The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Crow).

**DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, March 2, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Jason Crow to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

Nancy Pelosi,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

From before the beginning of time, God, You have been for us. In eternity past, You had Your hand in both our creation and in our redemption.

May we appreciate the lives You have given us, and deliver us from our indigence which squanders the opportunities You have provided.

May we understand that You have given us dominion over the Earth, and disavow us of the prideful notion that we alone are masters of our own existence.

May we see the perfect design You conceived at creation, and forgive us our destructive disregard for Your handiwork.

Most important, may we receive the love You have shown us, and show us mercy when our lives reflect, instead, hate and indifference.

Recreate us, O Lord, to live into Your prevenient plan. We stand in need of Your redemptive grace.

In the strength of Your eternal name we pray.

Amen.

**THE JOURNAL**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Thompson) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT**

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

Included in this important legislation is the Vote by Mail Tracking Act, legislation I introduced to ensure that all ballots in Federal elections have a Postal Service barcode.

This would enable election officials and the public to track the status of a ballot from when it is put in the mail to when it is delivered, reducing anxiety, increasing accuracy, transparency, and accountability for our ballots.

After an election year with record-breaking numbers of Americans voting by mail, it has never been more critical to provide election officials and the public peace of mind that every vote matters and is counted accurately.

I urge overwhelming support for H.R. 1, which includes reforms across our Government that are critically important, and it includes this important bill, too.

**HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF K-9 OFFICER LUNA**

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the tragic loss of K-9 Luna, a beloved member of the Duluth Police Department, who was shot and killed in the line of duty last week.

Luna was a 3-year-old Dutch Shepherd who joined the department’s K-9 unit less than 2 years ago, after her handler, Officer Aaron Haller, lost his K-9 partner, Haas, in a similar incident.

As a former Duluth police officer with the Duluth Police Department, I know firsthand that our K-9 partners perform their duties bravely and with great loyalty.

To their handlers, a K-9 is more than a dog. They are a partner, protector, and a valued family member. K-9 officers go home with their handlers each night, so their dedication to their handlers and their job does not end after each workday.

K-9 Luna was a guardian of the Duluth community. She died a hero’s death, giving her life to protect her partner and fellow officers on the scene.

My heart is with Luna’s handler, Officer Aaron Haller, the Haller family, and the entire Duluth Police Department during this time of deep sorrow.

I know it cannot be easy to say goodbye to such a good and loving friend. I speak for the entire Duluth community when I say that we are eternally grateful for Luna’s service and sacrifice.

**REMOVE BIG MONEY IN POLITICS**

(Mr. CROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

I urge overwhelming support for H.R. 1, which includes reforms across our Government that are critically important, and it includes this important bill, too.
Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

I have said since day one on this job that if you want to do big and transformational things in America, you first have to get rid of big money in politics.

Whether you want to tackle the climate crisis, reform healthcare, address the gun violence epidemic, or level the playing field for American workers, it is all about shutting off the flow of big money, ending gerrymandering, bolstering our ethics laws, and expanding access to the ballot box. H.R. 1 will do all of these things.

This transformational package includes my bill, the End Dark Money Act, to crack down on mega-donors who hide their political contributions through phony social welfare organizations.

If we have learned anything in the past few years, it is that our democracy is in need of reform. We can and must do big things again, and it begins by passing H.R. 1.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this historic effort.

PRIORITIZE SAVE OUR STAGES FUNDING

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for thousands of music venues, movie theaters, and museums that are struggling to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, Congress has come together in a bipartisan manner to pass over $3.5 trillion in pandemic assistance. While much of this aid was necessary, government bureaucracy has routinely delayed getting this money into the hands of the American people. As of today, there are still $1.3 trillion in unspent COVID-19 relief.

In December, the House passed my bipartisan Save our Stages Act, which established the $15 billion Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, providing direct relief for music venues, movie theaters, and museums devastated by the pandemic. These businesses were the first to close and will be some of the last to reopen.

Nine weeks have passed since President Trump signed this into law, and the SBA still has not even produced the application for venue owners to apply. At this rate, some grants won’t be delivered until summer.

This is unacceptable, and the SBA needs to get to work immediately. Every day we wait, there is another door that permanently closes. The bottom line is: The shows must go on.

In God we trust.

REMEMBERING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL EXA FAY HOOTEN

(Mr. ARRINGTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a great West Texan, United States Air Force Colonel Exa Fay Hooten, of Abilene, Texas. She passed away on January 16 at the age of 92. She was born on August 27, 1928, in Floydada, Texas, to Maude Latham and Richard W. Hooten.

After graduating high school, she attended Texas Tech University, where she received a bachelor’s degree and then later received her Ph.D. from Texas Women’s University. Exa Fay believed travel was second in importance only to a college education. She joined the Air Force and traveled the world working in military hospitals, taking care of our wounded warriors. After Active Duty, she entered the Reserves and was the first U.S. Air Force Reserve dietician to obtain the rank of full colonel.

I thank Colonel Hooten for her service and patriotism. I thank her for showing us that, like the West Texas horizon, the possibilities of life are limitless when you pursue your passion and put others first.

God bless, and go West Texas.

RECOGNIZING CARTER SMITH

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carter Smith of Cresson, Pennsylvania. Carter has accepted a fully qualified appointment to West Point.

As a student at Penn Cambria High School, Carter was heavily involved in the speech club, theater, and the National Honor Society, as well as both the football and basketball teams. In addition to having a long resume of extracurricular activities, Carter has excelled in the classroom as well, maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

April Gergely, Carter’s English teacher, had nothing but positive things to say about him in her letter of recommendation.

She said: “Carter stood out as an exceptionable, and the SBA still has not even produced the application for venue owners to apply. At this rate, some grants won’t be delivered until summer.

This is unacceptable, and the SBA needs to get to work immediately. Every day we wait, there is another door that permanently closes. The bottom line is: The shows must go on.

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I thank Colonel Hooten for her service and patriotism. I thank her for showing us that, like the West Texas horizon, the possibilities of life are limitless when you pursue your passion and put others first.

God bless, and go West Texas.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BURMA

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of the grave human rights violations taking place in Burma, also known as Myanmar.

For decades, the country of Burma has been working diligently to establish credible elections, democratic civilian governance, and a peaceful transition of power.

However, this progress came to a halt after the military violently seized control on February 1, 2021. The military has since used this unlawful control to violently suppress ethnic minorities, including firing artillery into Burmese villages and displacing over 7,000 people.

Peaceful protests for freedom have been met with deadly force, killing 18 and imprisoning nearly 700. One protester, a 16-year-old boy, was reportedly shot in the head by an army sniper.

Utica, New York, my hometown, is home to over 4,000 Burmese refugees and new Burmese-American citizens. Many fear for the lives of their friends and families in peril in Burma.

In Utica, they have peacefully stood in solidarity with their home country, holding signs that say, “Save Democracy. Save Burma.”

I met recently with a group of these refugees to hear their grim accounts of the conditions in their native country. Their passion and courage are inspiring.

We must also condemn the cruelty and genocide against the Rohingya people, an ethnic minority who also desperately need our support and assistance.

The U.S. remains a symbol of democracy to the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Burmese people in their quest for freedom and democracy.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 179, I call up the bill (H.R. 1) to expand Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DeGette). Pursuant to House Resolution 179 the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117-9 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “For the People Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into divisions as follows:
TITLE II—ELECTION INTEGRITY
Subtitle A—Findings Reaffirming Commitment of Congress to Restore the Voting Rights Act

Subtitle B—Findings Relating to Native American Voting Rights

Subtitle C—Findings Relating to District of Columbia Statehood

Subtitle D—Territorial Voting Rights
Sec. 2031. Findings relating to territorial voting rights.


Subtitle E—Restricting Reform
Sec. 2400. Short title; finding of constitutional mandate.

PART 1—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
Sec. 2401. Requiring congressional redistricting to be conducted through plan of independent State commission.
Sec. 2402. Ban on mid-decade redistricting.
Sec. 2403. Criteria for redistricting.

PART 2—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS
Sec. 2411. Independent redistricting commission.
Sec. 2412. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.
Sec. 2413. Public notice and input.
Sec. 2414. Establishment of related entities.
Sec. 2415. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

PART 3—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS
Sec. 2421. Enactment of plan developed by 3-judge court.
Sec. 2422. Special rule for redistricting conducted under order of Federal court.

PART 4—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS
Sec. 2431. Payments to States for carrying out redistricting.
Sec. 2432. Civil enforcement.
Sec. 2433. State apportionment notice defined.
Sec. 2434. No effect on elections for State and local office.
Sec. 2435. Effective date.

PART 5—REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS
SUBPART A—APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS
Sec. 2441. Application of certain requirements for redistricting carried out pursuant to 2020 Census.
Sec. 2442. Triggering events.

SUBPART B—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS
Sec. 2451. Use of independent redistricting commissions for redistricting carried out pursuant to 2020 Census.
Sec. 2452. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.
Sec. 2453. Criteria for redistricting plan; public notice and input.
Sec. 2454. Establishment of related entities.
Sec. 2455. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.
TITLE V—CAMPAIGN FINANCE EMPOWERMENT

Sec. 5001. Findings relating to Citizens United Decision.

Subtitle A—Findings Relating to Citizens United Decision.

Sec. 5100. Short title.

PART I—MY VOICE VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 5101. Establishment of pilot program.

Sec. 5102. Voucher program described.

Sec. 5103. Reports.

Sec. 5104. Definitions.

PART II—SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING OF PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

Sec. 5111. Benefits and eligibility requirements for candidates.

Sec. 5112. Contributions and expenditures by multicandidate and political party committees on behalf of participating candidates.

Sec. 5113. Prohibiting use of contributions by participating candidates for purposes other than campaign for election.

Sec. 5114. Assessments against fines and penalties.

Sec. 5115. Specify and report on small dollar financing program.

Sec. 5116. Effective date.

Subtitle C—Presidential Elections

Sec. 5200. Short title.

PART I—PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Sec. 5201. Increase in and modifications to authorized campaign expenditure.

Sec. 5202. Eligibility requirements for matching payments.

Sec. 5203. Repeal of expenditure limitations.

Sec. 5204. Period of availability of matching payments.

Sec. 5205. Examination and audits of matchable contributions.

Sec. 5206. Modification to limitation on contributions for Presidential primary candidates.

Sec. 5207. Use of Freedom From Influence Fund as source of payments.

PART II—GENERAL ELECTIONS

Sec. 5211. Modification of eligibility requirements for public financing.

Sec. 5212. Repeal of expenditure limitations and use of qualified campaign contributions.

Sec. 5213. Matching payments and other modifications to payment amounts.

Sec. 5214. Increase in limit on coordinated party expenditures.

Sec. 5215. Establishment of uniform date for release of payments.

Sec. 5216. Amounts in Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

Sec. 5217. Use of general election payments for general election legal and accounting compliance.

Sec. 5218. Use of Presidential Campaign as a source of payments.

PART III—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 5221. Effective date.

Subtitle D—Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditures

Sec. 5301. Short title; findings; purpose.

Sec. 5302. Treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as authorized campaign expenditure.

Subtitle E—Empowering Small Dollar Donations

Sec. 5401. Permitting political party committees to provide enhanced support for candidates through use of separate small dollar accounts.

Subtitle F—Severability

Sec. 5501. Severability.

TITLE VI—CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERTSIGHT

Subtitle A—Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections

Sec. 6001. Short title.

Sec. 6002. Membership of Federal Election Commission.

Sec. 6003. Assignment of powers to Chair of Federal Election Commission.

Sec. 6004. Revision to enforcement process.

Sec. 6005. Permitting appearance at hearings on requests for advisory opinions by persons opposing the requests.

Sec. 6006. Permanent extension of administrative penalty authority.

Sec. 6007. Restrictions on ex parte communications.

Sec. 6008. Clarifying authority of FEC attorneys to represent FEC in Supreme Court.

Sec. 6009. Requiring forms to permit use of accent marks.

Sec. 6010. Effective date; transition.

Subtitle B—Stopping Super PAC-Candidate Coordination

Sec. 6101. Short title.

Sec. 6102. Clarification of treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions to candidates.

Sec. 6103. Clarification of ban on fundraising for super PACs by Federal candidates and officeholders.

Subtitle C—Disposal of Contributions or Donations

Sec. 6201. Timeframe for and prioritization of disposal of contributions or donations.

Sec. 6202. 1-year transition period for certain individuals.

Subtitle D—Recommendations to Ensure Filing of Reports Before Date of Election

Sec. 6301. Recommendations to ensure filing of reports before date of election.

Subtitle E—Severability

Sec. 6401. Severability.

DIVISION C—ETHICS

TITLE VII—ETHICAL STANDARDS

Subtitle A—Supreme Court Ethics

Sec. 7001. Code of conduct for Federal judges.

Subtitle B—Foreign Agents Registration

Sec. 7101. Establishment of FARA investigation and enforcement unit within Department of Justice.

Sec. 7102. Authority to impose civil money penalties.

Sec. 7103. Disclosure of transactions involving things of financial value conferred on officeholders.

Sec. 7104. Ensuring online access to registration statements.

Subtitle C—Lobbying Disclosure Reform

Sec. 7201. Expanding scope of individuals and activities subject to requirements of Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

Sec. 7202. Prohibiting receipt of compensation for lobbying activities on behalf of foreign countries violating human rights.

Sec. 7203. Requiring lobbyists to disclose status as lobbyists upon making any lobbying contacts.

Subtitle D—Recusal of Presidential Appointees

Sec. 7301. Recusal of appointees.

Subtitle E—Clearinghouse on Lobbying

Sec. 7401. Establishment of clearinghouse.

Subtitle F—Severability

Sec. 7501. Severability.

TITLE VIII—ETHICS REFORMS FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Subtitle A—Executive Branch Conflict of Interest

Sec. 8001. Short title.
than that of non-African Americans. In seven States–Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming–more than one in seven African Americans is disenfranchised, twice the national average for African Americans. Congress finds that felony disenfranchisement was one of the tools of intentional racial discrimination during the Jim Crow era. Congress further finds that current racial disparities in felony disenfranchisement are linked to this history of voter suppression, structural racism in the criminal justice system, and ongoing effects of historical discrimination.

(5)(A) Congress finds that it further has the power to protect the right to vote from denial or abridgment on account of sex, age, or ability to pay a poll tax or other tax pursuant to the Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.

(B) Congress finds that electoral practices including voting rights restoration conditions for people with convictions, voter identification requirements, and other restrictions to the franchise burden voters on account of their ability to pay.

(C) Congress further finds that electoral practices including voting restrictions related to college campuses, age restrictions on mail voting, and similar practices burden the right to vote on account of age.

SEC. 4. STANDARDS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For any action brought for declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge, whether facially or as-applied, the constitutionality or lawfulness of any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act or any rule or regulation promulgated under this Act, the following rules shall apply:

(1) The action shall be filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and an appeal from the decision of the district court may be taken to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. These courts, and the Supreme Court of the United States on a writ of certiorari (if such a writ is issued), shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear such actions.

(2) The party filing the action shall simultaneously deliver a copy the complaint to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(3) It shall be the duty of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the Court of Appeals for the District Columbia Circuit to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of such action on appeal.

(b) CLARIFYING SCOPE OF JURISDICTION.—If any action at the time of its commencement is not subject to subsection (a), but an amendment, countermotion, cross-claim, affirmative defense, or any other pleading or motion is filed challenging, whether facially or as-applied, the constitutionality or lawfulness of this Act or any amendment made by this Act or any rule or regulation promulgated under this Act, the district court shall transfer the action to the District Court for the District of Columbia, and the action shall thereafter be conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) INTERVENTION BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—In any action described in subsection (a), any Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or Senate shall have the right to intervene either in support of or opposition to the position of a party to the case regarding the constitutionality of the provision. To avoid duplication of efforts and reduce the burdens placed on the parties to the action, the court in any such action may make such orders as it considers necessary, including orders to require interveners taking similar positions to file joint papers or to be represented by a single attorney at oral argument.

DIVISION A—VOTING TITLE I—ELECTION ACCESS

Sec. 1000. Short title; statement of policy.

Subtitle A—Voter Registration Modernization

Sec. 1004A. Short title.

PART 1—PROMOTING INTERNET REGISTRATION

Sec. 1001. Requiring availability of internet for voter registration.

Sec. 1002. Use of internet to update registration information.

Sec. 1003. Provision of election information by electronic mail to individuals registered to vote.

Sec. 1004. Clarification of requirement regarding necessary information to show eligibility to vote.

Sec. 1005. Prohibiting State from requiring applicants to provide more than last 4 digits of Social Security number.

Sec. 1006. Effective date.

PART 2—AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1001. Short title; findings and purpose.

Sec. 1002. Automatic registration of eligible individuals.

Sec. 1003. Contributing agency assistance in registration.

Sec. 1004. One-time contributing agency assistance in registration of eligible voters in existing records.

Sec. 1005. Voter protection and security in automatic registration.

Sec. 1006. Registration portability and correction.

Sec. 1007. Payments and grants.

Sec. 1009. Treating persons in exempt States.

Sec. 1010. Miscellaneous provisions.

Sec. 1020. Definitions.

Sec. 1022. Effective date.

Sec. 1031. Same day registration.

Sec. 1032. Same day registration.

PART 4—CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS

Sec. 1041. Conditions on removal of registrants from official list of eligible voters on basis of interstate cross-checks.

PART 5—OTHER INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1051. Annual reports on voter registration statistics.

Sec. 1052. Ensuring pre-election registration decisions consistent with timing of legal public holidays.

Sec. 1053. Use of Postal Service hard copy change of address form to remind individuals to update voter registration.

Sec. 1054. Grants to States for activities to encourage involvement of minors in voting.

Sec. 1055. Availability of requirements payments under HAVA to cover costs of compliance with new requirements.

Sec. 1057. Prohibiting interfering with voter registration.

Sec. 1071. Prohibiting hindering, interfering with, or preventing voter registration.

Sec. 1072. Establishment of best practices.

PART 8—VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sec. 1081. Short title.

Sec. 1082. Pilot program for providing voter registration information to secondary school students prior to graduation.

Sec. 1083. Reports.

Sec. 1084. Authorization of appropriations.

PART 10—VOTER REGISTRATION OF MINORS

Sec. 1094. Acceptance of voter registration applications from individuals under 18 years of age.

Subtitle B—Access to Voting

Sec. 1101. Requirements for States to promote access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 1102. Expansion and reauthorization of grant program to assure voting access for individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 1103. Pilot programs for enabling individuals with disabilities to register to vote privately and independently at residences.

Sec. 1104. GAO analysis and report on voting access for individuals with disabilities.

Subtitle C—Prohibiting Voter Caging

Sec. 1201. Voter caging and other questionable challenges prohibited.

Sec. 1202. Development and adoption of best practices for preventing voter caging.

Subtitle D—Prohibiting Deceptive Practices and Preventing Voter Intimidation

Sec. 1301. Short title.

Sec. 1302. Prohibition on deceptive practices in Federal elections.

Sec. 1303. Corrective measures.

Sec. 1304. Reports to Congress.

Subtitle E—Democracy Restoration

Sec. 1401. Short title.

Sec. 1402. Findings.

Sec. 1403. Rights of citizens.

Sec. 1404. Enforcement.

Sec. 1405. Notification of restoration of voting rights.

Sec. 1406. Definitions.

Sec. 1407. Relation to other laws.

Sec. 1408. Federal prison funds.

Sec. 1409. Effective date.

Subtitle F—Promoting Accuracy, Integrity, and Security Through Voter-Verified Permanent Paper Ballot

Sec. 1501. Short title.

Sec. 1502. Paper ballot and manual counting requirements.

Sec. 1503. Accessibility and ballot verification for individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 1504. Durability and readability requirements for ballots.

Sec. 1505. Study and report on optimal ballot design.

Sec. 1506. Paper ballot printing requirements.

Sec. 1507. Effective date for new requirements.

Subtitle G—Provisional Ballots

Sec. 1601. Requirements for counting provisional ballots; establishment of uniform and nondiscriminatory standards.

Subtitle H—Early Voting

Sec. 1611. Early voting.

Subtitle I—Voting by Mail

Sec. 1621. Voting by mail.

Subsection (a) of Section 1622. Absentee ballot tracking program.

Subsection (b) of Section 1623. Voting materials postage.

Subsubsection (a) of Section 1701. Pre-election reports on availability and transmission of absentee ballots.

Subsection (b) of Section 1702. Enforcement.

Subsection (c) of Section 1703. Revisions to 45-day absentee ballot transmission rule.

Subsection (d) of Section 1704. Use of single absentee ballot application for subsequent elections.

Subsection (e) of Section 1705. Extending guarantee of residency for voting purposes to family members of absent military personnel.
Sec. 1706. Requiring transmission of blank absentee ballots under VOCA to certain voters.

Sec. 1707. Effective date.

Subtitle K—Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

Sec. 1801. Grants to States for poll worker recruitment and training.

Sec. 1802. State defined.

Subtitle L—Enhancement of Enforcement


Subtitle M—Federal Election Integrity

Sec. 1821. Prohibition on campaign activities by chief State election administration officials.

Subtitle N—Promoting Voter Access Through Election Administration Improvements

PART I—PROMOTING VOTER ACCESS

Sec. 1901. Treatment of institutions of higher education.

Sec. 1902. Minimum notification requirements for voters affected by polling place changes.

Sec. 1903. Permitting use of sworn written statement to meet identification requirements for voting.

Sec. 1904. Accommodations for voters residing in Indian lands.

Sec. 1905. Voter information response systems and procedures.

Sec. 1906. Ensuring equitable and efficient operation of polling places.

Sec. 1907. Requiring States to provide secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots in elections for Federal office.

Sec. 1908. Prohibiting States from restricting carbide voting.

Sec. 1909. Election Day as legal public holiday.

PART 2—DIASR AND EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLANS

Sec. 1911. Requirements for Federal election contingency plans in response to natural disasters and emergencies.

PART 3—IMPROVEMENTS IN OPERATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sec. 1921. Reauthorization of Election Assistance Commission.

Sec. 1922. Requiring States to participate in national election surveys.

Sec. 1923. Reports by National Institute of Standards and Technology on use of funds transferred from Election Assistance Commission to National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Sec. 1924. Recommendations to improve operations of Election Assistance Commission.

Sec. 1925. Repeal of exemption of Election Assistance Commission from certain government contracting requirements.

PART 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 1931. Application of laws to Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Sec. 1932. Definition of election for Federal office.

Sec. 1933. No effect on other laws.

Subtitle O—Severability

Sec. 1931. Application of laws to Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

Sec. 1932. Definition of election for Federal office.

Sec. 1933. No effect on other laws.

Subtitle P—Voter Protection

Sec. 1941. Severability.

SEC. 1000. SHORT TITLE, STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the “Voter Empowerment Act of 2021.”

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) the ability of all eligible citizens of the United States to access and exercise their constitutional right to vote in a free, fair, and timely manner must be vigilantly enhanced, protected, and maintained; and

(2) the integrity, and accountability of the voting process must be vigilantly protected, maintained, and enhanced in order to protect and preserve electoral and participatory democracy in the United States.

Subtitle A—Voter Registration Modernization

SEC. 1000A. SHORT TITLE. This subtitle may be cited as the “Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021”.

PART I—PROMOTING INTERNET VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1001. REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR REGISTRATION.—The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 6 the following new section:

“SEC. 6A. INTERNET VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION.—Each State, acting through the chief State election official, shall ensure that the following services are available to the public at any time on the official public websites of the appropriate State and local election officials in the State, in the same manner and subject to the same terms and conditions as the services provided by voter registration agencies under section 7(a):

(1) Online application for voter registration.

(2) Online assistance to applicants in applying to register to vote.

