

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 394

To protect, improve, and modernize the act of voting.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2019

Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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 protect, improve, and modernize the act of voting.

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 “21st Century Voting
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMISSION ESTABLISHED.**

7 There is hereby established the “Commission on Vot-
8 ing” (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 3. COMMISSION DUTIES.**

2 (a) PROPOSED LEGISLATION.—The Commission
3 shall report to Congress proposed legislation that would
4 accomplish the following:

5 (1) Election Day shall be made a national holi-
6 day.

7 (2) Every American shall be automatically, and
8 permanently, registered to vote at the age of 18, or
9 upon receipt of citizenship if older than 18 years of
10 age.

11 (3) Every person released from prison who for-
12 merly held the right to vote shall have that right re-
13 stored immediately upon release.

14 (4) Voter registration shall be made portable
15 among every State and locality.

16 (5) Polling place and registration status shall
17 be made available to individual voters online.

18 (6) Voting cybersecurity protection efforts car-
19 ried out by Federal agencies shall be streamlined
20 and strengthened.

21 (7) Additional Federal resources shall be made
22 to State and local election boards and agencies.

23 (8) A quadrennial review of voting in America
24 shall be performed each year following the election
25 of the President of the United States.

1 (b) DEADLINE.—The proposed legislation required by
2 subsection (a) shall be submitted to Congress not later
3 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

4 (c) INTRODUCTION AND VOTE REQUIRED.—The pro-
5 posed legislation submitted to Congress pursuant to sub-
6 section (b) shall be introduced by the Speaker of the U.S.
7 House of Representatives within 14 days of receipt of the
8 proposal, and receive a vote in the House within 14 days
9 thereafter. Should the measure pass the House, it shall
10 receive consideration and a vote in the Senate within 14
11 days of passage in the House.

12 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP.**

13 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
14 shall be comprised of 15 members appointed, in equal
15 number, by the President, the Majority Leader of the Sen-
16 ate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of
17 the House of Representatives, and the Minority Leader
18 of the House of Representatives.

19 (b) CHAIR.—The President shall select the Chair of
20 the Commission.

21 (c) TIMING OF APPOINTMENTS.—Appointments to
22 the Commission shall be made not later than 30 days after
23 the date of enactment of this Act.

1 (d) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Commission
2 shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the manner
3 in which the original appointment was made.

4 (e) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission
5 shall serve without pay.

6 (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Com-
7 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per
8 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
9 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
10 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or
11 regular places of business in the performance of services
12 for the Commission.

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