

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6625

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 22 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Received

OCTOBER 2 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 17), 2008

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veteran Voting Sup-
3 port Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

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

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

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

20 (4) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
21 make every effort to assist veterans to register to
22 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) solely for the purposes of pro-
9 viding voter registration services under such section to in-
10 dividuals receiving services or assistance from the facility
11 (or applying to receive services or assistance from the fa-
12 cility).

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

14 In addition to the services required to be provided
15 under section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of
16 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-5), any facility of the Depart-
17 ment of Veterans Affairs which is designated as a voter
18 registration agency under section 3 shall, with respect to
19 the individuals for whom the facility is required to provide
20 such services—

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

23 (2) make available absentee ballot applications
24 and, upon request, assistance in completing such ap-
25 plications and absentee ballots, except that nothing
26 in this paragraph may be construed to waive any re-

1 requirement under State or local law regarding an in-
2 dividual’s eligibility to receive an absentee ballot or
3 vote by absentee ballot in any election; and

4 (3) work with local election officials to ensure
5 the proper delivery of absentee ballot applications
6 and absentee ballots.

7 **SEC. 5. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NONPARTISAN ORGA-**
8 **NIZATIONS.**

9 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
10 meaningful opportunity, including reasonable time, place,
11 and manner restrictions, for nonpartisan organizations to
12 provide voter registration information and assistance at
13 facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY ELECTION OFFICIALS**
15 **AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
16 **CILITIES.**

17 (a) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs shall not prohibit any election administration
20 official, whether State or local, party-affiliated or
21 non-party affiliated, or elected or appointed, from
22 providing voting information to veterans at any facil-
23 ity of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

24 (2) VOTING INFORMATION.—In this subsection,
25 the term “voting information” means nonpartisan

1 information intended for the public about voting, in-
2 cluding information about voter registration, voting
3 systems, absentee balloting, polling locations, and
4 other important resources for voters.

5 (b) VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES.—The Sec-
6 retary shall provide reasonable access to facilities of the
7 Department of Veterans Affairs to State and local election
8 officials for the purpose of providing nonpartisan voter
9 registration services to individuals.

10 (c) COORDINATION TO MINIMIZE DISRUPTION OF
11 REGULAR ACTIVITIES.—Any election official providing
12 nonpartisan voting information or nonpartisan voter reg-
13 istration services under this section at a facility of the De-
14 partment of Veterans Affairs shall coordinate the provi-
15 sion of the information or services with the Secretary to
16 ensure that the information or services are provided in a
17 manner which minimizes the disruption of the regular ac-
18 tivities of the facility.

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

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

 Passed the House of Representatives September 17,
2008.

Attest:

LORRAINE C. MILLER,

Clerk.