(3) Online completion and submission by applicants of the mail voter registration application forms prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2), including assistance with providing a signature as required under subsection (c).

(4) Online receipt of completed voter registration applications.

(5) ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.—A State shall accept an online voter registration application submitted by an individual under this section, and ensure that the individual is registered to vote in the State, if—

(1) the individual meets the same voter registration requirements applicable to individuals who register to vote by mail in accordance with section 6(a)(1) using the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2); and

(2) the individual meets the requirements of subsection (c) to provide a signature in electronic form (but only in the case of applications submitted during or after the second year in which this section is in effect in the State).

(b) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section (a), subsection (c) applies to individuals who register to vote by mail in accordance with section 6(a)(1) using the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2), and

(2) the individual meets the requirements of subsection (c) to provide a signature in electronic form (but only in the case of applications submitted during or after the second year in which this section is in effect in the State).

(c) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) the individual meets the same voter registration requirements applicable to individuals who register to vote by mail in accordance with section 6(a)(1) using the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2); and

(2) the individual meets the requirements of subsection (c) to provide a signature in electronic form (but only in the case of applications submitted during or after the second year in which this section is in effect in the State).

(d) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) the individual meets the same voter registration requirements applicable to individuals who register to vote by mail in accordance with section 6(a)(1) using the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2); and

(2) the individual meets the requirements of subsection (c) to provide a signature in electronic form (but only in the case of applications submitted during or after the second year in which this section is in effect in the State).

(e) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS.—(1) the individual meets the same voter registration requirements applicable to individuals who register to vote by mail in accordance with section 6(a)(1) using the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2); and

(2) the individual meets the requirements of subsection (c) to provide a signature in electronic form (but only in the case of applications submitted during or after the second year in which this section is in effect in the State).

(2) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO MEET REQUIREMENT.—If an individual is unable to meet the requirements of paragraph (1), the State shall—

(A) permit the individual to complete all other elements of the online voter registration application.

(B) permit the individual to provide a signature at the time the individual requests a ballot in an election (whether the individual requests the ballot at a polling place or requests the ballot by mail); and

(C) if the individual carries out the steps described in subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) ensure that the individual is registered to vote in the State.

(3) NOTICE.—The State shall ensure that individuals applying to register to vote online are made aware of the requirements of paragraph (1) and of the treatment of individuals unable to meet such requirements, as described in paragraph (2).

(4) CONFIRMATION AND DISPOSITION.—(1) CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT.—Upon the online submission of a completed voter registration application by an individual under this section, the appropriate State or local election official shall send the individual a notice confirming the State’s receipt of the application and providing instructions that the individual may check the status of the application.

(2) NOTICE OF DISPOSITION.—Not later than 7 days after the appropriate State or local election official has approved or rejected an application submitted by an individual under this section, the official shall send the individual a notice of the disposition of the application.

(5) METHOD OF NOTICE.—The appropriate State or local election official shall send the notices required under this subsection by regular mail and—

(A) in the case of an individual who has provided the official with an electronic mail address, by electronic mail; and

(B) at the option of the individual, by text message.

(f) PROVISION OF SERVICES IN NONPARTISAN MANNER.—The services made available under subsection (a) shall be provided in a manner that ensures that, consistent with section 7(a)(5)—

(1) the online application does not seek to influence an applicant’s political preference or party registration; and

(2) there is no display on the website promoting any political preference or party allegiance, except that nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit an applicant from registering to vote as a member of a political party.

(2) PROTECTION OF SECURITY OF INFORMATION.—In meeting the requirements of this section, the State shall establish appropriate technological security measures to prevent to the greatest extent practicable the unauthorized access to information provided by individuals using the services made available under subsection (a).

(g) ACCESSIBILITY OF SERVICES.—A State shall ensure that the services made available under this section are made available to individuals with disabilities to the same extent as services are made available to all other individuals.

(h) USE OF ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE-BASED SYSTEM.—A State may make the services made available under this subsection available through the use of an automated telephone-based system, subject to the same terms and conditions applicable under this section to the services made available online, in addition to making the services available online in accordance with the requirements of this section.

(i) NONDISCRIMINATION AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS USING MAIL AND ONLINE REGISTRATION.—In carrying out this Act, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, or any other Federal, State, or local law governing the treatment of registered voters in the State, or the administration of elections for public office in the State, a State shall treat a registered voter who registered to vote online in accordance with this section in the same manner as the State treats a registered voter who registered to vote by mail.”.

(b) SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIVIDUALS USING ONLINE REGISTRATION.—(1) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS REGISTERING TO VOTE BY MAIL FOR PURPOSES OF FIRST-TIME VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section
SEC. 1008. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION .—Section 8(a)(5) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(d)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the case of paperless voter registration list submitted online not later than the lesser of 28 days, or the period provided by State law, before the date of the election for Federal office, ensure that the information is processed with respect to the election if the voter updates the information not later than the lesser of 7 days, or the period provided by State law, before the date of the election; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “ returned,” and inserting the following: “or update the statewide voter registration list using the online submission of updated registration information by electronic means:”.

SEC. 1009. ADDRESSES FOR OTHER THAN OFFICIAL PURPOSES.—The State or local election official shall send the applicant a notice confirming the State’s receipt of the updated information and providing instructions on how the individual may check the status of the update.

(a)(i) in the case of an individual who has requested that the State provide voter registration and voting information through electronic mail, by electronic mail, and

(i) the individual has not previously voted in an election for Federal office in the State.

SEC. 1002. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION .—(a) In general.—

SEC. 1004. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT REGARDING NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SHOW ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE. —Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended—

SEC. 1003. PROVISION OF ELECTION INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS PROVIDING NECESSARY INFORMATION.—(a) In general.—

(b) Ability of Registrant to Use Online Update to Provide Information on Residency.—Section 8(d)(2)(A) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(2) in the case of an individual who votes in person, the individual provides the appropriate State or local election official with a handwritten signature; or

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application required by section 9(b)(1)(A) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “paragraph (B)” and inserting “paragraph (B) and subsection (a)(6)”;

(2) the hours of operation for the polling place.

SEC. 1006. PROHIBITING USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESSES FOR OTHER THAN OFFICIAL PURPOSES.—The chief State election official shall ensure that any electronic mail address provided by an applicant under subsection (a)(4) is used only for purposes of carrying out official duties of election officials and is not transmitted by any State or local election official (or any agent of such an official, including a contractor) to any person who does not require the address to carry out such official duties and who is not under the direct supervision and control of a State or local election official.

(b) requiring the applicant to provide more than the last 4 digits of such number;”.

SEC. 1005. PROHIBITING STATE FROM REQUIRING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE.

SEC. 1001. REQUIREMENT FOR STATE TO REGISTER APPLICANTS PROVIDING NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SHOW ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE .—For purposes meeting the requirement of subsection (a)(1) that an eligible applicant is registered to vote in an election for Federal office within the deadlines required under such subsection, the State shall consider an applicant to have provided a “valid voter registration form” if the applicant has substantially completed the application form and attested to the statement required by section 9(b)(2); and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “ returned,” and inserting the following: “or update the registrant’s information on the computerized statewide voter registration list using such online method.”.

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting after “ support the card” the following: “; or update the registrant’s information on the computerized statewide voter registration list using the online method provided under section 303(a)(6) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002;” and

(2) in the case of an applicant who registers to vote online in accordance with section 6A, the applicant provides a signature in accordance with subsection (c) of such section.

(5) in section 303(b)(2)(B) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(b)(2)(B)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end of such section.

(a)(i) in the case of an individual who has completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

(b) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

SEC. 1003. PROVISION OF ELECTION INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS PROVIDING NECESSARY INFORMATION.—(a) In general.—

(b) by inserting the period at the end of paragraph (A) a space for the applicant to provide (at the applicant’s option) an electronic mail address and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

SEC. 1003. PROVISION OF ELECTION INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS PROVIDING NECESSARY INFORMATION .—(a) In general.—

(2) by inserting the period at the end of paragraph (a)(4) and inserting “; and”;

(2) in the case of an applicant who registers to vote online in accordance with section 6A, the applicant may not require the applicant to provide more than the last 4 digits of such number;”.

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

(2) the hours of operation for the polling place.

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

SEC. 1005. PROHIBITING STATE FROM REQUIRING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE .—(a) In general.—

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

(1) the applicant has substantially completed the application form and has submitted the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) and

(2) by inserting “and” at the end of the following new paragraph:

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

SEC. 1002. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION .—(a) In general.—

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

(2) the hours of operation for the polling place.

SEC. 1004. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT REGARDING NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SHOW ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE .—Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended—

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

SEC. 1005. PROHIBITING STATE FROM REQUIRING PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE .—(a) In general.—

(2) by inserting “and” at the end of the following new paragraph:

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

(2) by inserting paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:
(b) NATIONAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)(1)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “; and to the extent that requires the applicant to provide a Social Security number, the form may not require the applicant to provide more than the last 4 digits of such number.”

SEC. 1013. CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this part, each contributing agency in a State shall assist the State’s chief election official in registering to vote all eligible individuals served by that agency.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES.

(1) INSTRUCTIONS ON AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION.—With each application for service or assistance, and with each related recertification, the State shall include in the case of an institution of higher education, with each registration of a student for enrollment in a course of study, each contributing agency that (a) in the normal course of its operations) requests individuals to affirm United States citizenship (either directly or as part of the overall application for service or assistance) shall inform each individual who is a citizen of the United States of the following: (A) Unless that individual declines to register to vote, or is found ineligible to vote, the individual will be registered to vote or, if applicable, the individual’s registration will be updated. (B) The substantive qualifications of an elector in the State as listed in the mail voter registration application form for elections for Federal office prescribed pursuant to section 9 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the consequences of false registration, and the individual should decline to register if the individual does not meet all those qualifications.

(2) OPPORTUNITY TO DECLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, each contributing agency shall ensure that each application for service or assistance, and each related recertification, renewal, or change of address, cannot be completed until the individual is given the opportunity to decline to be registered to vote.

(3) INFORMATION TRANSMITTED.—Upon the expiration of the 30-day period which begins on the date a contributing agency as described in paragraph (1) informs an individual of the information described in such paragraph, unless that individual declines to register to vote or informs the agency that they are already registered to vote, each contributing agency shall electronically transmit to the appropriate State’s chief election official information describing that individual with the statewide voter database maintained under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083), the following information: (A) The individual’s given name(s) and surname(s). (B) The individual’s date of birth. (C) The individual’s city and zip code. (D) Information showing that the individual is a citizen of the United States.

(4) INFORMATION COSENT REQUIRED.—The State on which the information pertaining to that individual was collected or last updated. (F) If available, the individual’s signature in electronic form.

(5) IN GENERAL.—In the case in which the contributing agency is a covered institution of higher education, in the case of a State in which affiliation or enrollment with a political party is required in order to participate in an election to select the party’s candidate in an election for Federal office, the requirement that the individual must affiliate or enroll with a political party in order to participate in such an election.

(6) VOTER REGISTRATION IS VOLUNTARY, AND, NO REGISTRATION OR DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN AN WAY AFFECT THE INDIVIDUAL’S RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES OF SERVICES OR BENEFITS, NOR BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
number or the last 4 digits of the individual’s social security number, if the individual provided such information.

c) ALTERNATE PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES.—With each application for service or assistance, and with each related re-certification, renewal, or change of address, any contributing agency in the normal course of its operations does not request individuals applying for service or assistance to affirm United States citizenship (either directly or as part of the overall application for service or assistance) shall—

(1) complete the requirements of section 7(a)(6) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)(6));

(2) ensure that each applicant’s transaction with the agency cannot be completed until the applicant has indicated whether the applicant wishes to register to vote or declines to register to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State; and

(3) each individual who wishes to register to vote, transmit that individual’s information in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

d) REQUIRED AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OPPORTUNITY WITH EACH APPLICATION FOR SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE.—Each contributing agency shall offer each individual, with each application for service or assistance, and with each re-certification, renewal, or change of address, or in the case of an institution of higher education, with each registration of a student for enrollment in a course of study, an opportunity to register to vote described by this section without regard to whether the individual previously declined a registration opportunity.

e) CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES.—

(1) STATE AGENCIES.—In each State, each of the following agencies shall be treated as a contributing agency:

(A) Each agency in a State that is required by Federal law to provide voter registration services, including the State motor vehicle authority and other agencies under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(B) Each agency in a State that administers a program pursuant to title III of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), or the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148).

(C) Each State agency primarily responsible for regulating the private possession of firearms.

(D) Each State agency primarily responsible for maintaining the education data systems, including the education data systems for students enrolled at public secondary schools, including, where applicable, the State agency responsible for maintaining the education data systems for students enrolled in the America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C. 9871(e)(2)).

(E) In the case of a State in which an individual disenfranchised by a criminal conviction may become eligible to vote upon completion of a criminal sentence or any part thereof, or upon formal restoration of rights, the Federal agency responsible for administering that sentence or part thereof (without regard to whether the agency is the State in which the individual is a resident), but only with respect to individuals who have completed the criminal sentence or any part thereof.

(D) Any other agency of the Federal Government which the State designates as a contributing agency, but only if the State and the head of the agency determine that the agency collects information sufficient to carry out the responsibilities of a contributing agency under this section.

f) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days prior to the date of each election for Federal office held in the State, the chief State election official shall publish on the public website of the official an updated list of all contributing agencies in that State.

(4) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The chief State election official of each State, in collaboration with each contributing agency, shall take appropriate measures to educate the public about voter registration under this section.

(5) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

(a) In general.—An institution of higher education shall be treated as a contributing agency in the State in which the institution is located with respect to in-State students.

(b) Procedures.—(A) In general.—Notwithstanding section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g; commonly referred to as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”) or any other provision of law, each covered institution of higher education shall comply with the requirements of subsection (b) with respect to each in-State student.

(B) RULES FOR COMPLIANCE.—In complying with the requirements described in subparagraph (A), the institution—

(i) may use information provided in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) to collect information described in paragraph (3) of such subsection for purposes of transmitting such information to the appropriate State election official pursuant to such paragraph;

(ii) shall not be required to prevent or delay students from enrolling in a course of study or otherwise impede the completion of the enrollment process, including, but not limited to, delaying or impeding the provision of Federal financial aid provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(c) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this part may be construed to require an institution of higher education to register each student to affirm whether or not the student is a United States citizen or to collect information with respect to citizenship.

d) DEFINITIONS.—

(A) COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—In this section, the term ‘‘covered institution of higher education’’ means an institution of higher education that—

(1) has a program participation agreement in effect with the Secretary of Education under section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094);

(2) during each normal course of operations, requests each in-State student enrolling in the institution to affirm whether or not the student is a United States citizen; and

(3) is located in a State to which subsection (b)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503(b)(1)) does not apply.

(B) IN-STATE STUDENT.—In this section, the term ‘‘in-State student’’—

(i) means a student enrolled in a covered institution of higher education who, for purposes related to in-State tuition, financial aid eligibility, or other similar purposes, resides in the State; and

(ii) includes a student described in clause (i) who is enrolled in a program of distance education, as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

SECTION 1014. ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSTANCE IN REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS IN EXISTING RECORDS

(a) INITIAL TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION.—For each individual already listed in a contributing agency’s records as of the date of enactment of this Act, and for whom the agency has the information listed in section 1012(b)(3) of this Act, the agency shall promptly transmit that information to the appropriate State election official in accordance with section 1013(b)(3) not later than the effective date described in section 1021(a).

(b) TRANSITION.—For each individual listed in a contributing agency’s records as of the effective date described in section 1021(a) (but who was not listed in a contributing agency’s records as of the date of enactment of this Act), and for whom the agency has the information listed in section 1013(b)(3), the Agency shall promptly transmit that information to the appropriate State election official in accordance with section 1013(b)(3) not later than 6 months after the effective date described in section 1021(a).

SECTION 1015. VOTER SECURITY IN AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION

(a) PROTECTIONS FOR ERRORS IN REGISTRATION.—An individual shall not be prosecuted under Federal or State law or in any other similar jurisdiction for any action taken in good faith which the individual reasonably believed to be necessary to prevent, or for any action taken which the individual reasonably believed to be necessary to correct an error in any civil adjudication concerning immigration status or naturalization, or subject to an allegation in any legal proceeding that the individual is not a citizen of the United States on any of the following grounds:

(1) The individual notified an election office of the individual’s automatic registration to vote under this part.

(2) The individual is not eligible to vote in elections for Federal office but was automatically registered to vote under this part.

(3) The individual was automatically registered to vote under this part at an incorrect address.

(4) The individual declined the opportunity to register to vote or did not make an affirmation of citizenship, including through automatic registration, under this part.

(b) LIMITS ON USE OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION.—The automatic registration of any individual or the fact that an individual declined the opportunity to register to vote or did not make an affirmation of citizenship, including through automatic registration, under this part may not be used as evidence against that individual in any State or Federal law enforcement proceeding, and an individual’s lack of knowledge or willfulness of such registration may be demonstrated by the individual’s testimony alone.

(c) PROTECTION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY.—Nothing in subsections (a) or (b) may be construed to prohibit or restrict any action under color of law against an individual who knowingly or willfully made a false statement to effectuate or perpetuate automatic voter registration by any individual; or

(2) casts a ballot knowingly and willfully in violation of State law or the laws of the United States.

(d) CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES’ PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this part authorizes a contributing agency to collect, retain, transmit, or publicly disclose any of the following: The individual’s decision to decline to register to vote or not to register to vote; and a second individual’s decision to not affirm his or her citizenship.

(e) Any information that a contributing agency collects pursuant to this section, except in pursuing the agency’s ordinary course of business.
(e) *Election Officials’ Protection of Information.*—

(1) *Public Disclosure Prohibited.*—

(A) In general.—Subject to subparagraph (B), unless by direction of any individual for whom any State election official receives information from a contributing agency, the State election officials shall not publicly disclose any of the following:

(i) The identity of the contributing agency.

(ii) Any information not necessary to voter registration.

(iii) Any voter information otherwise shielded from disclosure under State law or section 8(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)).

(iv) Any portion of the individual’s social security number.

(v) Any portion of the individual’s motor vehicle driver’s license number.

(vi) The individual’s signature.

(vii) The individual’s telephone number.

(viii) The individual’s email address.

(B) Special Rule for Individuals Registered to Vote.—With respect to any individual for whom any State election official receives information from a contributing agency and who, on the basis of such information, is registered to vote in the State under this part, the State election officials shall not publicly disclose all of the following:

(i) The identity of the contributing agency.

(ii) Any information not necessary to voter registration.

(iii) Any voter information otherwise shielded from disclosure under State law or section 8(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)).

(iv) Any portion of the individual’s social security number.

(v) Any portion of the individual’s motor vehicle driver’s license number.

(vi) The individual’s signature.

(vii) The individual’s telephone number.

(viii) The individual’s email address.

(3) *Database Management Standards.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall, after providing the public with an opportunity to comment, establish standards governing the comparison of data for voter registration list maintenance purposes, identifying as part of such standards the specific data elements, the matching purposes, identifying as part of such standards the specific data elements, the matching purposes, and how a State may use the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph for public notice and comment, publish the rules used, and how a State may use the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph for public notice and comment, publish the rules used, and how a State may use the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph for public notice and comment.

(4) *Security Policy.*—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall, after providing the public with an opportunity to comment, establish standards governing the comparison of data for voter registration list maintenance purposes, identifying as part of such standards the specific data elements, the matching purposes, identifying as part of such standards the specific data elements, the matching purposes, and how a State may use the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph for public notice and comment, publish the rules used, and how a State may use the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph for public notice and comment.

(5) *State Compliance with National Standards.*

(A) Certification.—The chief executive officer of the State shall annually file with the Election Assistance Commission a statement certifying to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology that the State is in compliance with the standards referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4). A State may meet the requirement of the previous sentence by filing with the commission a statement which reads as follows: “... hereby certifies that it is in compliance with the standards referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 1015(e) of the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2021.”

(B) Publication of Policies and Procedures.—Each State shall publish on the official’s website the policies and procedures established under this section, and shall make those policies and procedures available in written form upon public request.

(C) Funding Dependent on Certification.—If a State does not timely file the certification required under subparagraph (A), it shall not receive any payment under this part for the upcoming fiscal year.

(D) Compliance of States that Require Changes to State Law.—In the case of a State that requires State legislation to carry out an activity covered by any certification submitted under paragraph (A), in the case of any State that does not receive a certification not later than 45 days after the deadline provided in subparagraph (C), or in the case of any State that does not receive a certification not later than 45 days after the date provided in subparagraph (C), the State shall be permitted to make the certification notwithstanding that the legislation has not been enacted at the time the certification is submitted, and such State shall submit an additional certification once such legislation is enacted.

(F) Restrictions on Use of Information.—No person acting under color of law may discriminate against any individual based on, or use for any purpose other than voter registration, election administration, or enforcement relating to elections the following:

(1) Voter registration records.

(2) An individual’s declaration to vote or complete an affirmation of citizenship.

(3) An individual’s voter registration status.

(4) Prohibition on Use of Voter Registration Information for Commercial Purposes.—Information collected under this part shall not be used for commercial purposes. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit the transmission, exchange, or dissemination of information for political purposes, including the support of campaigns for election for Federal, State, or local public office or the activity of committees of the State.
the services it provides under this part are made available to individuals with disabilities to the same extent as services are made available to all other individuals.

(b) ENFORCEMENT.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent a contributing agency from contracting with a third party to assist the agency in meeting the information transmission requirements of this part, so long as the data transmitted complies with the applicable requirements of this part, including the privacy and security provisions of section 1012.

(c) NONPARTISAN, NONDISCRIMINATORY PROVISION OF SERVICES.—The services made available by contributing agencies under this part and by the State, the appropriate official of such Fund) with such individual applies for benefits or services with a State in which an individual is a resident of the State.

(d) NOTICES.—Each State may send notices under this part via electronic mail if the individual has provided an electronic mail address and consented to electronic mail communications for election-related matters. All notices sent pursuant to this part that require a response must offer the individual the opportunity to respond at no cost to the individual.

(e) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 11 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) and paragraph (4), (5), and (6)(C) of section 7(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)).

(f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Except as provided, nothing in this part may be construed to authorize or require conduct prohibited under, or to supersede, repeal, or limit the application of any of the following:

(1) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).

(2) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

(3) The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).


SEC. 1020. DEFINITIONS.

In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “chief State election official” means the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506) to be responsible for coordination of the activities undertaken under this part.

(2) The term “Commission” means the Election Assistance Commission.

(3) The term “exempt State” means a State which, under law which is in effect continuously and on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, operates an automatic voter registration program under which an individual is automatically registered to vote in elections for Federal office in the State if the individual provides the motor vehicle authority of the State (or, in the case of a State in which an individual is automatically registered to vote at the time the individual applies for benefits or services with a Permanent Dividend Fund of the State, provides the appropriate official of such Fund) with such identifying information as the State may require.

(4) The term “State” means each of the several States and the District of Columbia.

SEC. 1031. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this part and the amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to a State beginning January 1, 2023.

(b) WAIVER.—Subject to the approval of the Commission, if a State certifies to the Commission that the State will not meet the deadline referred to in paragraph (a) because of extraordinary circumstances and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet the deadline, subsection (a) shall apply to the State as if the reference in such subsection to “January 1, 2023” were a reference to “January 1, 2025”.

PART 3—SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

SEC. 1031. SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

“SEC. 304. SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) REGISTRATION.—Each State shall permit any eligible individual on the day of a Federal election and on any day when voting, including early voting, is permitted for a Federal election—

(A) to register to vote in such election at the polling place using a form that meets the requirements under section 9(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (or, if the individual is already registered to vote, to signify to the appropriate official of such State the individual’s voter registration information); and

(B) to cast a vote in such election.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The requirements under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a State in which an individual effect continues on and after the date of the enactment of this section, there is no voter registration requirement for individuals in the State with respect to elections for Federal office.

