of Columbia
9 are the only Americans who pay Federal income

1 taxes but are denied voting representation in the
2 House of Representatives and the Senate.

3 (2) The residents of the District of Columbia
4 suffer the very injustice against which our Founding
5 Fathers fought, because they do not have voting rep-
6 resentation as other taxpaying Americans do and are
7 nevertheless required to pay Federal income taxes
8 unlike the Americans who live in the territories.

9 (3) The principle of one person, one vote re-
10 quires that residents of the District of Columbia are
11 afforded full voting representation in the House and
12 the Senate.

13 (4) Despite the denial of voting representation,
14 Americans in the Nation's Capital are second among
15 residents of all States in per capita income taxes
16 paid to the Federal Government.

17 (5) Unequal voting representation in our rep-
18 resentative democracy is inconsistent with the found-
19 ing principles of the Nation and the strongly held
20 principles of the American people today.

21 **SEC. 3. REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS FOR DISTRICT OF**
22 **COLUMBIA.**

23 For the purposes of congressional representation, the
24 District of Columbia, constituting the seat of government
25 of the United States, shall be treated as a State, such that

1 its residents shall be entitled to elect and be represented
 2 by 2 Senators in the United States Senate, and as many
 3 Representatives in the House of Representatives as a simi-
 4 larly populous State would be entitled to under the law.

5 **SEC. 4. ELECTIONS.**

6 (a) **FIRST ELECTIONS.**—

7 (1) **PROCLAMATION.**—Not later than 30 days
 8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Mayor
 9 of the District of Columbia shall issue a proclama-
 10 tion for elections to be held to fill the 2 Senate seats
 11 and the seat in the House of Representatives to rep-
 12 resent the District of Columbia in Congress.

13 (2) **MANNER OF ELECTIONS.**—The proclama-
 14 tion of the Mayor of the District of Columbia re-
 15 quired by paragraph (1) shall provide for the holding
 16 of a primary election and a general election and at
 17 such elections the officers to be elected shall be cho-
 18 sen by a popular vote of the residents of the District
 19 of Columbia. The manner in which such elections
 20 shall be held and the qualification of voters shall be
 21 the same as those for local elections, as prescribed
 22 by the District of Columbia.

23 (3) **CLASSIFICATION OF SENATORS.**—In the
 24 first election of Senators from the District of Colum-
 25 bia, the 2 senatorial offices shall be separately iden-

1 tified and designated, and no person may be a can-
 2 didate for both offices. No such identification or des-
 3 ignation of either of the 2 senatorial offices shall
 4 refer to or be taken to refer to the terms of such
 5 offices, or in any way impair the privilege of the
 6 Senate to determine the class to which each of the
 7 Senators elected shall be assigned.

8 (b) CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION.—The results of
 9 an election for the Senators and Representative from the
 10 District of Columbia shall be certified by the Mayor of
 11 the District of Columbia in the manner required by law.
 12 The Senators and Representative elected shall be entitled
 13 to be admitted to seats in Congress and to all the rights
 14 and privileges of Senators and Representatives of the
 15 States in the Congress of the United States.

16 **SEC. 5. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERSHIP.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon the date of enactment of
 18 this Act, the District of Columbia shall be entitled to 1
 19 Representative until the taking effect of the next reappor-
 20 tionment. Such Representative shall be in addition to the
 21 membership of the House of Representatives as now pre-
 22 scribed by law.

23 (b) INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP OF HOUSE OF REP-
 24 RESENTATIVES.—Upon the date of enactment of this Act,
 25 the permanent membership of the House of Representa-

1 tives shall increase by 1 seat for the purpose of future
2 reapportionment of Representatives.

3 (c) REAPPORTIONMENT.—Upon reapportionment,
4 the District of Columbia shall be entitled to as many seats
5 in the House of Representatives as a similarly populous
6 State would be entitled to under the law.

7 (d) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DELEGATE.—Until the
8 first Representative from the District of Columbia is seat-
9 ed in the House of Representatives, the Delegate in Con-
10 gress from the District of Columbia shall continue to dis-
11 charge the duties of his or her office.

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