

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6625

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. WATSON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FARR, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, 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 “Veteran Voting Sup-
5 port Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Veterans serving in foreign wars have per-
9 formed a great service to, and risked the greatest
10 sacrifice in the name of, our country, and should be
11 supported by the people and the Government of the
12 United States.

13 (2) Veterans are especially qualified to under-
14 stand issues of war, foreign policy, and government
15 support for veterans, and they should have the op-
16 portunity to voice that understanding through vot-
17 ing.

18 (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
19 assist veterans in meeting their medical, social, and
20 civic needs, including the full participation of vet-
21 erans in our democracy.

22 (4) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
23 make every effort to assist veterans to register to
24 vote and to vote.

1 **SEC. 3. USE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
2 **CILITIES AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGEN-**
3 **CIES.**

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
5 State to designate facilities of the Department of Veterans
6 Affairs located in such State as voter registration agencies
7 under section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of
8 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-5).

9 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE WITH ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

10 In addition to the duties required under section 7 of
11 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.
12 1973gg-5), any facility of the Department of Veterans Af-
13 fairs designated as a voter registration agency under sec-
14 tion 3 shall—

15 (1) provide information relating to the oppor-
16 tunity to request an absentee ballot;

17 (2) make available absentee ballot applications
18 and absentee ballots upon request, as well as assist-
19 ance in completing such applications and ballots;
20 and

21 (3) work with local election officials to ensure
22 the proper delivery of absentee ballot applications
23 and absentee ballots.

1 **SEC. 5. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NONPARTISAN ORGA-**
2 **NIZATIONS.**

3 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
4 meaningful opportunity for nonpartisan organizations to
5 provide voter registration information and assistance at
6 facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

7 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY ELECTION OFFICIALS**
8 **AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
9 **CILITIES.**

10 (a) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
12 Affairs shall not prohibit any election administration
13 official, whether State or local, party-affiliated or
14 non-party affiliated, or elected or appointed, from
15 providing voting information to veterans at any facil-
16 ity of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

17 (2) VOTING INFORMATION.—In this subsection,
18 the term “voting information” means nonpartisan
19 information intended for the public about voting, in-
20 cluding information about voter registration, voting
21 systems, absentee balloting, polling locations, and
22 other important resources for voters.

23 (b) VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES.—The Sec-
24 retary shall provide reasonable access to facilities of the
25 Department of Veterans Affairs to State and local election

1 officials for the purpose of providing nonpartisan voter
2 registration services to individuals.

3 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLIANCE.**

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
5 Congress an annual report on how the Secretary has com-
6 plied with the requirements of this Act.

○