(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term “eligible individual” means, with respect to any election for Federal office, an individual who is otherwise qualified to vote in such election.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each State shall be required to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A) on a date that is not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “sections 301, 302, and 303” and inserting “subtitle A of title III”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Same day voter registration.”

PART 4—CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS

SEC. 1041. CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL OF REGISTRANTS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS.

(a) MINIMUM INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR REMOVAL UNDER CROSS-CHECK.—Section 8(c)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D), and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

(B) To the extent that the program carried out by a State under subparagraph (A) to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters uses information obtained in an interstate cross-check, in addition to any other conditions imposed under subparagraph (A) the authority of the State to remove the name of the voter from such a list, the State may not remove the name of the voter from such a list unless—

(i) the State obtained the voter’s full name (including the voter’s middle name, if any) and date of birth, and the last 4 digits of the voter’s social security number, in the interstate cross-check;

(ii) the State obtained documentation from the ERIC system that the voter is no longer a resident of the State;

(iii) the term ‘ERIC system’ means the system operated by the Electronic Registration Information Center to share voter registration information and voter identification information among participating States.”.

(b) REQUIRING COMPLETION OF CROSS-CHECKS PRIOR TO ELECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section 8(c)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)) is amended by striking “not later than 90 days” and inserting the following:

“not later than 90 days or, in the case of a program in which the State uses interstate cross-checks, not later than 6 months.”

(c) ANNUAL REPORTS ON VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each year, each State shall submit to the Election Assistance Commission and Congress a report containing the following categories of information for the year:

(1) The number of individuals who were registered under part 2.

(2) The number of voter registration applications completed by individuals that were transmitted by motor vehicle authorities in the State (pursuant to section 5(d) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993) and voter registration agencies in the State (as designated under section 7 of such Act) to the chief State election official of the State, broken down by each such authority and agency.

(3) The number of such individuals whose voter registration application forms were accepted and who were registered to vote in the State, broken down by each such authority and agency.

(4) The number of change of address forms and other forms of information indicating that an individual’s identifying information has been changed that were transmitted by such motor vehicle authorities and voter registration agencies to the chief State election official of the State, broken down by each such authority and agency.

(b) BREAKDOWN OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the report under this section, the State shall, for each category of information described
in subsection (a), include a breakdown by race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the individuals whose information is included in the category, to the extent that information on the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the individual is available to the State.

(c) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—In preparing and submitting a report under this section, each State election official shall ensure that no information regarding the identification of any individual is revealed.

(d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, a “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but does not include any State in which, under a State law in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, there is no voter registration requirement for individuals in the State with respect to elections for Federal office.

SEC. 1052. ENSURING PRE-ELECTION REGISTRATION GRANTS TO STATES ARE CONSISTENT WITH TIMING OF LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(a)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)) is amended by striking “30 days” each place it appears and inserting “28 days”.

(b) The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

SEC. 1053. USE OF POSTAL SERVICE HARD COPY CHALLENGES TO ENCOURAGE MIND INDIVIDUALS TO UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Postmaster General shall modify any hard copy change of address form used by the United States Postal Service so that such form contains a reminder that any individual using such form should update the individual’s voter registration as a result of any change in address.

(b) The requirement in subsection (a) shall not apply to any electronic version of a change of address form used by the United States Postal Service.

SEC. 1054. GRANTS TO STATES FOR ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE INVOLEMENT OF MINORS IN ELECTION ACTIVITIES.

(a) GRANTS AVAILABLE.—

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Commission”) shall make grants to eligible States to carry out a plan to increase the involvement of individuals under 18 years of age in public election activities in the State.

(c) CONTENTS OF PLANS.—A State’s plan under this subsection shall include—

(a) methods to promote the use of the pre-registration process implemented under section 8A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (as added by section 2(a));

(b) modifications to the curriculum of secondary schools in the State to promote civic engagement, and;

(c) such other activities to encourage the involvement of young people in the electoral process as the Commission may determine appropriate.

(d) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

(I) a description of the State’s plan under subsection (a);

(II) a description of the performance measures and targets the State will use to determine its success in carrying out the plan; and

(III) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(e) PERIOD OF GRANT; REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the end of the 2-year period agreed to under paragraph (1), the State shall submit to the Commission a report on the activities the State carried out under subsection (a), funds provided by the grant, and shall include in the report an analysis of the extent to which the State met the performance measures and targets included in its application under subsection (a).

(2) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the States and the District of Columbia.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022.

PART 6—AVAILABILITY OF HAVA REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS

SEC. 1061. AVAILABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS TO COVER COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20011(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3)” and inserting “as otherwise provided in this subsection”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) CERTAIN VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—A State may use a requirements payment to carry out any of the requirements of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021, including the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 which are imposed pursuant to the amendments made to such Act by the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 254(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20014(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) by inserting “section 251(b)(2)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year.

PART 7—PROHIBITING INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER REGISTRATION

SEC. 1071. PROHIBITING HINDERING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PREVENTING VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§612. Hinderling, interfering with, or preventing registering to vote

“(a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, to hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from registering to vote or to corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from aiding another person in registering to vote.

“(b) ATTEMPT.—Any person who attempts to commit any offense described in subsection (a) shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense that the person attempted to commit.

“(c) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“§612. Hinderling, interfering with, or preventing registering to vote.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that no person may be found guilty of such an offense under section 612 of title 18, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), on the basis of any act occurring prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.”

SEC. 1072. ESTABLISHMENT OF BEST PRACTICES.

(a) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission shall develop and publish recommendations for best practices for States to use to deter and prevent violations of section 612 of title 18, United States Code (as added by section 1071), of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20511) relating to the unlawful interference with registering to vote, or attempting to register to vote or voting, or attempting to register an individual to vote or voting, to provide for the posting of relevant information at polling places and voter registration agencies under such Act, the training of poll workers and election officials, and relevant educational materials. For purposes of this subsection, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guan, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guan, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) INCLUSION IN VOTER INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20082(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (E);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (F) and inserting “; and”;

and (3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) information relating to the prohibitions of section 612 of title 18, United States Code, and section 12 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20511) (relating to the unlawful interference with registering to vote, or attempting to register an individual to vote or voting), including information on how individuals may report allegations of violations of such prohibitions.”.

PART 8—VOTER REGISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT

SEC. 1081. SHORT TITLE.

This part may be cited as the “Voter Registration Efficiency Act”.

SEC. 1082. REQUIRING APPLICANTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER’S LICENSES IN NEW STATE TO INDICATE WHETHER STATE SERVES AS RESIDENCE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR LICENSES.—Section 5(a) of the National Voter Registration Full Participation Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20004(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Any change” and inserting “(1) Any change”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) A State motor vehicle authority shall require each individual applying for a motor vehicle driver’s license in the State—

“(i) to indicate whether the individual resides in another State or resides in another State prior to applying for the license, and, if so, to identify the State involved; and

“(ii) to indicate whether the individual intends for the State to serve as the individual’s residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office.

“(B) If pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) an individual indicates to the State motor vehicle authority that the individual intends for the State to serve as the individual’s residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office, the State motor vehicle authority shall notify the motor vehicle authority of the State identified by the individual pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), who shall notify the chief State election official of such State that the individual no longer intends for that State to serve as the individual’s residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect with respect to elections occurring in 2021 or any succeeding year.
PART 9—PROVIDING VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

SEC. 1091. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS PRIOR TO GRADUATION.

(a) Pilot Program.—The Election Assistance Commission (herein referred to as the "Commission") shall carry out a pilot program under which the Commission shall provide funds during the one-year period beginning after the enactment of this part to eligible local educational agencies for initiatives to provide information on registering to vote in elections for public office to secondary school students under the age of eighteen.

(b) Eligibility.—A local educational agency that is eligible to receive funds under the pilot program under this part if the agency submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

(1) a description of the initiatives the agency intends to carry out with the funds;

(2) an estimate of the costs associated with such initiatives; and

(3) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(c) Consultation With Election Officials.—A local educational agency receiving funds under the pilot program shall consult with the State and local election officials who are responsible for administering elections for public office in the area served by the agency in developing the initiatives the agency will carry out with the funds.

(d) Definitions.—In this part, the term "local educational agency" and "secondary school" have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

SEC. 1092. REPORTS BY RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS.—Not later than the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the receipt of the funds, each local educational agency receiving funds under the pilot program under this part shall submit a report to the Commission describing the initiatives carried out with the funds and analyzing their effectiveness.

SEC. 1093. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this part.

PART 10—VOTER REGISTRATION OF MINORS

SEC. 1094. ACCEPTANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE;

(a) Acceptance of Applications.—Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501), as amended by section 1094, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as subsection (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (k) the following new subsection:

"(k) Acceptance of Applications From Individuals Under 18 Years of Age.—

(1) In General.—A State may not refuse to accept or process an individual’s application to register to vote in elections for Federal office on the grounds that the individual is under 18 years of age; Provided, however, that if the individual submits the application, so long as the individual is at least 16 years of age at such time.

(2) No Effect on State Voting Age Requirement.—If a State has established a voting age requirement for the purpose of this subsection, such requirement may not be applied to an individual who is under 18 years of age at the time of an election for Federal office to vote in the election.",

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

Subtitle B—Access to Voting for Individuals With Disabilities

SEC. 1101. REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) Requirements.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (32 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.), as amended by section 101A(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 305 and 306 as sections 307 and 308; and

(2) by inserting after section 304 the following new section:

"SEC. 305. ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(1) Treatment of Applications and Ballots.—Each State shall—

(A) permit individuals with disabilities to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in elections for Federal office;

(B) accept and process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application or absentee ballot application from an individual with a disability if the application is received by the appropriate State election official within the deadline for the election which is applicable under Federal law;

(C) in addition to any other method of registering to vote or applying for an absentee ballot in the State, establish procedures—

(i) for individuals with disabilities to request by mail and electronically voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications with respect to elections for Federal office;

(ii) for States to send by mail and electronically valid voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications requested under subparagraph (A) in accordance with subsection (c); and

(iii) by which such an individual can designate whether the individual prefers such voter registration application or absentee ballot application be transmitted by mail or electronically.

(2) Clarity and Accessibility.—In addition to any other method of transmitting blank absentee ballot applications to individuals with disabilities with respect to elections for Federal office in accordance with subsection (c), the State shall transmit such applications and absentee ballot applications requested under subsection (a) to the individual.

(3) Inclusion of Designated Means of Communication.—Each State shall include a means of electronic communication so designated with all informational and instructional materials that accompany ballots, including ballots sent by mail, that are required by the State to individuals with disabilities.

(4) Transmission If No Preference Indicated.—In the case where an individual with a disability does not designate a preferred method of transmission under subsection (a)(3)(C), the State shall transmit the voter registration application or absentee ballot application by any delivery method allowable in accordance with applicable State law, or if there is no applicable State law, by mail.

(b) By Mail and Electronically.—

(1) In General.—Each State shall establish procedures—

(A) to securely transmit blank absentee ballots to individuals with disabilities (in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the individual with a disability under subparagraph (C)) voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications requested under subparagraph (A) in accordance with subsection (c); and

(B) to by which such an individual can designate whether the individual prefers such blank absentee ballot be transmitted by mail or electronically.

(2) Transmission If No Preference Indicated.—In the case where an individual with a disability does not designate a preference under paragraph (1)(B), the State shall transmit the ballot by any delivery method allowable in accordance with applicable State law, if there is no applicable State law, by mail.

(c) Application of Methods to Track Delivery and Return of Ballot by Individuals With Disabilities.—Each State shall apply such methods as the State considers appropriate, such as assigning a unique identifier to each ballot, to ensure that the individual with a disability requests the State to transmit a blank absentee ballot to the individual in accordance with this subsection, the voted absentee ballot is transmitted to the individual, and the State shall transmit to the individual—

(1) In General.—If the Chief State election official determines that the State is unable to..."
meet the requirement under subsection (a)(5)(A) with respect to an election for Federal office due to an undue hardship described in paragraph (2)(B), the chief State election official shall request that the Attorney General grant a waiver to the State of the application of such subsection. Such request shall include:

(A) a recognition that the purpose of such subsection is to help individuals with disabilities have sufficient time to vote in an election for Federal office;

(B) an explanation of the hardship that indicates why the State is unable to transmit such individuals an absentee ballot in accordance with such subsection;

(C) the number of days prior to the election for Federal office that the State requires absentee ballots to be transmitted to such individuals; and

(D) a comprehensive plan to ensure that such individuals are able to receive absentee ballots which they have requested and submit marked absentee ballots to the appropriate State election official in time to have such ballots counted in the election for Federal office, which includes—

(i) the steps the State will undertake to ensure that such individuals have time to receive, mark, and submit their ballots in time to have those ballots counted in the election;

(ii) the plan that provides such individuals sufficient time to vote as a substitute for the requirements under such subsection; and

(iii) the following factual information which explains how the plan provides such sufficient time to vote as a substitute for such requirements. If the Attorney General determines that the plan submitted under paragraph (1) is insufficient, the Attorney General shall, after consultation with the State, submit a revised plan to the Attorney General.

(2) ELIMINATION OF WAIVER REQUEST.—The Attorney General shall approve a waiver request under paragraph (1) if the Attorney General determines each of the following requirements are met:

(A) the plan comprehensively provides such individuals sufficient time to vote as a substitute for the requirements under such subsection; and

(B) the following issues create an undue hardship for the State:

(i) the State’s primary election date prohibits the State from complying with subsection (a)(5)(A).

(ii) the State has suffered a delay in generating ballots due to a legal contest.

(iii) the plan prohibiting the State from complying with such subsection.

(3) TIMING OF WAIVER.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subparagraph (B), a State that requests a waiver under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Attorney General the written waiver request not later than 90 days before the election for Federal office with respect to which the request is submitted. The Attorney General shall approve or deny the waiver request not later than 60 days before such election.

(B) EXCEPTION.—If a State requests a waiver under paragraph (1) as the result of an undue hardship described in paragraph (2)(B)(ii), the State may submit the written waiver request as soon as practicable. The Attorney General shall approve or deny the waiver request not later than 5 business days after the date on which the request is received.

(4) APPLICATION OF WAIVER.—A waiver approved under paragraph (2) shall only apply with respect to the election for Federal office for which the request was submitted. For each subsequent election for Federal office, the Attorney General shall only approve a waiver if the State has submitted a revised written waiver request under paragraph (1) with respect to such election.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to allow the marking or casting of votes in the internet.

(g) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY DEFINED.—In this section, an ‘individual with a disability’ means an individual with an impairment that substantially limits any major life activities and who is otherwise qualified to vote in elections for Federal office.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after January 1, 2022.

(j) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ISSUANCE OF VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE BY ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—(1) TIMING OF ISSUANCE.—Section 311(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21011(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end of paragraph (2);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(4) in the case of the recommendations with respect to owners of voting systems, amendments, or guidance, the Commission shall do such things as may be necessary to assist such individuals to use such voting systems and who is otherwise qualified to vote in elections for Federal office with respect to which the request is submitted not later than 90 days after the date on which the request is received.

(2) REDISTRIBUTION.—Title III of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended by redesignating sections 311 and 312 as sections 312 and 313.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 303 and 306 as relating to sections 306 and 307;

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 304 the following new item:

‘‘Sec. 305. Access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities.’’;

and

(3) by redesignating the items relating to sections 311 and 312 as relating to sections 312 and 313.

SEC. 1102. EXPANSION AND REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSURE VOTING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—(a) PURPOSES OF PAYMENTS.—Section 261(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21021(b)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

‘‘(1) making absentee voting and voting at home accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities (including impairments involving vision, hearing, mobility, or dexterity) through the implementation of accessible absentee voting systems that work in conjunction with assistive technologies for which individuals have access at their homes, independent living centers, or other facilities;

(2) making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of such polling places, accessible to individuals with disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters; and

(3) providing services to individuals with disabilities that are not otherwise provided and that provide the same opportunity for access and independence as for individuals with and without disabilities;

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 264(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21024(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(4) For fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this part.’’;

(c) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Section 264 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21024) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking ‘‘Any amounts’’ and inserting ‘‘Except as provided in subsection (b), any amounts’’; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

‘‘(C) RETURN AND TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNDS.—In the case of any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authority of subsection (a) for a payment to a State or unit of local government for fiscal year 2022 or any succeeding fiscal year, any portion of such amounts which have not been obligated or expended by the State or unit of local government as of the end of the 4-year period which begins on the date the State or unit of local government first received the amounts shall be transferred to the Commission.’’

(2) RELOCATION OF TRANSFERRED AMOUNTS.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall use the amounts transferred under paragraph (1) to make payments on a pro rata basis to each covered payment recipient described in subparagraph (a) with respect to the fiscal year in which the recipient shall, subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, make grants to eligible States to conduct pilot programs under which individuals with disabilities may use electronic means (including the internet and telephones utilizing assistive devices) to register to vote and to request and receive absentee ballots in a manner which allows such individuals to vote privately and independently at their own residences.

(b) REPORTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—A State receiving a grant for a year under this section shall submit a report to the Commission on the pilot programs the State carried out with the grant with respect to elections for public office held in the State during the year.

(2) DEADLINE.—A State shall submit a report under paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the last election for public office held in the State during the year.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(3) TIMING.—The Commission shall make the first grants under this section for pilot programs which will be in effect with respect to elections for public office held in 2022, or, at the option of a State, with respect to other elections for public office held in the State in 2022.

(d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘‘State’’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SEC. 1104. GAO ANALYSIS AND REPORT ON VOTING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—(a) ANALYSIS.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall conduct an analysis after each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office with respect to the following:

(1) the extent to which there are barriers to the equal access to voting for individuals with disabilities.

(2) Assistance provided by the Election Assistance Commission, Department of Justice, or
other Federal agencies to help State and local officials improve voting access for individuals with disabilities during elections for Federal office.

(3) When accessible voting machines are available at a polling place, the extent to which such machines
(A) are located in places that are difficult to access;
(B) malfunction;
(C) fail to provide sufficient privacy to ensure that the ballot of the individual cannot be seen by another person;

(4) The process by which Federal, State, and local governments track compliance with accessibility requirements related to voting access, including methods to receive and address complaints.

(5) The extent to which poll workers receive training and how to assist individuals with disabilities, including the receipt by such poll workers of information on legal requirements related to voting rights for individuals with disabilities.

(6) The extent and effectiveness of training provided to poll workers on the operation of accessible voting machines.

(7) The extent to which individuals with a developmental or psychiatric disability experience greater barriers to voting, and whether poll worker training adequately addresses the needs of such individuals.

(8) The extent to which State or local governments employ, or attempt to employ, individuals with disabilities to work at polling sites.

(a) Requests

(A) In General.—Not later than 9 months after the date of a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report with respect to the most recent regularly scheduled general election for Federal office that contains the following:
(1) The findings referred to by subsection (a);
(B) Recommendations, as appropriate, to promote the use of best practices used by State and local officials to address barriers to accessibility and privacy concerns for individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.

(b) Appropriate congressional committees—For purposes of this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—
(A) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives;
(B) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate;
(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and
(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Subtitle C—Prohibiting Voter Caging

SEC. 1201. VOTER CAGING AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE CHALLENGES PROHIBITED

(a) In General.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1071(a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§613. Voter caging and other questionable challenges

"(a) Definitions.—In this section—

"(1) the term 'voter caging document' means—

"(A) a nonforwardable document that is returned to the sender or a third party as undelivered or undeliverable despite an attempt to deliver such document to the address of a registered voter or applicant; and

"(B) any document with instructions to an addressee that the document be returned to the sender or a third party but is not so returned, despite an attempt to deliver such document to the address of a registered voter or applicant, unless at least two Federal election cycles have passed since the date of the attempted delivery;

"(2) the term 'unverified match list' means a list produced by matching the information of registered voters or applicants for voter registration to a list of individuals who are ineligible to vote in the election described in this paragraph, by virtue of death, conviction, change of address, or otherwise; unless one of the pieces of information matched includes a signature, photograph, or unique identifier such that the information from each source refers to the same individual.

"(b) Prohibition against Voter Caging.

No State or local election official shall present an individual from registering or voting in any election for Federal office, or permit in connection with any election for Federal office a formal challenge of the individual's registration status or eligibility to vote, if the basis for such decision is evidence consisting of—

"(1) a voter caging document or voter caging list;

"(2) an unverified match list;

"(3) an error or omission on any record or paper relating to any application, registration, or other act requisite to voting, if such error or omission is not material to an individual's eligibility to vote in that election, as determined by the provisions of the Revised Statutes, as amended (52 U.S.C. 10101(a)(2)(B)); or

"(4) any other evidence so designated for purposes of this section by the Election Assistance Commission, except that the election official may use such evidence if it is corroborated by independent evidence of the individual's eligibility to register or vote.

"(c) Requirements for Challenges by Persons Other Than Election Officials.—

(1) Requirements for Challenges.—No person, other than a State or local election official, shall submit a formal challenge to an individual's registration status or eligibility to vote in an election for Federal office or to vote in an election for Federal office unless that challenge is supported by personal knowledge regarding the grounds for ineligibility which is—

"(A) documented in writing; and

"(B) subject to an oath or attestation under penalty of perjury that the challenger has a good faith factual basis to believe that the individual who is the subject of the challenge is ineligible to register to vote or vote in that election, except a challenge which is based on the presence, ethnicity, or national origin of the individual who is the subject of the challenge may not be considered to have a good faith factual basis for purposes of this paragraph.

(2) Prohibitions on or Near Date of Election.—No person, other than a State or local election official, shall be permitted—

"(A) to challenge an individual's eligibility to vote in an election for Federal office on Election Day, or

"(B) to challenge an individual's eligibility to register to vote in an election for Federal office or to vote in an election for Federal office less than 10 days before the election unless the individual registered to vote less than 20 days before the election.

"(d) Penalties for Knowing Misconduct. — Whoever knowingly challenges the eligibility of one or more individuals to register or vote or knowingly causes the eligibility of such individuals to be challenged in violation of this section with the intent that one or more eligible voters be disqualified, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both, for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense.

"(e) No Liability on Related Laws. —Nothing in this section is intended to override the protection of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) or to affect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

(a) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1071(h), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§613. Voter caging and other questionable challenges."

SEC. 1202. DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING VOTER CAGING

(a) Best Practices.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission shall develop and publish for the use of States recommendations for best practices to deter and prevent violations of section 613 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 1201(a), including practices to provide for the posting of relevant information at polling places and voter registration offices, training of poll workers and election officials, and relevant educational measures. For purposes of this subsection, the term 'State' includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Subtitle D—Prohibiting Deceptive Practices and Preventing Voter Intimidation

SEC. 1301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Deceptive Practices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2003."

SEC. 1302. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

(a) Prohibition.—Subsection (b) of section 2003 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking "No person", and inserting the following: "No person", and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(A) Prohibition.—No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall, within 60 days before an election described in paragraph (5), by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, cause or cause to be communicated information described in subparagraph (B), or produce or cause information described in subparagraph (B) with the intent that such information be communicated, if such person—

"(i) knows such information to be materially false; and

"(ii) has the intent to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in an election described in paragraph (5); or

"(B) Information described.—Information is described in this subparagraph if such information is—

"(i) the time, place, or manner of holding any election described in paragraph (5); or

"(ii) the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility for any such election, including—

"(I) any criminal penalties associated with voting in any such election; or

"(II) information regarding a voter's registration status or eligibility.

