

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 753

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, 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 “Global Electoral Ex-
3 change Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) recent elections globally have illustrated the
7 urgent need for the promotion and exchange of
8 international best election practices, particularly in
9 the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission,
10 transparency of electoral data, election dispute reso-
11 lution, and the elimination of discriminatory reg-
12 istration practices and other electoral irregularities;

13 (2) the advancement of democracy worldwide
14 promotes American interests, as stable democracies
15 provide new market opportunities, improve global
16 health outcomes, and promote economic freedom and
17 regional security;

18 (3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a
19 healthy democracy and enable all persons to exercise
20 their basic human right to have a say in how they
21 are governed;

22 (4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility
23 and stability of democracies more broadly;

24 (5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the
25 professionalism of the election management body
26 and an empowered civil society;

1 (6) the development of local expertise via peer-
2 to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the inde-
3 pendence of such bodies from internal and external
4 influence; and

5 (7) supporting the efforts of peoples in democ-
6 ratizing societies to build more representative gov-
7 ernments in their respective countries is in the na-
8 tional interest of the United States.

9 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.**

10 (a) GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.—The Sec-
11 retary of State is authorized to establish and administer
12 a Global Electoral Exchange Program to promote the utili-
13 zation of sound election administration practices around
14 the world.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Global Electoral
16 Exchange Program described in subsection (a) shall in-
17 clude the promotion and exchange of international best
18 election practices, including in the areas of—

- 19 (1) cybersecurity;
- 20 (2) results transmission;
- 21 (3) transparency of electoral data;
- 22 (4) election dispute resolution;
- 23 (5) the elimination of discriminatory registra-
24 tion practices and electoral irregularities;

1 (6) equitable access to polling places, voter edu-
2 cation information, and voting mechanisms (includ-
3 ing by persons with disabilities); and

4 (7) other sound election administration prac-
5 tices.

6 (c) EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may,
8 in consultation, as appropriate, with the United
9 States Agency for International Development, make
10 grants to any United States-based organization de-
11 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
12 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
13 501(a) of such Code with experience in and a pri-
14 mary focus on foreign comparative election systems
15 or subject matter expertise in the administration or
16 integrity of such systems that submits an application
17 in such form, and satisfying such requirements, as
18 the Secretary may require.

19 (2) TYPES OF GRANTS.—An organization de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1) may receive a grant for one
21 or more of the following purposes:

22 (A) To design and implement programs
23 bringing election administrators and officials,
24 including government officials, poll workers,
25 civil society representatives, members of the ju-

1 diciary, and others who participate in the orga-
2 nization and administration of public elections
3 in a foreign country that faces challenges to its
4 electoral process to the United States to study
5 election procedures in the United States for
6 educational purposes.

7 (B) To design and implement programs
8 taking the United States or another country's
9 election administrators and officials, including
10 government officials, poll workers, civil society
11 representatives, members of the judiciary, and
12 others who participate in the organization and
13 administration of public elections to study and
14 discuss election procedures for educational pur-
15 poses.

16 (3) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities adminis-
17 tered under the Global Electoral Exchange Program
18 may not—

19 (A) include observation of an election for
20 the purposes of assessing the validity or legit-
21 imacy of that election;

22 (B) facilitate any advocacy for a certain
23 electoral result by a grantee when participating
24 in the Program; or

1 (C) be carried out without proper consulta-
2 tion with State and local authorities in the
3 United States that administer elections.

4 (4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
5 Congress that the Secretary of State should estab-
6 lish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Ex-
7 change Program alumni, to promote communication
8 and further exchange of information regarding
9 sound election administration practices among cur-
10 rent and former program participants.

11 (5) FURTHER LIMITS.—A recipient of a grant
12 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may
13 use such grant for only the purpose for which such
14 grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by
15 the Secretary of State.

16 (6) NOT DUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under
17 this subsection may not be duplicative of any other
18 grants made under any other provision of law for
19 similar or related purposes.

20 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.**

21 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
22 of this Act and in each of the following 2 years thereafter,
23 the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committee on
24 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
25 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a briefing

1 on the status of any activities carried out pursuant to this
2 Act during the preceding year, which shall include, among
3 other information, the following:

4 (1) A summary of all exchanges conducted
5 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program, in-
6 cluding information regarding grantees, participants,
7 and the locations where program activities were held.

8 (2) A description of the criteria used to select
9 grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Pro-
10 gram.

11 (3) Any recommendations for the improvement
12 of the Global Electoral Exchange Program, based on
13 the purpose specified in section 3(b).

14 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

15 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
16 priated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such
17 requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise
18 authorized to be appropriated.

Passed the House of Representatives May 20, 2019.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.