

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1637

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require States to designate public high schools as voter registration agencies, to direct such schools to conduct voter registration drives for students attending such schools, to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to reimburse such schools for the costs of conducting such voter registration drives, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Ms. WILSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require States to designate public high schools as voter registration agencies, to direct such schools to conduct voter registration drives for students attending such schools, to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to reimburse such schools for the costs of conducting such voter registration drives, 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 “High School Voter Em-
3 powerment Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS AS VOTER**
5 **REGISTRATION AGENCIES.**

6 (a) **REQUIRING DESIGNATION BY STATES.**—Section
7 7(a)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993
8 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)(2)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
10 graph (A);

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
12 paragraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 paragraph:

15 “(C) all public high schools (as defined in sec-
16 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
17 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 7801)) in the State.”.

18 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO OP-**
19 **TIONAL DESIGNATION OF OTHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**—
20 Section 7(a)(3)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
21 20506(a)(3)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “public
22 schools,” and inserting “public elementary schools (as de-
23 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
24 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801)),”.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING SCHOOLS TO CONDUCT VOTER REG-**
2 **ISTRATION DRIVES FOR STUDENTS.**

3 (a) VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES.—Section 7 of the
4 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
5 20506) is amended by adding at the end the following new
6 subsection:

7 “(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS.—

8 “(1) VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES.—A voter
9 registration agency that is a public high school shall,
10 at least once during each academic year, conduct a
11 voter registration drive, and set as a goal for that
12 year the registration of all students in the school
13 who are—

14 “(A) enrolled in a class in American Gov-
15 ernment or Economics;

16 “(B) at least 17 years old as of April 10
17 of that year; and

18 “(C) are eligible to register to vote in elec-
19 tions for Federal office held in the State.

20 “(2) USE OF VOTING MACHINES FOR STUDENT
21 ELECTIONS.—At the request of a public high school
22 which is operating a high school voter registration
23 program under paragraph (1), the appropriate elec-
24 tion official of the State may enter into an agree-
25 ment under which the official provides the school
26 with voting machines and related equipment and

1 supplies for use in a student council or similar elec-
2 tion held at the school, under such terms and condi-
3 tions as the school and official may determine.”.

4 (b) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS TO COVER COSTS OF
5 VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Sec-
7 retary of Education (hereafter referred to as the
8 “Secretary”) shall establish and operate a program
9 under which the Secretary shall make a payment
10 during a year to an eligible public high school to re-
11 imburse the school for the reasonable costs incurred
12 by the school in carrying out a voter registration
13 drive under section 7(e) of the National Voter Reg-
14 istration Act of 1993 (as added by subsection (a))
15 during that year.

16 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—A public high school is eligi-
17 ble to receive a payment under the program under
18 this subsection with respect to a voter registration
19 drive if the school submits to the Secretary, at such
20 time and in such form as the Secretary may require,
21 an application containing—

22 (A) a statement of the reasonable costs in-
23 curred by the school in carrying out the voter
24 registration drive, including the information

1 used by the school to determine the amount of
2 such costs;

3 (B) a description of the activities con-
4 ducted under the drive, including the number of
5 students registered; and

6 (C) such other information and assurances
7 as the Secretary may require.

8 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 There are authorized to be appropriated for pay-
10 ments under this subsection such sums as may be
11 necessary for fiscal year 2020 and each succeeding
12 fiscal year.

13 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
15 take effect upon the expiration of the 90-day period which
16 begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

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