(a) False Statements Regarding Public Endorsements. —
“(A) PROHIBITION.—No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall, within 60 days before an election described in paragraph (5), by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, communicate or cause to be communicated, a materially false statement about an endorsement, if such person—

(i) knows such statement to be false; and

(ii) has the intent to mislead voters, or the intent to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in an election described in subsection (e).”

(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Information is described in this subparagraph if such information is regarding—

(i) the time, place, or manner of holding any election described in subsection (e); or

(ii) the qualifications or restrictions on voter eligibility for any such election, including—

(1) any criminal penalties associated with voting in any such election; or

(2) information regarding a voter’s registration status or eligibility.

“(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”

“(C) HINDERING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PREVENTING VOTING OR REGISTERING TO VOTE.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a statement that a specifically named person, political party, or organization has endorsed the election of a specific candidate for a political office described in paragraph (5).”

“(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”

“(D) a description of each referral of an allegation described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of section 1304(b) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as added by section 1302(a), and if the Attorney General determines that State and local election officials have not taken adequate steps to prevent or detect a materially false statement about an endorsement, if such information is described in paragraph (5), the Attorney General shall, pursuant to the written procedures and standards under paragraph (2), communicate to the public, by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, accurate information designed to correct the materially false information.”

“COMMUNICATION OF CORRECTIVE INFORMATION.—Any information communicated by the Attorney General under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be accurate and objective; and

(B) shall not be designed to favor or disfavor any particular candidate, organization, or political party.”

(b) WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS FOR TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

(1) Before more than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall publish written procedures and standards for determining when and how corrective action will be taken under this section.

“SEC. 1304. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after each general election for Federal office, the Attorney General shall address a report compiling all allegations received by the Attorney General of deceptive practices described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of section 1304(b) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as added by section 1302(a), relating to the general election for Federal office and any primary, run-off, or a special election for Federal office held in the 2 years preceding the general election.

(b) CONTENTS.—

(1) In General.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a description of each allegation of a deceptive practice described in subsection (a), including the geographic location, racial and ethnic composition, and political affiliation of the persons toward whom the alleged deceptive practice was directed;

(B) the status of the investigation of each allegation described in subsection (a); and

(C) a description of each corrective action taken by the Attorney General under section 1304(b) in response to an allegation described in subparagraph (A).

(d) A description of each referral of an allegation described in subparagraph (A) to other Federal, State, or local agencies; and

(E) to the extent information is available, a description of any civil action instituted under
section 209(e)(2) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(c)(2)), as added by section 130(2b), in connection with an allegation described in subparagraph (A); and
(2) the Attorney General of any criminal prosecution instituted under section 594 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 130(c), in connection with the receipt of an allegation described in subparagraph (A) by the Attorney General.

(2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—(A) EXCLUSION.—The Attorney General shall not include in a report submitted under subsection (a) any information that is privileged.

(b) An information concerning an ongoing investigation.

(2) any information concerning a criminal or civil proceeding that would be privileged under the Federal rules of evidence.

(3) any information obtained from a source other than a State or a political subdivision of a State if the Attorney General determines the disclosure of that information would reasonably be expected to interfere with an ongoing investigation or foreclose the possibility of an investigation.

(4) any nonpublic information that the Attorney General determines the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to interfere with an ongoing investigation or foreclose the possibility of an investigation.

(5) Two States (Maine and Vermont), the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico do not disenfranchise individuals with criminal convictions at all, but 22 States have laws that deny convicted individuals the right to vote while they are in prison.

(6) In some States disenfranchisement results from varying State laws that restrict voting while individuals are under the supervision of the criminal justice system or after they have been released from prison.

(7) In some States disenfranchisement results from varying State laws that restrict voting while individuals are under the supervision of the criminal justice system or after they have been released from prison.

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(50) In some States disenfranchisement results from varying State laws that restrict voting while individuals are under the supervision of the criminal justice system or after they have been released from prison.
(ii) in the case of any individual committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, by the Director or the Bureau of Prisons, during the period beginning on the date that is 6 months before such individual is released and ending on the date such individual is released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

(B) MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION.—In the case of such individual who has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which such individual is sentenced by a court established by an Act of Congress.

SEC. 1406. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subtitle:

(1) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION OR FACILITY.—The term ‘correctional institution or facility’ means any prison, penitentiary, jail, or other institution or facility for the confinement of individuals convicted of criminal offenses, whether publicly or privately operated, except that such term does not include any residential community treatment center (or similar public or private facility).

(2) ELECTION.—The term ‘election’ means—

(A) a general, special, or primary, or runoff election;

(B) a convention or caucus of a political party held by a political party to select a candidate;

(C) a primary election held for the selection of delegates to a national nominating convention of a political party; or

(D) a primary election held for the expression of a preference for the nomination of persons for election to the office of President.

(3) FEDERAL OFFICE.—The term ‘Federal office’ means the office of President or Vice President of the United States, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress of the United States.

(4) PROTECTION.—The term ‘protection’ means probation, imposed by a Federal, State, or local court, with or without a condition on the individual involved concerning—

(A) the individual’s right to freedom of movement;

(B) the payment of damages by the individual;

(C) periodic reporting by the individual to an officer of the court; or

(D) supervision of the individual by an officer of the court.

SEC. 1407. RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) STATE LAWS RELATING TO VOTING RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to prohibit the States from enacting any State law which affords the right to vote in any election for Federal office on terms less restrictive than those set forth in this subtitle.

(b) CERTAIN FEDERAL ACTS.—The rights and remedies established by this subtitle are in addition to all other rights and remedies provided by law, and remedies provided by law shall be in addition to those established by this Act shall supersede, restrict, or limit the application of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) or the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

SEC. 1408. FEDERAL PRISON FUNDS.

No State, unit of local government, or other person may receive or use, to construct or otherwise improve a prison, jail, or other place of incarceration or correctional funds unless that person has in effect a program under which each individual incarcerated in that person’s jurisdiction who is a citizen of the United States is notified, upon release from such incarceration, of that individual’s rights under section 1403.

SEC. 1409. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall apply to elections for any office for Federal office held after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle F—Promoting Accuracy, Integrity, and Security Through Voter-Verified Permanent Paper Ballots

SEC. 1501. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ‘‘Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2021’’.
SEC. 1506. PAPER BALLOT PRINTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by section 602(b)(4) of the bipartisan voting rights protection act of 2019, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(8) PRINTING REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS.—All paper ballots for Federal elections held in a State shall be printed in the United States on paper manufactured in the United States."

SEC. 1507. EFFECTIVE DATE FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS.

Section 301(d) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(d)) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

"(1)(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022, paragraph (7) of section 246 as relating to section 248 shall be treated as non-pro"

"(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.".

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

"(a) by redesignating the item relating to section 247 as relating to section 248; and

(b) by inserting after the item relating to section 248 the following new item:

"Sec. 247. Study and report on accessible voting options.".

(c) CLARIFICATION OF ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS UNDER VOTER CONFIDENCE VOTING SYSTEM GUIDANCE.—In adopting any voluntary guidance under subtitle B of title III of the Help America Vote Act with respect to the accessibility of the paper ballots required for individuals with disabilities, the Election Assistance Commission shall include and apply the same accessibility standards applicable under the voluntary guidance accepted for accessible voting systems under such subtitle.

(d) PERMITTING USE OF FUNDS FOR PROTECTION OF VOTER CONFIDENCE SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT ACTIONS TO ENFORCE ELECTION-RELATED DISABILITY ACCESS.—Section 292(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21062(a)) is amended by striking "except that all and that follows and inserting a period.".

SEC. 1504. DURABILITY AND READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS.

Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(7) DURABILITY AND READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS.—

"(A) DURABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PAPER BALLOTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—All voter-verifiable paper ballots required to be used under this Act shall be marked or printed on durable paper.

"(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, paper is "durable" if it is capable of withstand multiple counts and recounts by hand without compromising the fundamental integrity of the ballots, and capable of retaining the information marked or printed on them for the full duration of a retention and preservation period of 22 months.

"(B) READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PAPER BALLOTS.—All voter-verifiable paper ballots completed by the voter through the use of a ballot marking device shall be clearly readable by the voter without assistance (other than eyeglasses or other personal vision enhancing devices) and by an optical character recognition device or other device equipped for individuals with disabilities.".

SEC. 1505. STATEWIDE COUNCIL AND REPORT ON OPTIMAL BALLOT DESIGN.

(a) STUDY.—The Election Assistance Commission shall conduct a study of the best ways to design state-specific ballots for public office elections, including paper ballots and electronic or digitalballots, to minimize confusion and user errors.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2022, the Election Assistance Commission shall provide to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

"(II) TREATMENT OF BALLOT.—Any paper ballot which is cast by an individual under this clause shall be counted and otherwise treated as a regular ballot for all purposes (including by incorporation into it the votes for the presidential or vice presidential candidate for whom the individual voted on the print or punch ballot if such candidate appears on the ballot in the election held in the State); and each paper ballot which is cast by an individual shall be counted and otherwise treated as a regular ballot for all purposes (including by incorporation into it the votes for the presidential or vice presidential candidate for whom the individual voted on the print or punch ballot if such candidate appears on the ballot in the election held in the State)."

SEC. 1601. REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM AND NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082) is amended—

"(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and

"(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsections:

"(II) PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY.—The requirements described in this subsection apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.

"(III) POSTING OF NOTICE.—The appropriate chief State election official shall ensure there is prominently displayed at each polling place a notice which describes the official’s obligation to offer the individual the opportunity to cast votes using a pre-printed blank paper ballot.

"(IV) TRAINING OF ELECTION OFFICIALS.—The chief State election official of each State shall ensure that election officials at polling places in the State are aware of the requirements of this clause, including the requirement to display a notice as described in paragraph (ii), and are aware that it is a violation of the requirements of this title for an election official to fail to offer an individual the opportunity to cast a vote using a blank pre-printed paper ballot.

"(V) PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY.—The requirements described in this subsection apply only during the period in which the delay is in effect under clause (i).

"(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR JURISDICTIONS USING CERTAIN NONTABULATING BALLOT MARKING DEVICES.—In the case of a jurisdiction which uses a non-tabulating ballot marking device which automatically deposits the ballot into a privacy sleeve, subparagraph (A) shall apply to a voting machine or system in the jurisdiction as if the reference in such subparagraph to ‘‘any election for Federal office held in 2022 or any succeeding year’’ were a reference to ‘‘elections for Federal office occurring in 2022 or each succeeding year’’, but only with respect to paragraph (3)(B)(iii)(II) of subsection (a) (relating to nonmanual casting of the durable paper ballot)."

Subtitle G—Provisional Ballots

SEC. 1603. REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM AND NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082) is amended—

"(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and

"(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsections:

"(II) STATEWIDE COUNCIL OF PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(4), notwithstanding the precinct or polling place at which a provisional ballot is cast with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2022 or each succeeding year, the chief State election official shall ensure that the appropriate chief State election official of the jurisdiction in which the individual who cast such ballot is eligible to vote.

"(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.

"(e) UNIFORM AND NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the requirements of this section, each State shall establish uniform and nondiscriminatory standards for the issuance, handling, and counting of provisional ballots.

"(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.

"(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21082(f)), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by striking ‘‘Each State’’ and inserting ‘‘Except as provided in subsections (a)(2) and (c) of this section’’.

Subtitle H—Early Voting

SEC. 1611. EARLY VOTING.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C.
Voting to All Voters.—

(a) Uniform Availability of Absentee Voting to All Voters.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an individual in a State is eligible to cast a ballot by mail under any provision of Federal law, a State shall ensure that each polling place which allows voting during an early voting period under subsection (a) shall—

(1) allow such voting for no less than 10 hours each day;

(2) have uniform hours each day for which such voting occurs; and

(3) allow such voting to be held for some period prior to 9:00 a.m. (local time) and some period of time after 5:00 p.m. (local time).

(2) Location of Polling Places.—

(1) Proximity to Public Transportation.—To the extent practicable, a State shall ensure that each polling place which allows voting during an early voting period under subsection (a) is located within walking distance of a public transportation route.

(2) Availability in Rural Areas.—The State shall ensure that polling places which allow voting during an early voting period under subsection (a) will be located in rural areas of the State, and shall ensure that such polling places are located in communities which will provide the greatest opportunity for residents of rural areas to vote during the early voting period.

(3) Standards.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall issue standards for the administration of voting prior to the day scheduled for a Federal election. Such standards shall include nondiscriminatory individual requirement of polling places at which such voting occurs.

(2) Deviation.—The standards described in paragraph (1) shall permit States, upon providing the Commission with notice, to deviate from any requirement in the case of unforeseen circumstances such as a natural disaster, terrorist attack, or a change in voter turnout.

(e) Ballot Processing and Scanning Requirements.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The State shall begin processing and scanning ballots cast during in-person early voting, or tabulation at least 14 days prior to the date of the election involved.

(2) Limitation.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to permit a State to tabulate ballots prior to the closing of the polls on the date of the election.

(f) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Issuance of Voluntary Guidance by Election Assistance Commission.—Section 321(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 2101(b)), as redesignated and amended by section 1101(a), and section 1101(b), is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3); and

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and substituting a semicolon therefor.

Subtitle I—Voting by Mail

SECTION 306. Voting by Mail.

(a) Requirements.—Section 306 of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1101(a), and section 1101(b), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 306 and 307 as sections 306 and 308; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 305 the following new item:

“Sec. 306. Voting by Mail.”

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall issue voluntary guidance to States to ensure that voting by mail is available to all voters.

(2) Limitation.—Nothing in this subsection shall apply to the jurisdiction that is the subject of a court order issued by the State to verify the signatures of voters, such election official, prior to making a final determination as to the validity of such ballot, shall—

(1) make a good faith effort to immediately notify the individual by mail, telephone, and (if available) text message and electronic mail the discrepancies and defects.

(2) A state or other official record or document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters, such election official, prior to making a final determination as to the validity of such ballot, shall—

(1) make a good faith effort to immediately notify the individual by mail, telephone, and (if available) text message and electronic mail the discrepancies and defects.

(2) If such discrepancy is not cured prior to the expiration of the 10-day period which begins on the date the official notifies the individual of the discrepancy, such ballot will not be counted; and

(3) cure such discrepancy and count the ballot if, prior to the expiration of the 10-day period described in clause (i)(II), the individual provides the official with information to cure such discrepancy, either in person, by telephone, or by electronic methods.

(4) Notice and Opportunity to Cure Missed Deadline or Other Defect.—If an individual submits an absentee ballot without a signature or submits an absentee ballot with another defect which, if lost secured, would cause the ballot to not be counted as a proper State or local election official, prior to making a final determination as to the validity of the ballot, shall—

(1) make a good faith effort to immediately notify the individual by mail, telephone, and (if available) text message and electronic mail the discrepancies and defects;

(2) count the ballot if, prior to the expiration of the 10-day period described in clause (i)(II), the individual provides the official with information to cure such discrepancy from a form prescribed by the State or cures the other defect.

This subsection does not apply with respect to a ballot consisting of a regularly scheduled general election to meet the applicable deadline for the acceptance of the ballot, as described in subsection (e).

(C) Other Requirements.—An election official may not make a determination that a discrepancy exists between the signature on an absentee ballot and the signature of the individual who submitted the ballot on the official list of registered voters, or another official record or other document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters unless—

(1) at least 2 election officials make the determination;

(2) each official who makes the determination has received training in procedures used to verify signatures; and

(3) at least one is affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the most votes in the most recent general election for Federal office held in the State and at least one is affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the second most votes in the most recent general election for Federal office held in the State.

(f) Report.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the end of a Federal election cycle, each Chief State election official shall submit to Congress and the Commission a report containing
the following information for the applicable Federal election cycle in the State:

"(i) The number of ballots invalidated due to a discrepancy under this subsection.

"(ii) The number of ballots that were treated by the State as undeliverable.

"(iii) The number of ballots that were returned due to a discrepancy.

"(iv) The number of ballots returned after the deadline.

"(v) The number of ballots that were not counted due to a discrepancy.

"(vi) The number of ballots that were considered to be undelivered.

"(vii) The number of ballots that were returned by mail.

"(viii) The number of ballots that were returned by hand delivery.

"(ix) The number of ballots that were returned by electronic means.

"(x) The number of ballots that were returned by other means.

"(B) BALLOT APPLICATIONS BY MAIL.—(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may adopt a process for submitting to an election official in the State an application to vote by absentee ballot for an election.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any application to vote by absentee ballot for an election shall meet the following requirements:

"(A) The individual submitting the application shall provide the election official with the following information:

"(i) The individual’s name, address, and voter identification number.

"(ii) The date of the election for which the individual is applying to vote by absentee ballot.

"(iii) A statement that the individual will vote only by absentee ballot.

"(B) The election official shall process the application and return it to the individual.

"(C) BALLOT PROCESSING AND SCANNING REQUIREMENTS.—In general, the ballot processing and scanning requirements for absentee ballots shall be the same as those for ballots cast in person.

"(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a State or local jurisdiction from implementing additional requirements to ensure the integrity of the election.

"(E) UNIFORM DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may not require the receipt of an application to vote by absentee ballot for an election before the date of the election.

"(2) DEADLINE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Standards shall publish the standards for the acceptance of absentee ballots.

"(F) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The National Institute of Standards shall solicit comments from the public on the standards published under paragraph (1).

"(G) SEC. 308. ABSENTEE BALLOT TRACKING PROGRAM.—(1) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 161(a), section 110(a), section 161(a), and section 162(a), is amended—

"(a) by redesignating sections 309 and 308 as sections 399 and 397, respectively;

"(b) by inserting after section 307 the following new section:

"(c) by inserting after section 307 the following new section:

"(d) by inserting after section 307 the following new section:
track and confirm the receipt of such ballots, and makes information on the receipt of such ballots available to the individual who cast the ballot, by means of online access using the Internet."

"(b) INFORMATION ON WHETHER VOTE WAS CAST—The information referred to under subsection (a) with respect to an absentee ballot shall include information regarding whether the vote cast on the ballot was accepted, and, in the case of a vote which was rejected, reasons therefore.

"(c) USE OF TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER BY OFFICIALS WITHOUT INTERNET SITE.—A program established by a State or local election official that does not have an Internet site may meet the requirements of subsection (a) if the official has established a toll-free telephone number that may be used by an individual who cast an absentee ballot to obtain the information on the receipt of the voted absentee ballot as provided under such subsection.

"(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

"(e) United States for Costs Incurred in Establishing Program.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART 7—PAYMENTS TO REIMBURSE STATES FOR COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO TRACK AND CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

"SEC. 297. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

"(a) Payments For Costs of Program.—In accordance with this section, the Commission shall make a payment to a State to reimburse the State for the costs incurred in establishing the absentee ballot tracking program under section 308 (including costs incurred prior to the date of enactment of this part).

"(b) Certification of Compliance and Costs.—

"(1) Certification Required.—In order to receive a payment under this section, a State shall submit to the Commission a statement containing—

"(A) a certification that the State has established an absentee ballot tracking program with respect to elections for Federal office held in the State; and

"(B) a statement of the costs incurred by the State in establishing the program.

"(2) Amount of Payment.—The amount of a payment made to a State under this section shall be equal to the costs incurred by the State in establishing the absentee ballot tracking program, as set forth in the statement submitted under paragraph (1), except that such amount may not exceed the product of—

"(A) the number of jurisdictions in the State which are responsible for operating the program; and

"(B) $3,000.

"(c) Limit on Number of Payments Received.—A State may not receive more than one payment under this section.

"SEC. 297A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) Authorization.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary for payments under this part.

"(b) Continuing Availability of Funds.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this section shall remain available until expended.

"(c) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 101(c), section 110(d), section 161(c), and section 162(b), is amended—

"(1) by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

"PART 7—PAYMENTS TO REIMBURSE STATES FOR COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO TRACK AND CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

"Sec. 297. Payments to States.

"Sec. 297A. Authorization of appropriations.

"(2) by redesigning the items relating to sections 308 and 309 as relating to sections 309 and 310; and

"(3) by inserting after the item relating to section 307 the following new item:

"Sec. 308. Absentee ballot tracking program.

"SEC. 1625. VOTING MATERIALS POSTAGE.

"(a) Prepayment of Postage on Return Envelopes.—

"Sec. 297A. Authorization of appropriations.

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), and section 1622(a), is amended—

"(A) by redesigning sections 309 and 310 as sections 310 and 311; and

"(B) by inserting after section 308 the following new section:

"Sec. 309. Prepayment of postage on return envelopes for voting materials.

"(1) Provision of Return Envelopes.—The appropriate State or local election official shall provide a self-sealing return envelope with—

"(i) any address the voter is required to provide under subsection (a) with respect to the receipt of an absentee ballot tracked under this section; and

"(ii) any information the voter may need for transmission to the appropriate official.

"(2) Prepayment of Postage.—Consistent with regulations of the United States Postal Service, the State or the unit of local government responsible for the administration of the election involved shall prepay the postage on any envelope provided under subsection (a).

"(3) No Effect on Ballots or Balloting Materials Transmitted toAbsentMilitaryandOverseasVoters.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the treatment of any ballot or balloting materials transmitted to an individual who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

"(b) Personalized Materials Transmitted to Absent Military and Overseas Voters.—The term "personalized materials transmitted to absent military and overseas voters" means any material that is designed that the Postal Service may promulgate by regulation.

"(c) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the treatment of any ballot or balloting materials transmitted to an individual who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

"(2) Mail-in Ballots and Postal Service Barcode Service.—

"(A) In General.—Section 3001 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(1) Any ballot sent within the United States for an election for Federal office is mailable and is not subject to any treatment that is not the same as the treatment of other First-Class Mail carried in accordance with the service standards for such mail.

"(2) The date on which the ballot was mailed.

"(3) Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the treatment of any ballot or balloting materials transmitted to an individual who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

"(3) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections for chapter 34 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3406 the following:

"3407. Voting materials.

"Subtitle J—Absentee Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters

"SEC. 1701. Pre-Election Reports on Availability, Transmission, and Availability of Absentee Ballots.

"Section 102(c) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(c)) is amended to read as follows:

"(c) Reports on Availability, Transmission, and Receipt of Absentee Ballots.—

"(1) Pre-Election Report on Absentee Ballot Availability.—Not later than 55 days before any regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State shall submit a report to the Attorney General, Secretary of State, and the President (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the 'Commission'), and the Presidential Designee, and make that report publicly available that same day, certifying that absentee ballots for the election are or will be available for transmission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters by not later than 45 days before the election. The report shall be in a form prescribed jointly by the Attorney General and the Commission and shall require the State to certify specific information about ballot availability from the State and government which will administer the election.

"(2) Pre-Election Report on Absentee Ballot Transmission.—Not later than 45 days before the election for Federal office, each State shall submit a report to the Attorney General, and the Commission, and
the Presidential Designee, and make that report publicly available that same day, certifying whether all absentee ballots have been transmitted by not later than 45 days before the election to each absentee voter and overseas voters whose requests were received at least 45 days before the election. The report shall be in a form prescribed jointly by the Attorney General and the Commission. The report shall require the State to certify specific information about ballot transmission, including the total numbers of ballot requests received and ballots transmitted, from each unit of local government which will administer the election.

“(3) POST-ELECTION REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED.—Section 105 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act of 1984 (22 U.S.C. 20307) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 105. ENFORCEMENT.

“(a) ACTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring civil action in an appropriate district court in any case in which the State violates any provision of this section.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any civil action brought under paragraph (1) shall be commenced not later than 90 days after the date on which the State transmits the ballots described in that subsection to the voter.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any election for Federal office held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

“(c) REMEDIES.—In addition to any other civil or criminal remedies, the Attorney General may bring civil action in an appropriate district court in any case in which the State violates this section, to compel the State to take such actions as the Attorney General finds necessary to ensure that the absentee ballots of the State are transmitted to federal officials in accordance with this section, and to provide such additional relief as the Attorney General finds necessary to ensure that the absentee ballots of the State are transmitted to federal officials in accordance with this section.

“(d) LIMITATION.—The remedies available to the Attorney General under this section are in addition to any other remedies available under law.

“(e) NOTICE.—The Attorney General shall provide notice of the commencement of any action brought under this section to the State before the State takes any action with respect to absentee ballots that may be affected by such action. The Attorney General shall provide such notice in a form prescribed by the Attorney General.

“(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any election for Federal office held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

“SEC. 1702. ENFORCEMENT.

“(a) AVAILABILITY OF CIVIL PENALTIES AND PAYMENT OF COSTS.—Section 106 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (22 U.S.C. 20307) is amended by striking ‘‘(a)’’ and inserting ‘‘(a) requiring State and local government officials to comply with this section and to report to the Attorney General on their compliance with this section.’’.

“(b) REMEDIES.—In any civil action brought under this section, the Attorney General may, in an amount not to exceed $100,000 for each such violation, assess a penalty against the State.

“(c) LIMITATION.—The remedies available to the Attorney General under this section are in addition to any other remedies available under law.

“(d) NOTICE.—The Attorney General shall provide notice of the commencement of any action brought under this section to the State before the State takes any action with respect to absentee ballots that may be affected by such action. The Attorney General shall provide such notice in a form prescribed by the Attorney General.

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by section 106(b) shall apply with respect to any election for Federal office held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

“SEC. 1703. REVISIONS TO 45-DAY ABSENTEE BALLOT TRANSMISSION RULE.

“(a) REPEAL AND REPEAL.—Sections 102(a)(4)(A) and 102(b)(3)(B) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 20302(a)(4)(A) and 20302(b)(3)(B)) are amended by striking ‘‘as provided in subsection (g).’’.

“(b) REQUIRING USE OF EXPRESS DELIVERY IN CASE OF FAILURE TO MEET REQUIREMENT.—Section 102(a)(4)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 20302(a)(4)(A)) is amended by striking ‘‘as provided in subsection (g).’’.

“(c) PROHIBITION OF REFUSAL OF APPLICATION ON GROUNDS OF EARLY SUBMISSION.—A State may not refuse to accept or to process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any other application for absentee ballot (including the postcard form prescribed under section 101) submitted by a State for any election for Federal office held in the State after the date of the enactment of this Act.

“(d) REMEDIES.—In any civil action brought under this section, the Attorney General may, in an amount not to exceed $100,000 for each such violation, assess a penalty against the State.

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any election for Federal office held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

“SEC. 1704. USE OF SINGLE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (22 U.S.C. 20304) is amended by striking ‘‘in an election held before the date of the enactment of this Act.’’

“(b) CONVERTING AMENDMENT.—Section 102(a)(4)(A) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 20302(a)(4)(A)) is amended by striking ‘‘except as provided in subsection (g).’’

“(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Any civil action brought under this section, the Attorney General may, in an amount not to exceed $100,000 for each such violation, assess a penalty against the State.
may constitute grounds for conviction of perjury.

“(4) Clarification regarding free postal age.—An absentee ballot obtained by a qualified individual under this section shall be considered balloting materials as defined in section 107 for purposes of section 3406 of title 39, United States Code.

“(5) Prohibiting refusal to accept ballot for failure to meet certain requirements.—A State shall not refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid blank absentee ballot which was timely submitted to a State under this section by the individual to vote in the election solely on the basis of the following:

“(A) Notarization or witness signature requirements.

“(B) Restrictions on paper type, including weight and size.

“(C) Restrictions on envelope type, including weight and size.

“(D) Addressed individual.

“(1) In general.—In this section, except as provided in paragraph (2), the term ‘qualified individual’ means any individual who is otherwise eligible to vote in the election for Federal office and who meets any of the following requirements:

“(A) The individual—

“(i) has previously requested an absentee ballot from the State or jurisdiction in which such individual is registered to vote; and

“(ii) has not previously requested an absentee ballot at least 2 days before the date of the election.

“(B) The individual—

“(i) resides in an area of a State with respect to which an emergency or public health emergency has been declared by the chief executive of the State or of the area involved within 5 days of the date of the election under the laws of the State due to reasons including a natural disaster, including severe weather, or an infectious disease; and

“(ii) has not previously requested an absentee ballot.

“(C) The individual expects to be absent from such individual’s jurisdiction on the date of the election due to professional or volunteer service in response to a natural disaster or emergency as described in subparagraph (B).

“(D) The individual is hospitalized or expects to be hospitalized.

“(E) The individual is an individual with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) and resides in a State which does not allow2 absentee ballots for the use of qualified individuals described in such section.

“(c) Clerical amendments.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting the following after section 103:

“Sec. 101A. Procedures for collection and delivery of printed absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters.

“Sec. 101B. Federal voting assistance program.

“Sec. 101C. Transmission of blank absentee ballots to certain other voters.”.

“Sec. 1707. Effective date.

“Except as provided in section 1702(b) and section 1704(b), the amendments made by this sub- title shall apply with respect to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

Subtitle K—Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

“Sec. 1801. Grants to States for Poll Worker Recruitment and Training.

“(a) Grants by Election Assistance Commission.

“(1) In general.—The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter referred to as the ‘Commission’) shall, subject to the availability of appropriations provided to carry out this section, make a grant to each eligible State for recruiting and training individuals to serve as poll workers on dates of elections for public office.

“(2) Use of Commission materials.—In carrying out activities with a grant provided under this section, the recipient of the grant shall use the materials prepared by the Commission on successful practices for poll worker recruiting, training and retention as an interactive training tool, and shall develop training programs with the participation and input of experts in adult learning.

“(3) Access and cultural considerations.—The Commission shall ensure that the manual described in paragraph (2) provides training in methods that will enable poll workers to provide access and delivery of services in a culturally competent manner to all voters who use their services, including those with limited English proficiency, diverse cultural and ethnic back- grounds, disabilities, and regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. These methods must ensure that each voter will have access to poll worker services that are delivered in a manner that meets the unique needs of the voter.

“(4) Requirements for eligibility.—

“(A) Application.—Each State that desires to receive a payment under this section shall submit an application to the Commission at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Commission shall require.

“(B) Contents of application.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

“(i) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

“(ii) insure that the funds provided under this section will be used to supple- ment and not supplant other funds used to carry out the activities;

“(iii) provide assurance that the State will furnish the Commission with information on the number of individuals who served as poll workers after receiving training with the funds provided under this section; and

“(iv) provide such additional information and certifications as the Commission determines to be necessary to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

“(c) Amount of grant.—

“(1) In general.—The amount of a grant made to a State under this section shall be equal to the product of—

“(A) the aggregate amount made available for grants to States under this section; and

“(B) the voting age population percentage for the State.

“(2) Voting age population percentage defined.—The voting age population percentage for a State is the quotient of—

“(A) the voting age population of the State (as determined on the basis of the most recent information available from the Bureau of the Census); and

“(B) the total voting age population of all States (as determined on the basis of the most recent information available from the Bureau of the Census).

“(2) Reports to Congress.—

“(1) Reports by recipients of grants.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the final grant is made under this section, each recipient of a grant shall submit to the Commission a report on the activities conducted with the funds provided by the grant.

“(2) Reports by Commission.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the final grant is made under this section, the Commission shall submit a report to Congress on the grants made under this section and the activities carried out by recipients with the grants, and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate.

“(e) Funding.—

“(1) Continuing availability of amount appropriated.—Any amount appropriated to carry out this section shall remain available without fiscal year limitation until expended.

“(2) Administrative expenses.—Of the amount appropriated for any fiscal year to carry out this section, not more than 3 percent shall be available for administrative expenses of the Commission.

“Sec. 1802. State defined.

“In this subtitle, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Subtitle L—Enhancement of Enforcement


“(a) Complaints; availability of private right of action.—Section 401 of the Help Americans Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended—

“(1) by striking ‘The Attorney General’ and inserting ‘(a) In general.—The Attorney General’; and

“(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(b) Filing of complaints by aggrieved person.—

“(1) In general.—A person who is aggrieved by a violation of title III which has occurred, or is about to occur, may file a writ- ten complaint, stating that the individual is aggrieved by a violation of title III and making a demand for injunctive relief, with the Attorney General describing the violation and requesting the Attorney General to take appropriate action under this section. The Attorney General shall immediately provide a copy of the complaint filed under the previous sentence to the entity responsible for administering the State-based administrative complaint procedures described in section 402(a) for the State involved.

“(2) Response by Attorney General.—The Attorney General shall respond to each complaint filed under paragraph (1) without fiscal year limitation and, consistent with procedures established by the Attorney General that require responses and determinations to be made within the same (or shorter) deadlines which apply to a State under the State-based administrative complaint procedures described in section 402(a), the Attorney General shall immediately provide a copy of the response filed under the previous sentence to the entity responsible for administering the State-based administrative complaint procedures described in section 402(a) for the State involved.

“(c) Availability of private right of action.—Any person who is authorized to file a complaint under subsection (b)(1) (including any individual who seeks to exercise an individual’s right to a voter-verified paper ballot, the right to have the voter-verified paper ballot

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counted in accordance with this Act, or any other right under title II) may file an action under section 797 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (42 U.S.C. 1983) to enforce the uniform interpretation of the State’s election law and the application of the State’s election technology and administration requirements under subsection A of title II.

"(D) No Effect on State Procedures.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the administration of the State’s election rules or procedures required under section 402 to any person filing a complaint under this subsection.

(2) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.

Subtitle M—Federal Election Integrity

SEC. 1921. PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 319 the following new section:

"CAMPAGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

"(a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for a chief State election administration official to take an active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any candidate for Federal office held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

(2) Chiefs of State Election Administration Official.—The chief chief State election administration official means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(3) Political Management or Political Campaign.—The term ‘political management or political campaign’ means—

"(A) holding any position (including any unpaid or honorary position) with an authorized committee of a candidate, or participating in any decision-making of an authorized committee of a candidate;

"(B) the use of official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election for Federal office;

"(C) the acceptance, receipt, or offering of a contribution from any person on behalf of a candidate for Federal office; or

"(D) any act which would be prohibited under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 722(b) of title 5, if taken by an individual to whom such paragraph applies (other than any prohibition on running for public office).

"(e) Exception in Case of Reusal From Administration of Elections Involving Official or Immediate Family Member.—

"(f) Responsibilities of Chief State Election Administration Officials.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

(2) Chiefs of State Election Administration Official.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(3) Active Part in Political Management or in a Political Campaign.—The term ‘active part in political management or in a political campaign’ means—

"(A) holding any position (including any unpaid or honorary position) with an authorized committee of a candidate, or participating in any decision-making of an authorized committee of a candidate;

"(B) the use of official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election for Federal office;

"(C) the acceptance, receipt, or offering of a contribution from any person on behalf of a candidate for Federal office; or

"(D) any act which would be prohibited under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 722(b) of title 5, if taken by an individual to whom such paragraph applies (other than any prohibition on running for public office).

"(e) Exception in Case of Reusal From Administration of Elections Involving Official or Immediate Family Member.—

"(1) In General.—This section does not apply to a chief State election administration official with respect to an election for Federal office in which the official or an immediate family member of the official is a candidate, but only if—

"(A) such official recuses himself or herself from all of the official’s responsibilities for the administration of such election, and

"(B) the official who assumes responsibility for supervising the administration of the election does not report directly to such official.

"(2) Immediate Family Member Defined.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘immediate family member’ means, with respect to a candidate, a father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held after December 2021.

Subtitle N—Promoting Voter Access Through Election Administration Improvements

PART 1—PROMOTING VOTER ACCESS

SEC. 1901. TREATMENT OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES UNDER NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT OF 1993.—Section 7(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (2 U.S.C. 7(a)) is amended—

"(1) in paragraph (2)—

"(A) by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end of subparagraph (A); and

(b) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting ‘‘; and’’;

and (c) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) each institution of higher education which has a program participation agreement in effect with the Secretary of Education under section 877 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087c), or any institution which includes a program participation agreement under section 877 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087c), after assistance,’’.

(b) CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(c) ACTIVE PART IN POLITICAL MANAGEMENT OR IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.—The term ‘active part in political management or in a political campaign’ means—

"(1) holding any position (including any unpaid or honorary position) with an authorized committee of a candidate, or participating in any decision-making of an authorized committee of a candidate;

"(2) the use of official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election for Federal office;

"(3) the acceptance, receipt, or offering of a contribution from any person on behalf of a candidate for Federal office; and

"(4) any other act which would be prohibited under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 722(b) of title 5, if taken by an individual to whom such paragraph applies (other than any prohibition on running for public office).

(2) Chiefs of State Election Administration Official.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for a chief State election administration official to take an active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any candidate for Federal office held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

(2) Chiefs of State Election Administration Official.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(c) ACTIVE PART IN POLITICAL MANAGEMENT OR IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.—The term ‘active part in political management or in a political campaign’ means—

"(1) holding any position (including any unpaid or honorary position) with an authorized committee of a candidate, or participating in any decision-making of an authorized committee of a candidate;

"(2) the use of official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election for Federal office;

"(3) the acceptance, receipt, or offering of a contribution from any person on behalf of a candidate for Federal office; and

"(4) any other act which would be prohibited under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 722(b) of title 5, if taken by an individual to whom such paragraph applies (other than any prohibition on running for public office).

(2) Chiefs of State Election Administration Official.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(a) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for a chief State election administration official to take an active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any candidate for Federal office held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

SEC. 1902. MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE CHANGES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20502), as amended by section 2601(a), is amended—

"(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e); and

"(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

"(f) MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE CHANGES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State assigns an individual who is a registered voter in a State to a polling place with respect to an election for Federal office which is not the same polling place to which the individual was previously assigned with respect to the most recent election for Federal office in the State in which the individual was eligible to vote—

"(A) the State shall notify the individual of the location of the polling place not later than 30 days before the date of the first day of an early voting period (whichever occurs first); or
“(B) if the State makes such an assignment fewer than 7 days before the date of the election and the individual appears on the date of the election at the polling place to which the individual was assigned, the State shall make every reasonable effort to enable the individual to vote on the date of the election.

(2) METHODS OF NOTIFICATION.—The State shall provide, through a government official, under subparagraph (A) (of paragraph (1) by mail, telephone, and (if available) text message and electronic mail.

(3) PLACEMENT OF SIGNS AT CLOSED POLLING PLACES.—If a location which served as a polling place in an election for Federal office does not serve as a polling place in the next election for Federal office held in the jurisdiction involved, the State shall close polling places at such location on the date of the election and during any early voting period for the election containing the following information:

(A) A statement that the location is not serving as a polling place in the election,

(B) The locations serving as polling places in the election in the jurisdiction involved.

“(C) Contact information, including a telephone number and website, for the appropriate State or local election official through which an individual may find the polling place to which the individual is assigned for the election.

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2021.''

(b) REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE A STATEMENT TO MEET IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING.—

SEC. 303A. PERMITTING USE OF SWORN WRITTEN STATEMENT TO MEET IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING.

(a) PERMITTING USE OF STATEMENT.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (S 2215 (1601) (section 302(b)(2) of such Act (2 United States Code 201082(b)), as amended by section 1072(b) and section 1202(b), is amended—

(I) by striking “(d)(2) and

(II) that person or Tribal Government provides written notice of the violation to the Tribal Government to, the Congress.

(2) METHODS OF NOTIFICATION.—Nothing in this section alters the ability of an individual voter residing on Indian lands to request a ballot in a manner available to all other voters in the State.

DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(A) ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.—The term “election for Federal office” means a general, special, primary or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

(B) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 United States Code 3304).

(C) INDIAN LANDS.—The term “Indian lands” includes—

(i) any Indian country of an Indian Tribe, as defined under section 1151 of title 18, United States Code;

(ii) any land in Alaska owned, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (4 United States Code 16101 et seq.), by an Indian Tribe that is available for public use or other federal purposes, and that is located in Indian Country;

(iii) any Indian lands on which the seat of the Tribal Government is located; and

(iv) any land that is part or all of a Tribal designated statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, or is a portion of the Alaska Native village statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, as defined by the Census Bureau for the purposes of the most recent decennial census.

(D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian Tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 United States Code 3304).

(E) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal Government” means the recognized governing body of an Indian Tribe.

(7) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to carry out this subsection.

(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person or Tribal Government who is aggrieved by a violation of this subsection may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to a violation of this subsection, if—

(I) that person or Tribal Government provides the notice described in clause (i); and

(II) the person or Tribal Government is located in the same precinct as that voter. If there is no tribally designated building within a voter’s precinct, the voter may use another tribally designated building within the Indian lands where the voter is located. Voters using a tribally designated building outside of the voter’s precinct may use the tribally designated building as a polling place for an election for Federal office, the voter’s appropriate precinct through a description of the voter’s address, as specified in section 9428.4(a)(2) of title 11, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.—In the case of a State or political subdivision that is a covered State or political subdivision under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (2 United States Code 10503), as amended, the provisions of this section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after the date of enactment of the Act (43 United States Code 1602) or by a Village Corporation that is associated with an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 3 of that Act (43 United States Code 1602));

(ii) any land on which the seat of the Tribal Government is located; and

(iii) any land that is part or all of a Tribal designated statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, or is a portion of the Alaska Native village statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, as defined by the Census Bureau for the purposes of the most recent decennial census.

(E) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal Government” means the recognized governing body of an Indian Tribe.

(7) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to carry out this subsection.

(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person or Tribal Government who is aggrieved by a violation of this subsection may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to a violation of this subsection, if—

(I) that person or Tribal Government provides the notice described in clause (i); and

(II) the person or Tribal Government is located in the same precinct as that voter. If there is no tribally designated building within a voter’s precinct, the voter may use another tribally designated building within the Indian lands where the voter is located. Voters using a tribally designated building outside of the voter’s precinct may use the tribally designated building as a polling place for an election for Federal office, the voter’s appropriate precinct through a description of the voter’s address, as specified in section 9428.4(a)(2) of title 11, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.—In the case of a State or political subdivision that is a covered
or Tribal Government may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation without providing notice to the chief election official of the political subdivision.

(b) BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 103(a), 110(a), 1611(a), 1621(a), and 1622(a), and section 1622(a), is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(C), by striking “1990” and inserting “2019”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

(c) PROVISION OF VOTING MATERIALS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY GROUP.—

“(1) In the case of any State or political subdivision subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) of this section provides any registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other information relating to the electoral process, including ballots, it shall provide them in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language.

“(2) Exceptions.—

“(A) In the case of a minority group that is not American Indian or Alaska Native and the language of that minority group is oral or unwritten, the State or political subdivision shall only be required to furnish, in the covered language, oral instructions, assistance, or other information relating to registration and voting.

“(B) In the case of a minority group that is American Indian or Alaska Native, the State or political subdivision shall only be required to furnish, in the covered language oral instructions, assistance, or other information relating to registration and voting materials, if the Tribal Government of that minority group has certified that the language of the applicable American Indian or Alaska Native language is presently unwritten or the Tribal Government does not want written translations in the minority language.

“(3) COLLATERAL INFORMATION ON THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY GROUP.—The Attorney General shall coordinate the collection of information on State and local election laws and policies, including information on the standardized voter registration lists maintained under title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, so that individuals who contact the free telephone service established under paragraph (2) on the date of an election for Federal office may receive an immediate response on that day.

“(4) FORWARDING QUESTIONS AND COMPLAINTS TO STATES.—The Attorney General shall coordinate in making appointments to the Task Force under this section, and shall give special consideration in making appointments to the Task Force to representatives of American Indian or Alaska Native organizations, voting rights groups, State and local election officials, voter protection groups, and other interested community organizations, especially those that have experience in the operation of similar systems.

“(5) USE OF SERVICE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR LIMITED ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY.—The Attorney General shall design and operate the telephone service established under this section in a manner that ensures that individuals with disabilities are fully able to use the service, and that assistance is provided in any language in which the State (or any jurisdiction in the State) is required to provide election materials under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(c) HOTLINE.—

(1) APPOINTMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall appoint individuals (in such number as the Attorney General considers appropriate but in no event fewer than 3) to serve on a Voter Hotline Task Force to provide ongoing analysis and assessment of the operation of the telephone service established under this section, and shall give special consideration in making appointments to the Task Force to representatives of American Indian or Alaska Native organizations. At least one member of the Task Force shall be a representative of an organization promoting voting rights or civil rights organizations. The Attorney General may appoint individuals to each regional task force based on the telephone service or in protecting the rights of individuals to vote, especially individuals who are members of racial, ethnic, or linguistic minorities or communities who have been adversely affected by efforts to suppress voting rights.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual shall be eligible to serve on the Task Force under this subsection if the individual meets such criteria as the Attorney General may establish, except that an individual may not serve on the task force if the individual has been convicted of any crime involving voter intimidation or voter suppression.

(d) TERMINATION OF SERVICE.—An individual appointed to the Task Force shall serve a single term of 2 years, except that the initial terms of the members first appointed to the Task Force shall be staggered so that there are at least 3 individuals serving on the Task Force during each year. A vacancy in the membership of the Task Force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(e) NO COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE.—Members of the Task Force shall serve without pay, but shall be entitled to travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable provisions under subchapter 1 of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than March 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress on the operation of the telephone service established under this section during the preceding 2 years, and shall include in the report—

(1) an enumeration of the number and type of calls that were received by the service;

(2) a compilation and description of the reports made to the service by individuals citing instances of voter intimidation or suppression, together with a description of any actions taken in response to such instances of voter intimidation or suppression;

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of the service in providing information available to all households in the United States with telephone service;

(4) any recommendations developed by the Task Force established under subsection (c) with respect to how voting systems may be maintained or upgraded to better accommodate voters and better ensure the integrity of elections, including but not limited to identifying how to eliminate coordinated voter suppression efforts and how to establish effective mechanisms for distributing updates on changes to voting requirements; and

(5) any recommendations on best practices for the State-based response systems established under section 301.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General for fiscal year 2021 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(2) SET-ASIDE FOR OUTREACH.—Of the amounts appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year pursuant to this subsection, an amount equal to 10 percent of the amount appropriated for the telephone service established under this section, with an emphasis on outreach to individuals with disabilities and individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.

(h) ENFORCEMENT OF EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF POLLING PLACES.

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 103(a), section 110(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), and section 1622(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 310 and 311 as sections 311 and 312, and

(2) by inserting after section 309 the following new section:

“SEC. 310. ENSURING EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF POLLING PLACES.

“(a) PREVENTING UNREASONABLE WAITING TIMES FOR VOTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall provide a sufficient number of polling places, polling workers, and other election resources (including physical resources) at a polling place used in any election for Federal office, including a polling place at which individuals are required to cast a ballot prior to the date of the election, to ensure—

“(A) a fair and equitable waiting time for all voters in the State; and

“(B) that no individual will be required to wait longer than 30 minutes to cast a ballot at the polling place.
"(2) Criteria.—In determining the number of voting systems, poll workers, and other election resources provided at a polling place for purposes of paragraph (1), the State shall take into account the following factors:

(A) The voting age population.
(B) Voter turnout in past elections.
(C) The number of registered voters.
(D) The number of voters who have registered since the most recent Federal election.
(E) Census data for the population served by the polling place, such as the proportion of the voting-age population who are under 25 years of age or who are naturalized citizens.
(F) The needs and numbers of voters with disabilities and voters with limited English proficiency.
(G) The type of voting systems used.
(H) The length and complexity of initiatives, referenda, and other questions on the ballot.

(4) Other factors, including relevant demographic factors relating to the population served by the polling place, as the State considers appropriate.

(5) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to authorize a State to meet the requirements of this subsection by closing any polling place, prohibiting an individual from entering a line at a polling place, or refusing to permit an individual who has arrived at a polling place prior to closing time from voting at the polling place.

(6) Guidelines.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall establish, and publish guidelines to assist States in meeting the requirements of this subsection.

(7) Effective Date.—This subsection shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this section, without regard to whether or not the Commission has established and published guidelines under paragraph (6).

(b) Limiting Variations in Number of Hours of Operation of Polling Places Within a State.—

"(1) In general.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B) and paragraph (2), each State shall establish hours of operation for all polling places in the State on the date of any election for Federal office held in the State such that the polling place with the greatest number of hours of operation is not in operation for more than two hours longer than the polling place with the fewest number of hours of operation on such date.

(2) Limiting Variance on Basis of Population.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply to the extent that the State establishes variations in the hours of operation of polling places on the basis of the population of the voting age population (as the State may select) of the unit of local government in which such polling places are located.

(3) Exceptions for Polling Places with Hours Established by Units of Local Government.—Paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of a polling place whose hours of operation are established, in accordance with State law, by the unit of local government in which the polling place is located; or

(4) By which is required pursuant to an order by a court to extend its hours of operation beyond the hours otherwise established.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of this title is amended by section 1021(c), section 1101(d), section 1611(c), section 1621(c), section 1622(c), and section 1623(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 311 and 312 as sections 311 and 312; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 309 the following new item:

"Sec. 310. Ensuring equitable and efficient operation of polling places."
(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 312 and 313 as relating to sections 313 and 314; and
(2) by inserting after the item relating to section
313 the new item:
"(3) Requiring participation in post-general election surveys."

SEC. 1925. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.—This Act is further amended by striking the item following the heading: "Section 303B. Requiring participation in post-general election surveys." and inserting the following:
"(e) REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS TRANSFERRED FROM ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—To the extent that funds are transferred from the Commission to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for purposes of conducting research under this section during any fiscal year, the Director may not use such funds unless the Director certifies at the time of transfer that the Director will develop a report to the Commission not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year detailing how the Director used such funds during the year.

SEC. 1926. DEFINITION OF ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.—Title IX of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20925) is amended by striking "(a) DEFINITION.—" and inserting "(a) DEFINITION.—"
"SEC. 907. ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE DEFINED.

"For purposes of titles I through III, the term 'election for Federal office' means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress."

(a) CLARIFYING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IX the following new item:

"Sec. 907. Election for Federal office defined.".

SEC. 930. NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as specifically provided, nothing in this title may be construed to authorize or require conduct prohibited under any of the federal laws, or to supersede, restrict, or limit the application of such laws:

(1) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).
(2) The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).
(3) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).
(b) NO EFFECT ON PRECLEARANCE OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER VOTING RIGHTS ACT.—The approval by any person of a payment or grant for any activity under this title or any other action taken by any person under this title, shall not be considered to have any effect on requirements for preclearance under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10304) or any other requirements of such Act.
(c) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY OF STATES TO PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOTING.—Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title may be construed to prohibit any State from enacting any law which provides greater opportunities for individuals to register to vote and to vote in elections for Federal office than are provided by this title and the amendments made by this title.

Subtitle O—Severability

SEC. 941. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the provision or amendment to which it relates, or any other provision or amendment to which any such provision or amendment relates, as part of a larger whole, shall not be affected by the holding.

TITLE II—ELECTION INTEGRITY

Subtitle A—Findings Reaffirming Commitment of Congress to Restore the Voting Rights Act


Sec. 2004. Findings relating to territorial voting rights.

Sec. 2005. Findings relating to the territorial voting rights.


Sec. 2007. Redistricting Reform.

Sec. 2008. Short title; finding of constitutional authority.

PART I—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Sec. 2401. Requiring congressional redistricting to be conducted through plan of independent State commission.

Sec. 2402. Ban on de facto redistricting.

Sec. 2403. Criteria for redistricting.

PART II—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Sec. 2411. Independent redistricting commission.

Sec. 2412. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.

Sec. 2413. Public notice and input.

Sec. 2414. Establishment of related entities.

Sec. 2415. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

PART III—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS

Sec. 2421. Enactment of plan developed by 3-judge court.

Sec. 2422. Special rule for redistricting conducted under order of Federal court.

PART IV—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 2431. Payment in advance for conducting redistricting.

Sec. 2432. Civil enforcement.

Sec. 2433. Statutory apportionment notice defined.

Sec. 2434. No effect on elections for State and local offices.

Sec. 2435. Effective date.

PART V—REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS

Sec. 2451. Use of independent redistricting commissions for redistricting carried out pursuant to 2020 Census.

Sec. 2452. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.

Sec. 2453. Criteria for redistricting plan; public notice and input.

Sec. 2454. Establishment of related entities.

Sec. 2455. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

Part VI—Saving Eligible Voters From Voter Purging

Sec. 2501. Short title.

Sec. 2502. Conditions for removal of voters from voter rolls.

Sec. 2503. No effect on Authority of States To Provide Greater Opportunities for Voting.

Sec. 2504. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.

Sec. 2505. Criteria for redistricting plan; public notice and input.

Sec. 2506. Establishment of related entities.

Subpart II—Independent Redistricting Commissions for Redistricting Carried Out Pursuant to 2020 Census

Sec. 2451. Use of independent redistricting commissions for redistricting carried out pursuant to 2020 Census.

Sec. 2452. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.

Sec. 2453. Criteria for redistricting plan; public notice and input.

Sec. 2454. Establishment of related entities.

Sec. 2455. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

Subpart II—Redistricting Reforms

Sec. 2501. Short title; finding of constitutional authority.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The right to vote for all Americans is a fundamental right guaranteed by the United States Constitution.
(2) Federal, State, and local governments shall protect the right to vote and promote voter participation across all demographics.
(3) The Voting Rights Act has empowered the Department of Justice under Federal oversight for nearly a half a century to block discriminatory voting practices before their implementation in States and localities with the most troubling histories, ongoing records of racial discrimination, and demonstrations of lower participation rates for protected classes.
(4) There continues to be an alarming movement to erect barriers to make it more difficult for Americans to participate in our Nation’s democratic process. The Nation has witnessed unprecedented efforts to roll back the clock and enact suppressive laws that block access to the franchise for communities of color which have faced historic and continuing discriminations, as well as disabled, young, elderly, and low-income Americans.
(5) The Supreme Court’s decision in Shelby County v. Holder (570 U.S. 529 (2013)), gutted decades of Federal protections for communities of color and language-minority populations facing ongoing discrimination, emboldening States and local jurisdictions to pass voter suppression laws and implement procedures, like those requiring photo identification, limiting early voting hours, eliminating same-day registration, new requirements on the rolls, and reducing the number of polling places.
(6) Racial discrimination in voting is a clear and persistent problem. The actions of States and localities around the country post-Shelby County, including at least 16 findings by Federal courts of intentional discrimination, underscore the need for Congress to conduct investigations and evidentiary hearings to determine the legislation necessary to restore the Voting Rights Act and combat continuing efforts in America that suppress the free exercise of the franchise in Black and other communities of color.

(b) Purpose.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To improve access to the ballot for all citizens.
(2) To establish procedures by which States and localities, in accordance with the procedures, submit voting practice changes for preclearance by the Federal Government.
(3) To enhance the integrity and security of our voting systems.
(4) To ensure greater accountability for the administration of elections by States and localities.
(5) To restore protections for voters against practices in States and localities plagued by the persistence of voter disenfranchisement.

Subtitle B—Findings Relating to Native American Voting Rights

SEC. 2101. FINDINGS RELATING TO NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The 705,000 District of Columbia residents deserve voting representation in Congress and local self-government, which only statehood can provide.
(2) The United States is the only democratic country that denies both voting representation in Congress and local self-government to the residents of its Nation’s capital.
(3) There are no constitutional, historical, fiscal, or economic reasons why the Americans who live in the District of Columbia should not be granted statehood.
(4) Since the founding of the United States, the residents of the District of Columbia have always carried all of the obligations of citizenship, including serving in all of the Nation’s wars and paying Federal taxes, but have been denied voting representation in Congress and freedom from congressional interference in purely local matters.
(5) The District of Columbia pays more Federal taxes per capita than any State and more Federal taxes than 22 States.
(6) The District of Columbia has a larger population than 2 States (Wyoming and Vermont), and 6 States have a population under one million.
(7) The District of Columbia has a larger budget than 12 States.
(8) The Constitution of the United States gives Congress the authority to admit new States (clause 1, section 3, article IV) and reduce the size of the seat of the Government of the United States (clause 17, section 8, article I). All 37 new States have been admitted by an Act of Congress, and Congress has previously reduced the size of the seat of the Government of the United States.
(9) On June 26, 2020, by a vote of 232–180, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which would have admitted the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, and the District of Columbia.
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(11) The Native American Voting Rights Coalition’s four-State survey of voter discrimination (2017–2018) revealed obstacles that Native Americans experience as a result of voter identification laws that discriminate against Native Americans. The Department of Justice and courts have recognized that some jurisdictions have been unresponsive to reasonable requests from federally recognized Indian Tribes for more accessible and proximate voter registration sites and in-person voting locations.
(12) Congress has broad, plenary authority to enact legislation to safeguard the voting rights of Native American voters.
(13) Congress must conduct investigatory and evidentiary hearings to determine the necessary legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act and combat continuous efforts that suppress the voter franchise within Tribal lands, to include, but not limited to, the Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA) and the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA).

Subtitle C—Findings Relating to District of Columbia Statehood

SEC. 2201. FINDINGS RELATING TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The 705,000 District of Columbia residents deserve voting representation in Congress and local self-government, which only statehood can provide.
(2) The United States is the only democratic country that denies both voting representation in Congress and local self-government to the residents of its Nation’s capital.
(3) There are no constitutional, historical, fiscal, or economic reasons why the Americans who live in the District of Columbia should not be granted statehood.
(4) Since the founding of the United States, the residents of the District of Columbia have always carried all of the obligations of citizenship, including serving in all of the Nation’s wars and paying Federal taxes, but have been denied voting representation in Congress and freedom from congressional interference in purely local matters.
(5) The District of Columbia pays more Federal taxes per capita than any State and more Federal taxes than 22 States.
(6) The District of Columbia has a larger population than 2 States (Wyoming and Vermont), and 6 States have a population under one million.
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(8) The Constitution of the United States gives Congress the authority to admit new States (clause 1, section 3, article IV) and reduce the size of the seat of the Government of the United States (clause 17, section 8, article I). All 37 new States have been admitted by an Act of Congress, and Congress has previously reduced the size of the seat of the Government of the United States.
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(11) The Native American Voting Rights Coalition’s four-State survey of voter discrimination (2017–2018) revealed obstacles that Native Americans experience as a result of voter identification laws that discriminate against Native Americans. The Department of Justice and courts have recognized that some jurisdictions have been unresponsive to reasonable requests from federally recognized Indian Tribes for more accessible and proximate voter registration sites and in-person voting locations.
(12) Congress has broad, plenary authority to enact legislation to safeguard the voting rights of Native American voters.
(13) Congress must conduct investigatory and evidentiary hearings to determine the necessary legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act and combat continuous efforts that suppress the voter franchise within Tribal lands, to include, but not limited to, the Native American Voting Rights Act (NAVRA) and the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA).

Subtitle D—Territorial Voting Rights

SEC. 2101. FINDINGS RELATING TO TERRITORIAL RESIDENTS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The right to vote is one of the most powerful instruments residents of the territories of the United States have to ensure that their voices are heard.
(2) These Americans have played an important part in the American democracy for more than 120 years.
(3) Political participation and the right to vote are among the highest concerns of territorial residents in part because they were not always afforded these rights.
(4) Voter participation in the territories consistently ranks higher than many communities on the mainland.
(5) Territorial residents serve and die, on a per capita basis, at a higher rate in every United States war and conflict since WWI, as an expression of their commitment to American democratic principles and patriotism.

SEC. 2301. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON VOTING RIGHTS OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN RESIDENTS OF TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the legislative branch a Task Force on Voting Rights of United States Citizen Residents of Territories of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Task Force”).
(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

(1) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.
(2) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.
(3) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.
(4) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.
(5) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.
(6) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(h) CONSENSUS VIEWS.—To the greatest extent practicable, the report issued under subsection (g) shall reflect the consensus views of the Members, except that the report may contain dissenting views.

REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2021, the Task Force shall issue a report of its findings to the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding—

(1) the economic and societal consequences (through statistical data and other metrics) that come with political disenfranchisement of United States citizens in territories of the United States;
(2) impediments to full and equal voting rights for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States in Federal elections, including the election of the President and Vice President of the United States;
(3) impediments to full and equal voting representation in the House of Representatives for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States;
(4) recommended changes that, if adopted, would allow for full and equal voting rights for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States in Federal elections, including the election of the President and Vice President of the United States;
(5) recommended changes that, if adopted, would allow for full and equal voting representation in the House of Representatives for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States; and
(6) additional information the Task Force deems appropriate.
SEC. 2400. REQUIREING CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PLAN OF INDEPENDENT STATE COMMISSION.

(a) USE OF PLAN REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (c) and subsection (d), any congressional redistricting conducted by a State shall be conducted in accordance with a plan developed by an independent redistricting commission established in the State.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 22(c) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for an apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a(c), is amended by striking “and the provisions of paragraph (A), a rebuttable presumption shall be deemed to have the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party if—” and inserting “and the provisions of paragraph (A), a rebuttable presumption shall be deemed to have the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party if—”.

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR EXISTING COMMISSIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to any State in which, under law in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, congressional redistricting is carried out in accordance with a plan developed and approved by an independent redistricting commission which is in compliance with each of the following requirements:

(1) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE APPLICATION PROCESS.—The plan shall include a publicly available application process.

(2) DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT.—Individuals who, for a covered period of time as established by the State, hold or have held public office, including by creating any districts where two or more politically cohesive groups protected by such Act are able to elect representatives of choice in coalition with one another, and all appointed Federal judges.

(3) Districts shall be drawn, to the extent that the political parties or political candidates. Congress, through the process and to elect representatives of choice is not dilutio

(4) MULTIPARTISAN COMPOSITION.—Member-

(5) CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING.—Members of the commission shall consider the following:

(b) No favoring or disfavoring of political

(c) - The State shall not be divided among the several States according to their number.

PART I—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

SEC. 2401. REQUIREING CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PLAN OF INDEPENDENT STATE COMMISSION.

(a) USE OF PLAN REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (c) and subsection (d), any congressional redistricting conducted by a State shall be conducted in accordance with a plan developed by an independent redistricting commission established in the State.

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(1) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE APPLICATION PROCESS.—The plan shall include a publicly available application process.

(2) DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT.—Individuals who, for a covered period of time as established by the State, hold or have held public office, including by creating any districts where two or more politically cohesive groups protected by such Act are able to elect representatives of choice in coalition with one another, and all appointed Federal judges.

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PART I—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

SEC. 2401. REQUIREING CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PLAN OF INDEPENDENT STATE COMMISSION.

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(1) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE APPLICATION PROCESS.—The plan shall include a publicly available application process.

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(5) CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING.—Members of the commission shall consider the following:

(b) No favoring or disfavoring of political

(c) - The State shall not be divided among the several States according to their number.
(c) FACTORS PROHIBITED FROM CONSIDERATION.—In developing the redistricting plan for the State, the independent redistricting commission may not take into consideration any of the following factors or any factor that is substantially related to or dependent on such factors, to the extent necessary to comply with the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a), subsection (b), and to enable the redistricting plan to be apportioned in accordance with the external metrics described in section 2413(d).

(1) The residence of any Member of the House of Representatives or candidate for such position.

(2) A majority or affiliation or voting history of the population of a district.

(3) Any of the criteria set forth in this section, or the application of such criteria to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining criteria set forth in this section, and the application of such criteria to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

PART 2—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

SEC. 2411. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2414(a) that establishes or designates an independent redistricting commission for the State, shall consist of 15 members appointed by the agency as follows:

(A) On or before October 1 of a year ending in the numerator of the year, the agency shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, first appoint 6 members as follows:

(i) Six members shall be appointed on a random basis from the independent category of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(1)(A).

(ii) The members shall appointment 3 members from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) The agency shall appoint 3 members from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(C)).

(B) Not later than November 15 of a year ending in the numerator of the year, the members appointed by the agency under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall, on a random basis, designate 2 other individuals from such category to serve as alternate members who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the commission in accordance with paragraph (4).

(B) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY FIRST MEMBERS.—At the time the members appointed by the agency under this subparagraph are appointed, the independent redistricting commission subpar.

(g) F VACANCIES.—In the event of the death or resignation of any of the 15 members of the commission, the agency shall—

(A) Fill the vacancy by appointing, on a random basis, one of the 2 alternates from such category who was designated under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (4), designate 2 other individuals from such category to serve as alternate members who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the commission in accordance with paragraph (4).

(B) APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES TO SERVE IN CASE OF VACANCIES.—

(A) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY AGENCY.—At the time the agency appoints the members of the commission under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall, on a random basis, designate 2 other individuals from such category to serve as alternate members who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the commission in accordance with paragraph (4).

(B) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY FIRST MEMBERS.—At the time the members appointed by the agency under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (4), designate 2 other individuals from such category to serve as alternate members who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the commission in accordance with paragraph (4).

(C) APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATES TO SERVE IN CASE OF VACANCIES.—

(A) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY AGENCY.—If a vacancy occurs in the commission with respect to a member who was appointed by the nonpartisan agency under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall fill the vacancy by appointing, on a random basis, one of the 2 alternates from such category who was designated under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3). At the time the agency appoints an alternate to fill a vacancy under the previous sentence, the agency shall designate, on a random basis, another individual from the same category to serve as an alternate member, in accordance with subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3).

(B) MEMBERS APPOINTED BY FIRST MEMBERS.—If a vacancy occurs in the commission with respect to a member who was appointed by the first members of the commission under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the first members shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (2), fill the vacancy by appointing, on a random basis, one of the 2 alternates from such category who was designated under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3). At the time the first members appoint an alternate to fill a vacancy under the previous sentence, the first members shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (2), designate another individual from the same category to serve as an alternate member, in accordance with subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3).

(D) REMOVAL.—A member of the independent redistricting commission may be removed by the majority vote of the remaining members of the commission if it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the member is not eligible to serve on the commission under section 2412(a).

(A) PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING COMMISSION BUSINESS.—

(1) CHAIR.—Members of an independent redistricting commission established under this section shall select by majority vote one member who was appointed from the independent category of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(1)(C) to serve as chair of the commission.

(2) REQUIREMENT OF MAJORITY APPROVAL FOR ACTIONS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State may not publish and disseminate any draft or final redistricting plan, or take any other action, without the approval of at least—

(A) A majority of the whole membership of the commission; and

(B) At least one member of the commission appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(4).

(3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

(c) STAFF; CONTRACTORS.—

(1) STAFF.—Under a public application process in which all application materials are available for public inspection, the independent redistricting commission of a State shall appoint and set the pay of technical experts, legal counsel, consultants, and such other staff as it considers appropriate, subject to State law.

(2) CONTRACTORS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State may enter into such contracts with vendors as it considers appropriate, subject to State law, and any such contract shall be valid only if approved by the vote of a majority of the members of the commission, and signed by the chairman or other individual from the same category to serve as an alternate member, in accordance with subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3).

(d) EXPENDITURES FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY.—

(A) REPORT BY APPLICANTS.—Each individual who applies for a position as an employee of the independent redistricting commission and each vendor who applies for a contract with the commission shall, at the time of applying, file with the commission a report summarizing—

(i) any expenditure for political activity made by such individual or vendor during the 10 most recent calendar years; and

(ii) any income received by such individual or vendor during the 10 most recent calendar years which is attributable to an expenditure for political activity.

(B) ANNUAL REPORTS BY EMPLOYEES AND VENDORS.—Each person who is an employee or vendor of the independent redistricting commission shall, not later than one year after the person is appointed as an employee or enters into a contract as a vendor (as the case may be) and annually thereafter for each year during which the person serves as an employee or a vendor, file with the commission a report summarizing the expenditures and income described in sub-paragraph (A) during the 10 most recent calendar years.

(C) EXPENDITURES FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term "expenditure for political activity" means a disbursement for any of the following:

(i) An independent expenditure, as defined in section 301(17) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(17)).

(ii) An independent public communication, as defined in section 304(3)(A) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 304(4)(A)) or any other public communication, as defined in section 301(22) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 301(22)) that would be an electioneering communication if it were a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication.

(iii) Any disbursement to trade associations or organizations described in section 501(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code that are, or could reasonably be anticipated to be, used or transferred to another association or organization for a use described in paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of section 501(c)(2) of such Code.

(iv) A disbursement to a political party or other political association or organization.

(4) GOAL OF IMPARTIALITY.—The commission shall take such steps as it considers appropriate
to ensure that any staff appointed under this subsection, and any vendor with whom the commission enters into a contract under this subsection, will act in an impartial manner, and may not be affiliated with any political party who applies for an appointment to a staff position or for a vendor’s contract with the commission to provide information on the person’s history of political activity beyond the information on the person’s expenditures for political activity provided in the reports required under paragraph (3) (including donations to candidates, political committees, and political parties) as a condition of the appointment or the contract.

(5) DISQUALIFICATION; WAIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The independent redistricting commission of a State shall suspend the application of subparagraph (A) of subsection (a) to an individual or a vendor after receiving and reviewing the report filed by the individual or vendor under paragraph (3).

(B) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The independent redistricting commission of a State shall terminate in accordance with section 2414(a) has, in accordance with section 2414(b)(1), submitted a selection pool to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State established under section 2414(b).

(2) PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.—The State shall ensure that the records of the independent redistricting commission are maintained in the appropriate State archive in such manner as may be necessary to enable the State to respond to any civil action brought with respect to congressional redistricting in the State.

SEC. 2412. ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION POOL OF INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to serve as a member of an independent redistricting commission if the individual meets each of the following criteria:

(A) As of the date of appointment, the individual has not been registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State.

(B) During the 3-year period ending on the date of the individual’s appointment, the individual has been continuously registered to vote with the same political party, or has not been registered to vote with any political party.

(C) The individual submits to the nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2414(a) that, in accordance with section 2414(b)(1), submitted a selection pool to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State established under section 2414(b).

(2) FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF SELECTION POOL.—In selecting individuals for the selection pool under this subsection, the nonpartisan agency shall—

(A) select a selection pool of 36 individuals who are eligible to serve as members of the independent redistricting commission of the State whose candidate received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(B) select a selection pool of 36 individuals who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(C) select a selection pool of 36 individuals who are not affiliated with either of the political parties described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B).

(3) DETERMINATION OF POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATION OF INDIVIDUALS IN SELECTION POOL.—For purposes of this section, an individual shall be considered to be affiliated with a political party only if the nonpartisan agency is able to verify (to the greatest extent possible) the information the individual provides in the application submitted under subsection (a)(1)(D), including by considering additional information provided by other persons with knowledge of the individual’s history of political activity.

(4) DETERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL STATUS.—An individual is eligible to serve as a member of an independent redistricting commission if the individual resides in the State.

(5) ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO APPLY FOR INCLUSION IN POOL.—The nonpartisan agency shall take such steps as may be necessary to encourage residents of the State to apply for inclusion in the pool of eligible voters.

(6) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION POOL.—At the time the nonpartisan agency submits the selection pool to the Select Committee on Redistricting under subsection (a), it shall publish and post on the agency’s public website a report describing the process by which the pool was developed, and shall include in the report all information maintained in the pool meet the eligibility criteria of subsection (a) and of how the pool reflects the
agency is required to take into consideration under paragraph (2).

(7) PUBLIC COMMENT ON SELECTION POOL.—During the 14-day period which begins on the date on which the public hearing on the selection pool under paragraph (6), the agency shall accept comments from the public on the individuals included in the selection pool. The agency shall post all such comments contemporaneously on the nonpartisan agency’s website and shall transmit them to the Select Committee on Redistricting immediately upon the expiration of such period.

(8) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 15 days and not later than 14 days after receiving the selection pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting shall, by majority vote—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the pool shall be considered the approved selection pool for purposes of section 2411(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool, in which case the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit a replacement selection pool in accordance with subsection (c).

(B) ACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to approve or reject the pool within the deadline set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Committee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool for purposes of such subparagraph.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF REPLACEMENT SELECTION POOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting rejects the selection pool submitted by the nonpartisan agency under subsection (b), not later than 14 days after the rejection, the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit to the Select Committee a replacement selection pool, under the same terms and conditions that applied to the development and submission of the selection pool under paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b). The replacement pool submitted under this paragraph may include individuals who were included in the rejected selection pool submitted under subsection (b), so long as at least one of the individuals in the replacement pool was not included in such rejected pool.

(2) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 days after receiving the replacement selection pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting shall, by majority vote—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the pool shall be considered the approved selection pool for purposes of section 2411(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool, in which case the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit a second replacement selection pool in accordance with subsection (d).

(B) ACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to approve or reject the pool within the deadline set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Committee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool for purposes of such subparagraph.

(d) DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND REPLACEMENT SELECTION POOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting rejects the replacement selection pool submitted by the nonpartisan agency under subsection (c), not later than 14 days after the rejection, the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit to the Select Committee a second replacement selection pool, under the same terms and conditions that applied to the development and submission of the replacement pool under paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b). The second replacement selection pool submitted under this paragraph may include individuals who were included in the replacement pool submitted under paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b) or the rejected replacement selection pool submitted under subsection (b), so long as at least one of the individuals in the replacement pool was not included in such rejected pool.

(2) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days and not later than 14 days after receiving the second replacement selection pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting shall, by majority vote—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the pool shall be considered the approved selection pool for purposes of section 2411(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool.

(B) ACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to approve or reject the pool within the deadline set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Committee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool for purposes of such subparagraph.

(EFFECT OF REJECTION.)—If the Select Committee on Redistricting rejects the second replacement pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the redistricting plan for the State shall be developed and enacted in accordance with part 3.
notice in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State, of the pending publication of the plan.

(4) MINIMUM POST-PUBLICATION PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.—The commission shall accept and consider comments from the public (including through the website maintained under subsection (a)(2) with respect to the preliminary redistricting plan developed under paragraph (3), including proposed revisions to maps, for not fewer than 30 days after the date on which the plan is published.

(5) HEARINGS.—

(A) 3 HEARINGS REQUIRED.—After posting and publishing the preliminary redistricting plan under subsection (b), the commission shall not hold fewer than 3 public hearings in different geographic areas of the State at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the preliminary plan.

(B) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.—Not fewer than 14 days prior to the date of each hearing held under this paragraph, the commission shall post notices of the hearing in on the website maintained under subsection (a)(2), and provide for the publication of such notices in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. Each such notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing.

(6) PERMITTING MULTIPLE PRELIMINARY PLANS.—If the commission develops and publishes the preliminary redistricting plan under this subsection, the commission may develop and publish subsequent preliminary redistricting plans, so long as the process for the development and publication of each such subsequent plan meets the requirements set forth in this subsection for the development and publication of the first preliminary redistricting plan.

(c) PROCESS FOR ENACTMENT OF FINAL REDISTRICTING PLAN.

(1) IN GENERAL.—After taking into consideration comments from the public on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under subsection (b), the independent redistricting commission of a State shall develop and publish a final redistricting plan for the State.

(2) MEETING; FINAL VOTE.—Not later than the deadline specified in subsection (e), the commission shall hold a public hearing at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final plan for enactment into law.

(3) APPLICATION OF PLAN AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS.—Not fewer than 14 days before the date of the meeting under paragraph (2), the commission shall provide the following information to the chair of the political party of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the party leader of the party with the greatest number of seats in the upper house:

(A) the final redistricting plan, including all relevant maps.

(B) A report by the commission to accompany the plan which provides the background for the plan and the reasons for choosing the plan as the final redistricting plan, including responses to the public comments received on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under subsection (b).

(C) Any dissenting or additional views with respect to the plan of individual members of the commission.

(4) EXCERPT.—Subject to paragraph (5), the final redistricting plan developed and published under this subsection shall be deemed to be enacted into law upon the expiration of the 45-day period beginning on the date on which—

(A) such final plan is approved by a majority of the whole membership of the commission; and

(B) such final plan is approved by a majority of the commission members appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(1) approves such final plan.

(5) TERMINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—

(A) REQUIREMENT OF PLAN FOR REVIEW.—The final redistricting plan shall not be deemed to be enacted into law unless the State submits the plan to the Department of Justice for an administrative review to determine if the plan is in compliance with the criteria described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 2413(a)(1).

(B) TERMINATION OF REVIEW.—The Department of Justice shall terminate any administrative review under this title during the 45-day period which begins on the date the plan is enacted into law, an action is filed in a United States district court alleging that the plan is in compliance with the criteria described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 2413(a)(1).
PART 3—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS

SEC. 2421. ENACTMENT OF PLAN DEVELOPED BY 3-JUDGE COURT.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—If any of the triggering events described in subsection (f) occur with respect to a State—

(1) not later than December 15 of the year in which the triggering event occurs, the United States district court for the applicable venue, acting through a 3-judge Court convened pursuant to section 2284 of title 28, United States Code, shall develop and publish the congressional redistricting plan for the State; or

(2) the final plan developed and published by the Court under this section shall be deemed to be enacted on the date on which the Court publishes the final plan, as described in subsection (d).

(b) APPLICABLE VENUE DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this section, the ‘‘applicable venue’’ with respect to a State is the District of Columbia or the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, as selected by the first party to file with the court sufficient evidence of the occurrence of a triggering event described in subsection (f).

(c) PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—

(1) CRITERIA.—In developing a redistricting plan for a State under this section, the Court shall adhere to the same terms and conditions that Applied (or that would have applied, as the case may be) to the development of a plan by the independent redistricting commission of the State under section 2403.

(2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND RECORDS OF COMMISSION.—The Court shall have access to any information, data, software, or other records and material that was used (or that would have been used, as the case may be) by the independent redistricting commission of the State in carrying out its duties under this subtitle.

(3) HEARING; PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—In developing a redistricting plan for a State, the Court shall—

(A) hold one or more evidentiary hearings at which interested members of the public may appear and be heard and present testimony, including expert testimony, in accordance with the rules of the Court; and

(B) provide all final decisions and comments by the public, including proposals for redistricting plans to cover the entire State or any portion of the State.

(4) USE OF SPECIAL MASTER.—To assist in the development and publication of a redistricting plan for a State under this section, the Court may appoint a special master to make recommendations to the Court on possible plans for the State.

(d) PUBLICATION OF PLAN.—

(1) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL PLAN.—Upon completion of one or more initial redistricting plans, the Court shall make the plans available to the public at no cost, and shall also make available the underlying data used by the Court to develop the plans and a written evaluation of the plans against external metrics (as described in section 2413(d)).

(2) PUBLICATION OF FINAL PLAN.—At any time after the completion of the 14-day period which begins on the date the Court makes the plans available to the public under paragraph (1), and taking into consideration any submissions and comments made by the public which are received during such period, the Court shall develop and publish the final redistricting plan for the State.

(e) USE OF INTERNET.—In the event that the Court determines that a public hearing is not necessary to develop a final redistricting plan for the State with sufficient time for an upcoming election to proceed, the Court may develop and publish an interim redistricting plan which shall serve as a redistricting plan for the State until the Court develops and publishes a final plan in accordance with section 2413(d). Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit or otherwise affect the authority or discretion of the Court to develop and publish the final redistricting plan, including but not limited to the discretion to make any changes the Court deems necessary to an interim redistricting plan.

(f) TRIGGERING EVENTS DESCRIBED.—The triggering events described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) The failure of the State to establish or designate a nonpartisan agency of the State legislature to implement the independent redistricting plan of the State under section 2414(a).

(2) The failure of the State to appoint a Select Committee on Redistricting under section 2414(b) prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth in section 2414(b)(4).

(3) The failure of the Select Committee on Redistricting to approve any selection pool under section 2414 prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth for the approval of the second replacement selection pool in section 2412(d)(2).

(4) The failure of the independent redistricting commission of the State to approve a final redistricting plan for the State prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth in section 2413(c).

PART 4—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 2431. PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CARRYING OUT REDISTRICTING.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—Subject to subsection (d), not later than 30 days after a State receives a State apportionment notice, the Election Assistance Commission shall, subject to the availability of appropriations provided pursuant to section 2284 of title 28, United States Code, make a payment to the State for carrying out congressional redistricting in the State.

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES WITH SINGLE MEMBER.—The Election Assistance Commission shall not make a payment under section 2284 of title 28 to a State which is not entitled to more than one Representative under its State apportionment notice.

(c) NO PAYMENTS TO STATES WITH SINGLE MEMBER.—The Election Assistance Commission shall make a payment under section 2284 of title 28 to a State which is entitled to more than one Representative under its State apportionment notice.

(d) REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF SELECTION POOL AS CONDITION OF PAYMENT.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and paragraph (3), the Election Assistance Commission shall not make a payment under this section to any State which is not entitled to more than one Representative under its State apportionment notice.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR STATES WITH EXISTING COMMISSIONS.—In the case of a State which, prior to the occurrence of the triggering event, is in the process of redistricting pursuant to requirements of section 2401(a), the Commission may not make a payment to the State under this section until the State certifies to the Commission that its redistricting commission meets the requirements of section 2401(c).

(3) EXCEPTION FOR STATE OF IOWA.—In the case of the State of Iowa, the Commission may not make a payment to the State under this section until the State certifies to the Commission that it will carry out congressional redistricting in the State in accordance with a plan developed by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency with the assistance of a Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission established under the law described in section 2401(d).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for payments under this section.

SEC. 2432. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

(a) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) ACTIONS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such relief as may be appropriate to carry out this subtitle.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any citizen of a State who is aggrieved by the failure of the State to meet the requirements of this subtitle may bring a civil action in the United States district court for the appropriate district for such relief as may be appropriate to remedy the failure. For purposes of this section, the ‘‘applicable venue’’ is the District of Columbia or the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, as selected by the person who brings the civil action.

(b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—In any action brought forth under this section, the following rules shall apply:

(1) The action shall be filed in the district court of the United States for the District of Columbia or for the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, as selected by the person bringing the action.

(2) The action shall be heard by a 3-judge court convened pursuant to section 2284 of title 28, United States Code.

(3) The 3-judge court shall consolidate actions brought for relief under subsection (b)(1) with respect to the same State redistricting plan.

(4) A copy of the complaint shall be delivered promptly to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(5) Any final decision in an action brought forth under this section shall be reviewable only by appeal directly to the Supreme Court of the United States. Such appeal shall be taken by the filing of a notice of appeal within 10 days following the filing of a jurisdictional statement within 30 days of the entry of the final decision.

(6) It shall be the duty of the district court and the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of the action and appeal.

(c) REMEDIES.—

(1) ADOPTION OF REPLACEMENT PLAN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the district court in an action under this section finds that the congressional redistricting plan of a State violates, in whole or in part, the requirements of this subtitle—

(i) the Court shall adopt a replacement congressional redistricting plan for the State in accordance with the process set forth in section 2421; or

(ii) if circumstances warrant and no delay to an interim redistricting plan is necessary for the House of Representatives in the State would result, the district court may allow a State to develop and propose a remedial congressional redistricting plan for consideration by the court, and such remedial plan may be developed by the State by adopting such appropriate changes to the State’s enacted plan as may be ordered by the court.

(B) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE FINAL ADJUDICATION NOT EXPECTED WITHIN 3 MONTHS OF ELECTION—
PART 5—REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PERSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS

Subpart A—Application of Certain Requirements for Redistricting Carried Out Pursuant to 2020 Census

SEC. 2441. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PERSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS.

Notwithstanding section 2425, parts 1, 3, and 4 of this subtitle and the amendments made by such parts and the amendments to section 2454(a) prior to the expiration of the deadline under section 2454(b) occur with respect to the State, the district court shall, as the court may allow the prevailing party, first appoint 6 members as follows:

(A) at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, then appoint 9 members as follows:

(i) (A) shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, then appoint 9 members as follows:

(B) at least one member of the commission appointed by the agency pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), including at least one member from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph.

(C) a quorum of the commission; and

(D) the agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(A)).

(ii) the members shall appoint 3 members from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) the agency shall appoint 3 members from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(C)).

Subpart B—Independent Redistricting Commissions for Redistricting Carried Out Pursuant to 2020 Census

SEC. 2451. USE OF INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PERSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(i) In general.—The nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2454(a) shall establish an independent redistricting commission for the State, which shall consist of 15 members appointed by the agency as follows:

(A) Not later than October 1, 2021, the agency shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, first appoint 6 members as follows:

(i) the agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(A)).

(ii) the agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) the agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(C)).

(b) Not later than August 15, 2021, the members appointed by the agency under subparagraph (A) shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, then appoint 9 members as follows:

(i) the members shall appoint 3 members from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(A)).

(ii) the members shall appoint 3 members from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) the members shall appoint 3 members from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2425(b)(1)(C)).

Subpart C—Selection Process

(2) RULES FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS APPOINTED BY FIRST MEMBER.—

(A) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST 4 MEMBERS.—The appointment of any of the 9 members of the independent redistricting commission appointed by the first member of the commission pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) shall require the affirmative vote of at least 4 of the members appointed by the first member of the commission pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), including at least one member from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph.

(B) ENSURING DIVERSITY.—In appointing the 9 members pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), the first member of the independent redistricting commission shall ensure that the members are representative of the demographic groups (including racial, ethnic, economic, and gender) and geographic regions of the State, and provides racial, ethnic, and language minorities protected under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the development of the State’s redistricting plan.

(3) REMOVAL.—A member of the independent redistricting commission may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the commission if it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the member is not eligible to serve on the commission under section 2425(a).

(b) PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING COMMISSION BUSINESS.—

(1) REQUIRING MAJORITY APPROVAL FOR ACTIONS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part may not publish and disseminate any draft or final redistricting plan, or take any other action, without the approval of at least—

(A) a majority of the whole membership of the commission; and

(B) at least one member of the commission appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2425(b)(1).

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) STAFF.—Under a public application process in which all application materials are available for public inspection, the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall appoint and set the pay of technical experts, legal counsel, consultants, and such other staff as it considers appropriate, subject to State law.

(2) CONTRACTORS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State may enter into such contracts with vendors as it considers appropriate, subject to State law. Nothing in this subtitle authorizes the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part to enter into any such contract shall be valid only if approved by the vote of a majority of the members of the

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commission, including at least one member appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2452(b)(1).

3. DISQUALIFICATIONS.—An individual is not eligible to serve as a member of an independent redistricting commission under this part if the individual meets any of the following criteria:

(a) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

(I) In general.—An individual is eligible to serve as a member of an independent redistricting commission under this part if the individual meets each of the following criteria:

(A) As of the date of appointment, the individual is not registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State.

(B) During the 3-year period ending on the date of the individual’s appointment, the individual has not been affiliated with any political party or has not been registered to vote with any political party.

(C) The individual has not been, and is not an immediate family member of, an elected public official, a contractor with the law of the State).

(D) The individual paid a civil money penalty under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(E) The individual or an immediate family member of the individual holds a position as a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or an equivalent State or local law.

(F) The individual or an immediate family member of the individual is an employee of an elected public official, a contractor with the government of the State, or a donor to the campaign committee (as determined in accordance with paragraph (1), it shall develop and submit to the Select Committee on Redistricting under paragraph (1), it shall—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the redistricting plan for the State shall be developed and enacted in accordance with part 3.

(ii) reject the pool, in which case the redistricting plan for the State shall be developed and enacted in accordance with part 3.

(2) FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVELOPING THE REDISTRICTING PLAN; PUBLIC NOTICE AND INPUT.

(a) USE OF OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall hold each of its meetings and hearings in various geographic regions and demographic groups and procedures at any time until 7 days before the date of the meeting at which the commission shall vote on approving the final redistricting plan for enactment into law under subsection (c)(2).

(b) MEETINGS AND HEARINGS IN VARIOUS GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS.—To the greatest extent practicable, the commission shall hold its meetings and hearings in various geographic regions and locations throughout the State.

(c) MULTIPLE LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL NOTICES.—The commission shall make each notice which is required to be published under this section available in any language in which the State (or any jurisdiction in the State) is required to provide election materials under sections 105 and 106 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

(d) DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to developing and publishing a final redistricting plan under subsection (c), the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall develop and publish preliminary redistricting plans.

(2) MINIMUM PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The commission shall develop and publish a preliminary redistricting plan under this subsection, the commission shall hold not fewer than 2 public hearings at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the potential contents of redistricting plans for the State and the process by which the commission will develop the preliminary plan under this subsection.

(B) NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.—The commission shall provide for the publication of notices of each hearing held under this paragraph, including through newspapers of general circulation throughout the State, and shall make publicly available a report that includes the responses to the public comments received under this subsection.

(C) SUBMISSION OF PLANS AND MAPS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.—Any member of the public may submit maps or portions of maps for consideration to the commission.

(3) PUBLICATION OF PRELIMINARY PLAN.—The commission shall provide for the publication of the preliminary plan developed and published under this subsection, including in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State, and shall make publicly available a report that includes the responses to the public comments received under this subsection.

(4) PUBLIC COMMENT AFTER PUBLICATION.—

(A) 2 HEARINGS REQUIRED.—After publishing the preliminary redistricting plan under paragraph (3), and not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting under subsection (c)(2) at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final redistricting plan for enactment into law, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the preliminary plan developed and published under this section.

(B) NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.—The commission shall provide for the publication of notices of each hearing held under this paragraph, including through newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. Each such notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing.

(5) POST-PUBLICATION HEARINGS.—

(A) 2 HEARINGS REQUIRED.—After publishing the preliminary redistricting plan under paragraph (3), and not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting under subsection (c)(2) at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final redistricting plan for enactment into law, the commission shall hold at least one public hearing at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the preliminary plan developed and published under this section.

(B) NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.—The commission shall provide for the publication of notices of each hearing held under this paragraph, including through newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. Each such notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing.

(6) PERMITTING MULTIPLE PRELIMINARY PLANS.—At the option of the commission, after developing and publishing the preliminary redistricting plans, the commission may develop and publish subsequent preliminary redistricting plans, so long as the process for the development and publication of each preliminary redistricting plan meets the requirements set forth in this subsection for the development and publication of the first preliminary redistricting plan.

(c) PROCESS FOR ENACTMENT OF FINAL REDISTRICTING PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After taking into consideration the comments of the public on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under subsection (b), the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall develop and publish a final redistricting plan for the State.

(2) MEETING; FINAL VOTE.—Not later than the deadline specified in subsection (e), the commission shall hold a hearing at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final plan for enactment into law.

(3) PUBLICATION OF PLAN AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS.—Not fewer than 14 days before the date of the meeting under paragraph (2), the commission shall make the following information available to the public, including through newspapers of general circulation throughout the State:

(A) The final redistricting plan, including all relevant maps.

(B) A report by the commission to accompany the plan which provides the background for the plan and a selection of relevant maps as the final redistricting plan, including responses to the public comments received on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under this section.

(C) Any dissenting or additional views with respect to the plan of individual members of the commission.

(d) FINAL VOTE.—The final redistricting plan developed and published under this subsection shall be deemed to be enacted into law upon the expiration of the 45-day period which begins on the date on which

(A) such final plan is approved by a majority of the whole membership of the commission; and

(B) at least one member of the commission appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2452(b)(1) approves such final plan.

(e) WRITTEN EVALUATION OF PLAN AGAINST EXTERNAL METRICS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall conduct an evaluation that measures each such plan developed and published under this section on the ability of communities of color to elect candidates of color, the fairness of the plan with respect to the potential contents of redistricting plans for the State, and the degree to which the plan preserves or divides communities of interest.

(f) DEADLINE.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall publish a final redistricting plan for the State not later than November 15, 2021.

SEC. 2454. ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OR DESIGNATION OF NONPARTISAN AGENCY OF STATE LEGISLATURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall establish a nonpartisan agency in the legislative branch of the State government to appoint the members of the independent redistricting commission for the State under this part in accordance with section 2451.

(2) NONPARTISANSHIP DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this subsection, an agency shall be considered to be nonpartisan if under law the agency—

(A) is required to provide services on a nonpartisan basis;

(B) is required to maintain impartiality; and

(C) is prohibited from advocating for the adoption or rejection of any legislative proposal.

(3) DESIGNATION OF EXISTING AGENCY.—At its option, a State may designate an existing agency in the legislative branch of its government to appoint the members of the independent redistricting commission for the State under this subsection to subdivide the requirements for nonpartisanship under this subsection.

(b) TERMINATION OF AGENCY SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR REDISTRICTING.—If a State does not designate an existing agency under paragraph (3) but instead establishes a new agency to serve as the redistricting commission for a State under this section, the new agency shall terminate upon the enactment into law of the redistricting plan for the State.

(c) PREPARATION OF RECORDS.—The State shall ensure that the records of the nonpartisan agency are retained in the appropriate State archive in such manner as may be necessary to ensure the availability of the records for a state election subject to being brought with respect to congressional redistricting in the State.
State verifies, on the basis of objective and reliable evidence, that the registrant is ineligible to vote in such elections.

"(2) FACTORS NOT CONSIDERED AS OBJECTIVE AND RELIABLE EVIDENCE OF INELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the following factors, or any combination thereof, shall not be treated as objective and reliable evidence of a registrant's ineligibility:

"(A) The failure of the registrant to vote in any election.

"(B) The failure of the registrant to respond to any notice sent under section 8(d), unless the notice has been returned as undeliverable.

"(C) The failure of the registrant to take any other action with respect to voting in any election, with respect to the registrant's status as a registrant.

"(b) NOTICE AFTER REMOVAL.—

"(1) NOTICE TO INDIVIDUAL REMOVED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 48 hours after a State removes the name of a registrant from the official list of eligible voters for any reason (other than the death of the registrant), the State shall send notice of the removal to the former registrant, and shall include in the notice the grounds for the removal and information on how the former registrant may contest the removal, including a telephone number for the appropriate election official.

"(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply in the case of a registrant—

"(i) who sends written confirmation to the State that the registrant is no longer eligible to vote in the registrant's jurisdiction in which the registrant was registered;

"(ii) subject to section 8A, provides for the return of such individual to such individual's last place of residence before incarceration.

"(2) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Not later than 48 hours after conducting any general program to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official list of eligible voters (as described in section 8(a)), the State shall disseminate a public notice through such methods as may be reasonable to reach the general public (including by publishing the notice in a newspaper of wide circulation or posting the notice on the websites of the appropriate election officials) that list maintenance is taking place and that registrants should check their registration status to ensure no errors or mistakes have been made. The State shall ensure that the public notice disseminated under this paragraph is in a format that is reasonably convenient and accessible to voters with disabilities, including voters who have low vision or are blind.".

"(b) CONDITIONS FOR TRANSMISSION OF NOTICES OF REMOVAL.—Section 8(d) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) A State may not transmit a notice to a registrant under this subsection unless the State obtains objective and reliable evidence (in accordance with the standards for such evidence which are described in section 4A(a)(2)) that the registrant has changed residence to a place outside the registrar's jurisdiction in which the registrant is registered."

"(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

"(1) NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT OF 1993.—Section 8(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)) is amended—

"(A) in paragraph (3), by striking "provide" and inserting "subject to section 8A, provide";

"(B) in paragraph (4), by striking "conduct" and inserting "subject to section 8A, conduct".


"(d) The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle G—No Effect on Authority of States To Provide Greater Opportunities for Voting

SEC. 2601. NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY OF STATES TO PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOTING.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title may be construed to prohibit any State from enacting any law which provides greater opportunities for or with respect to voting to vote in person for the first time, as well as the removal of another law which required the address listed on a voter's driver license to match the address listed on the voter registration records.
(2) to implement and model best practices for ballot design, ballot instructions, and the testing of ballots.

(b) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant made to a State under this section shall be such amount as the Commission determines to be appropriate, except that such amount may not be less than the product of $1 and the percentage of the number of votes reported in any of the two most recent regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office held in the State.

(c) PRO RATA REDISTRIBUTIONS.—If the amount of funds appropriated for grants under this part is insufficient to ensure that each State receives the amount of funds calculated under subsection (b), the Commission shall make such pro rata redistributions in such amounts as may be necessary to ensure that the entire amount appropriated under this part is distributed to the States.

(3) SURPLUS APPROPRIATIONS.—If the amount of funds appropriated for grants authorized under this section exceeds the amount necessary to meet the requirements of subsection (b), the Commission shall consider the following in making a determination to award surplus grant monies: 

(i) The record of the State in carrying out the following with respect to the administration of elections for Federal office:

(A) Providing voting machines that are less than 10 years old.

(B) Implementing strong chain of custody procedures to ensure the accuracy of voting equipment and paper records at all stages of the process.

(C) Conducting pre-election testing on every voting machine and ensuring that paper ballots are available wherever electronic machines are used.

(D) Maintaining offline backups of voter registration lists.

(E) Providing a secure voter registration database that logs requests submitted to the database.

(F) Publishing and enforcing a policy detailing use limitations and security safeguards to protect the personal information of voters in the voter registration database.

(G) Providing secure processes and procedures for reporting vote tallies.

(H) Providing a secure platform for disseminating vote totals.

(2) Evidence of established conditions of innovation and reform in providing voting system security and the proposed plan of the State for implementing additional conditions.

(3) Evidence of collaboration between relevant stakeholders, including local election officials, in developing and implementing a plan described in section 328B.

(4) The plan of the State to conduct a rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of the activities carried out with the grant.

(5) ABILITY OF REPLACEMENT SYSTEMS TO ADMINISTER RANKED CHOICE ELECTIONS.—To the greatest extent practicable, an eligible State which receives a grant to replace a voting system under this section shall ensure that the replacement system is capable of administering a ranked-choice voting system under which each voter shall rank the candidates for the office in the order of the voter’s preference.

SEC. 298A. VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) PERMITTED USES.—A voting system security improvement described in this section is any of the following:

(1) The acquisition of goods and services from qualified election infrastructure vendors by purchase, lease, or through other arrangements as may be appropriate.

(2) Cyber and risk mitigation training.

(3) A security risk and vulnerability assessment of the State’s election infrastructure which is carried out by a cybersecurity services provider under a contract entered into between the chief State election official and the provider.

(4) The maintenance of election infrastructure, including addressing risks and vulnerabilities which are identified under either of the security risk and vulnerability assessments described in paragraph (2), except that none of the funds provided under this part may be used to renovate or replace a building or facility which is used primarily for purposes other than the administration of elections for public office.

(5) Providing increased technical support for any information technology infrastructure that the chief State election official deems to be part of the State’s election infrastructure or designates as critical to the operation of the State’s election infrastructure.

(6) Enhancing the cybersecurity and operations of the information technology infrastructure described in paragraph (4).

(7) Enhancing the cybersecurity of voter registration systems.

(8) QUALIFIED ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE VENDORS DESIGNED

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this part, a ‘qualified election infrastructure vendor’ is any person who provides, supports, or maintains, or who seeks to provide, support, or maintain, election infrastructure on behalf of a State, unit of local government, or election agency (as defined in section 3001 of the Election Security Act) who meets the criteria described in paragraph (2).

(2) CRITERIA.—The criteria described in this paragraph are such criteria as the Chairman, in consultation with the Technical Guidelines Development Committee, shall establish and publish, and shall include each of the following requirements:

(A) The vendor must be owned and controlled by a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

(B) The vendor must disclose to the Chairman and the Secretary, and to the chief State election official of any State to which the vendor provides any goods and services with funds provided under this part, any sourcing outside the United States for parts of the election infrastructure.

(C) The vendor must disclose to the Chairman and the Secretary, and to the chief State election official of any State to which the vendor provides any goods and services with funds provided under this part, the identification of any entity or individual with a more than five percent ownership interest in the vendor, election infrastructure on behalf of a State, unit of local government, or election agency.

(D) The vendor agrees to ensure that the election infrastructure will be developed and maintained in a manner that is consistent with the supply chain best practices issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(E) The vendor agrees to maintain its information technology infrastructure in a manner that is consistent with the cybersecurity best practices issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(F) The vendor agrees to ensure that it has personnel policies and practices in place that are consistent with personnel best practices, including background checks issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(G) The vendor agrees to ensure that the election infrastructure will be developed and maintained in a manner that is consistent with the data integrity best practices issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(H) The vendor agrees to ensure that the election infrastructure will be developed and maintained in a manner that is consistent with the security best practices issued by the Technical Guidelines Development Committee.

(I) The vendor agrees to meet the requirements of paragraph (3) with respect to any known or suspected cybersecurity incidents identified in voting systems or services provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant under this part.
“(1) The vendor agrees to permit independent security testing by the Commission (in accordance with section 231(a)) and by the Secretary of the goods and services provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant under this part.

“(2) The Commission shall require the vendor to provide the following new paragraph:

“(i) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident began, if known.

“(ii) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident was detected.

“(iii) The date, time, and duration of the election cybersecurity incident.

“(iv) The circumstances of the election cybersecurity incident, including the specific election infrastructure systems believed to have been affected.

“(v) Any planned and implemented technical measures to respond to and recover from the incident.

“(vi) In the case of any notification which is an update to a prior notification, any additional material information relating to the incident, including technical data, as it becomes available.

“SEC. 298A. SEC. 298A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DEVELOPING STATE PLAN FOR USE OF PAYMENTS.—Section 255 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20944(a)) is amended—

“(1) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) the Secretary's designee.''.

“(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

“(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(b) GEOPOLITICAL REPRESENTATION.—The members of the committee shall be a representative group of individuals from the State's counties, cities, towns, and Indian tribes, and shall represent the needs of rural as well as urban areas of the State, as the case may be.''

“SEC. 298B. SEC. 298B. ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this part if the State submits to the Commission, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee, a description of how the State will use the grant to carry out the activities authorized pursuant to this part.

“SEC. 298C. SEC. 298C. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Commission, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee shall report to the Congress on such dates as the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, deems appropriate.

“SEC. 298D. SEC. 298D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this part—

“(1) $175,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022, 2024, 2026, and 2028.

“(b) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this section that are available after September 30, 2022, for any fiscal year shall remain available until expended.''

“SEC. 298E. SEC. 298E. ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this part if the State submits to the Commission, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee, a description of how the State will use the grant to carry out the activities authorized pursuant to this part—

“(1) a description of how the State will use the grant to carry out the activities authorized pursuant to this part (B) to the agency as soon as practicable (but in no case later than 3 days after the vendor first becomes aware of the possibility that the incident occurred).

“(2) other information and assurances as the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, deems necessary to ensure that the grant to carry out the activities authorized pursuant to a grant under this part—

“(a) is used to develop activities that meet the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

“(b) is used to develop activities that meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).''

“PART 9—GRANTS FOR CONDUCTING RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

“SEC. 299. SEC. 299. GRANTS FOR CONDUCTING RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.—

“(a) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141 et seq), as amended by section 1921(b)(4), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“PART 9—GRANTS FOR CONDUCTING RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS

“SEC. 299A. SEC. 299A. GRANTS FOR CONDUCTING RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.—

“(a) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS.—The Commission shall make a grant to each eligible State to conduct risk-limiting audits as described in subsection (b) with respect to the regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS.—In this part, a ‘risk-limiting audit’ is a post-election process—
(1) which is conducted in accordance with rules and procedures established by the chief State election official of the State which meet the requirements of subsection (c); and

(2) if the reported outcome of the election is incorrect, there is at least a predetermined percentage chance that the audit will replace the incorrect outcome with the correct one determined by a full hand-marked ballot tabulation of all votes validly cast in that election that certifies voter intent manually and directly from voter-verifiable paper records.

(c) AUDIT PROCEDURES.—The rules and procedures established for conducting a risk-limiting audit shall include the following elements:

(1) a test of the security of ballots and documentation that described procedures were followed.

(2) Rules and procedures for ensuring the accuracy of ballot manifests produced by election agencies.

(3) Rules and procedures for governing the format of ballot manifests, cast vote records, and other data involved in the audit.

(4) Methods to ensure that any cast vote records used in the audit are those used by the voting system to tally the election results sent to the chief State election official and made public.

(5) Procedures for the random selection of ballots to be inspected manually during each audit.

(6) Rules for the calculations and other methods to be used in the audit and to determine whether and when the audit of an election is complete.

(7) Procedures and requirements for testing any software used to conduct risk-limiting audits.

(8) DEFINITIONS.—In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term ‘ballot manifest’ means a record maintained by each election agency that meets each of the following requirements:

(i) a record is created without reliance on any part of the voting system used to tabulate votes.

(ii) a record is created without reliance on any part of the voting system used to tabulate votes.

(iii) a record is created without reliance on any part of the voting system used to tabulate votes.

(2) The term ‘ballot’ means a record of ballots cast in each election administered by the agency (including undervotes, overvotes, and other invalid votes).

(3) The term ‘ballots’ means a record of ballots cast in each election administered by the agency (including undervotes, overvotes, and other invalid votes).

(4) A ‘precise description’ of the manner in which ballots or physical groups of ballots, the numbering system for each group, a unique label for each group, and the number of ballots in each such group.

(5) The term ‘incorrect outcome’ means an outcome that differs from the outcome that would be determined by a full tabulation of all votes validly cast in the election, determining voter intent manually, directly from voter-verifiable paper records.

(6) The term ‘outcome’ means the winner of an election, whether a candidate or a position.

(7) The term ‘reported outcome’ means the outcome of an election which is determined according to the canvass and which will become the official and final outcome unless it is revised by an audit, recount, or other legal process.

SEC. 299A. ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.

"A State is eligible to receive a grant under this part if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

(1) a certification that, not later than 5 years after receiving the grant, the State will conduct risk-limiting audits of the results of elections for Federal office held in the State as described in section 299;

(2) a certification that, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the chief State election official of the State has established or will establish the rules and procedures for conducting the audits which meet the requirements of section 299(c); and

(3) a certification that the audit shall be completed not later than the date on which the State was notified of the audit.

(4) a certification that, after completing the audit, the State shall publish a report on the results of the audit, together with such information as necessary to confirm that the audit was conducted properly.

(5) a certification that, if a risk-limiting audit conducted under this part leads to a full hand-marked ballot tabulation, the State or election agency shall use the results of the full manual tally as the official results of the election; and

(6) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

SEC. 299B. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this part $20,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, to remain available until expended.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of this Act, as amended by sections 1622(c) and 3001(b), is further amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

"PART 9—GRANTS FOR CONDUCTING RISK-LIMITING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.


"Sec. 299A. Eligibility of States.

"Sec. 299B. Authorization of appropriations.

SEC. 301. GOAL ANALYSIS OF EFFECTS OF AUDITS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 6 months after the first election for Federal office is held after grants of the first grants under this part for conducting risk-limiting audits under part 9 of subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by section 3011) for conducting risk-limiting audits of elections for Federal office, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an analysis of the extent to which such audits have improved the administration of such elections and the security of election infrastructure in the States receiving such grants.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall report the analysis conducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees.

PART 3—ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

SEC. 302. ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"Sec. 321. Election infrastructure innovation grant program.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, in coordination with the Director of the National Science Foundation, is authorized to award grants to entities that facilitate research and development under subsection (c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181) to develop electronic evidence systems that shall be tested for purposes of research and development that are determined to have the potential to significantly improve the security (including cybersecurity), quality, reliability, accessibility, affordability of election infrastructure, and increase voter participation.

"(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall annually make not more than 90 awards for grants under this section.

"(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section—

(1) an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), including an institution of higher education that is a historically Black college or university (which has the meaning given the term ‘part B institution’ in section 322 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1061)) or other minority-serving institution listed in section 317(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067(a));

(2) an organization, association, or a for-profit company, including a small business concern (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), including a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))); and

(3) an organization, association, or a for-profit company, including a small business concern (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), including a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))).

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (20) as paragraphs (7) through (21), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

"(6) ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘election infrastructure’ means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registration databases, voting machines, electronic evidence systems, and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections for public office (including election process and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the heading relating to section 320 the following new item:

"Sec. 321. Election infrastructure innovation grant program.''.

Subtitle B—Security Measures

SEC. 3101. ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGNATION.

Subsection (j) of section 2001 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(24) To provide timely threat information regarding election infrastructure to the chief State election official of the State with respect to which such information pertains.''

March 2, 2021
SEC. 3103. SECURITY CLEARANCE ASSISTANCE FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS.

In order to promote the timely sharing of information on threats to election infrastructure, the Secretary may—

(1) help expedite a security clearance for the chief State election official and other appropriate State personnel involved in the administration of elections, as designated by the chief State election official; and

(2) sponsor a security clearance for the chief State election official and other appropriate State personnel assigned to the administration of elections, as designated by the chief State election official; and

(3) facilitate the issuance of a temporary clearance to the chief State election official and other appropriate State personnel involved in the administration of elections, as designated by the chief State election official, if the Secretary determines classified information to be timely and relevant to the election infrastructure of the State at issue.

SEC. 3104. SECURITY RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS.

(a) In General.—Paragraph (6) of section 2209(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(c)) is amended by inserting “and in accordance with subsection (b)(2) of this section” after “risk management support”.

(b) Prioritization to Enhance Election Security.

(1) In General.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a written request from a chief State election official, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, commence a security risk and vulnerability assessment (pursuant to paragraph (6) of section 2209(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by subsection (a)) on election infrastructure in the State at issue.

(2) Notification.—If the Secretary, upon receipt of a request described in paragraph (1), determines that a security risk and vulnerability assessment referred to in such paragraph cannot be commenced within 90 days, the Secretary shall expeditiously notify the chief State election official who submitted such request.

SEC. 3105. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) Reports on Assistance and Assessments.—Not later than one year after the date of this Act and annually thereafter through 2028, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) efforts to carry out section 3103 during the prior year, including specific information regarding which States were helped, how many officials have been helped in each State, how many requests have been satisfied in each State, and how many temporary clearances have been issued in each State; and

(2) efforts to carry out section 3104 during the prior year, including specific information regarding which States were helped, the dates on which the Secretary received a request for a security risk and vulnerability assessment referred to in such section on which the Secretary commenced each such request, and the dates on which the Secretary transmitted a notification in accordance with subsection (b)(2) of such section.

(b) Reports on Foreign Threats.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2021), the Secretary and the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of appropriate offices of the Federal Government, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report on foreign threats, including physical and cybersecurity threats, to elections in the United States.

(c) Information from States.—For purposes of preparing the reports required under paragraph (a), the Secretary shall solicit and consider information and comments from States and election agencies, except that the provision of such information and comments by a State or election agency shall be voluntary and at the discretion of the State or election agency.

SEC. 3106. PREPAREDNESS ASSESSMENTS.

(a) Submission of Assessment by DNI.—Not later than 180 days before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit an assessment of the full scope of threats, including cybersecurity threats posed by state actors and terrorist groups, to election infrastructure, and submit recommendations to address or mitigate such threats, as developed by the Secretary and Chairman, to—

(1) the chief State election official of each State;

(2) the appropriate congressional committees; and

(3) any other relevant congressional committees.

(b) Updates to Initial Assessments.—If, at any time after submitting an assessment with respect to an election under subsection (a), the Director shall submit a revised assessment under such subsection.

(c) Definitions.—In this section—

(1) the term “Chairman” means the chair of the Election Assistance Commission;

(2) the term “chief State election official” means, with respect to a State, the individual designated under section 219 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(3) the term “election infrastructure” means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registration databases, electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

(4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(5) the term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 102(d)(4) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141).

(d) Effective Date.—This subtitle shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office in November 2022 and each succeeding regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.

Subtitle C—Enhancing Protections for United States Democratic Institutions

SEC. 3201. ESTABLISHMENT—PROTECT UNITED STATES DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

(a) In General.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, the Director of National Intelligence, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, and the heads of any other appropriate Federal agencies, shall convene a strategy committee to protect and defend United States democratic institutions against cyber attacks, influence operations, disinformation campaigns, and other activities that could undermine the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions.

(b) Considerations.—The national strategy required under subsection (a) shall include considerations of—

(1) the threat of a foreign state actor, foreign terrorist organization (as designated pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)), or a domestic actor carrying out a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activities that could undermine the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions.

(2) the extent to which United States democratic institutions are vulnerable to a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of such democratic institutions.

(3) Potential consequences, such as an erosion of public trust or an undermining of the rule of law, that could result from a successful cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions.

Lessons learned from other governments the institutions of which were subject to a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of such democratic institutions, as well as actions that could be taken by the United States Government to bolster collaboration with foreign partners to detect, deter, prevent, and counter such activities.

(5) Potential impacts, such as an erosion of public trust in democratic institutions, as could be associated with a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity negatively affecting election infrastructure.

(6) Roles and responsibilities of the Secretary, the Chairman, and any other appropriate Federal entities and non-Federal entities, including chief State election officials and representatives of multi-state information sharing and analysis centers.

(7) Any findings, conclusions, and recommendations to strengthen protections for United States democratic institutions that have been agreed to by a majority of Commission members on the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, authorization to implement the recommendations.

(c) Implementation Plan.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of the national strategy required under subsection (a), the President, acting through the Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, shall issue an implementation plan for Federal efforts to implement such strategy that includes the following:

(1) Strategic objectives and corresponding tasks.

(2) Projected timelines and costs for the tasks referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) Metrics to evaluate performance of such tasks.

(d) Classification.—The national strategy required under subsection (a) shall be in unclassified form.

(e) Civil Rights Review.—Not later than 60 days after the issuance of the national strategy required under subsection (a), and not later than 60 days after the issuance of the implementation plan required under subsection (c), the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (established under section 1061 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 20000)) shall submit to Congress a report on any potential privacy and civil liberties impacts of such strategy and implementation plan, respectively.

SEC. 3202. NATIONAL COMMISSION TO PROTECT UNITED STATES DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

(a) Establishment.—There is established within the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions (in this section referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of the Commission is to cover efforts to undermine democratic institutions within the United States.

(c) Composition.—The Commission shall be composed of 10 members appointed for the life of the Commission as follows:
(A) One member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Senate, and one member shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

(C) Two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

(E) The members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration, and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

(F) Two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security, the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals shall be selected for appointment to the Commission solely on the basis of their professional qualifications, achievements, expertise, and experience in pertinent fields, including cybersecurity, national security, and the Constitution of the United States.

(3) NO COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE.—Members may not receive compensation for service on the Commission, but shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made. The appointment of the replacement member shall be made not later than 60 days after the date on which the new member takes office.

(d) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members.

(e) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—Any public meetings of the Commission shall meet the requirements of chapter 2 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) POWERS.—(1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this section.

(2) OBTAINING INFORMATION.—In addition to the assistance provided under paragraph (1), the Department of Homeland Security, the Election Assistance Commission, and other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States shall provide to the Commission such services, funds, facilities, and staff as the Commission may determine advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(h) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—Any public meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in a manner that protects Commission staff with appropriate security clearances to the extent possible under applicable procedures and requirements.

(2) PREROGATIVES.—In appointing staff, obtaining detailees, and entering into contracts for the provision of services for the Commission, the Commission shall give preference to individuals who have appropriate security clearances.

(i) REPORTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of appropriate departments and agencies of the executive branch shall cooperate with the Commission to expeditiously provide Commission members and staff with appropriate security clearances to the extent possible under applicable procedures and requirements.

(j) PREFERENCES.—In appointing staff, obtaining detailees, and entering into contracts for the provision of services for the Commission, the Commission shall give preference to individuals who have appropriate security clearances.

(k) REPORTS.—(1) INTERIM REPORTS.—At any time prior to the submission of the final report under paragraph (2), the Commission may submit interim reports to the President and Congress containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations to strengthen protections for democratic institutions in the United States as have been agreed to by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a final report containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations to strengthen protections for democratic institutions in the United States as have been agreed to by a majority of the members of the Commission.

(l) TERMINATION.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall terminate upon the expiration of the 60-day period which begins on the date on which the Commission submits the final report required under subsection (j)(2).

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO TERMINATION.—During the 60-day period referred to in paragraph (1), the Commission may carry out such administrative activities as may be required to complete the Commission’s work, including providing testimony to committees of Congress concerning the final report and disseminating the final report.

Subtitle D—Promoting Cybersecurity Through Improved Administration

SEC. 3301. TESTING OF EXISTING VOTING SYS- TEMS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ELECTION CYBERSECURITY GUIDELINES AND OTHER GUIDELINES.

(a) REQUIRING TESTING OF EXISTING VOTING SYSTEMS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(4) any electronic poll book used with respect to the election; and"

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081) is amended—

(1) by redesigning subsections (d) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(c) ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK DEFINED.—In this Act, the term ‘electronic poll book’ means the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used—

“(1) to retain the list of registered voters at a polling location, or vote center, or other location at which voters cast votes in an election for Federal office; and

“(2) to identify registered voters who are eligible to vote in an election.”;

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301(e) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(e)), as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ‘‘; or, with respect to any requirements relating to electronic poll books, on and after January 1, 2022.’’

SEC. 3302. TREATMENT OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AS PART OF VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

(a) INCLUSION IN DEFINITION OF VOTING SYSTEM.—Section 301(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ‘‘this section’’ and inserting ‘‘this Act’’;

(2) by striking ‘‘and’’ at the end of paragraph (1);

(3) by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) any electronic poll book used with respect to the election; and”;

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081) is amended—

(1) by redesigning subsections (d) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(c) ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK DEFINED.—In this Act, the term ‘electronic poll book’ means the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used—

“(1) to retain the list of registered voters at a polling location, or vote center, or other location at which voters cast votes in an election for Federal office; and

“(2) to identify registered voters who are eligible to vote in an election.”;

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301(e) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(e)), as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ‘‘; or, with respect to any requirements relating to electronic poll books, on and after January 1, 2022.’’

SEC. 3303. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

(a) REQUIRING REPORTS TO SUBMIT REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION.—Section 21084 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21084) is amended by adding after section 301 the following new section:

“SEC. 301A. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

“(a) REQUIRING REPORTS TO SUBMIT REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION.—Not later than 120 days before the date...
of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the chief State election official of a State shall submit a report to the Commission containing a detailed voting system usage plan for each of the State's election service providers, to include the electronic poll books and other equipment and components of such system.

(b) Applicability.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding regularly scheduled election for Federal office.

CRS Note:—In subsection (b) of this section:

As used in this subsection, the term 'Congressional Record' means the daily record of proceedings, debate, and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who manage the election process, and report and manage the election process, and report and manage election cybersecurity vulnerabilities

(b) WAIVER OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Subparagraph (1) of section 301 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the collection of information for purposes of maintaining the clearinghouse described in paragraph (1) of section 301 (of title 44, United States Code).

Subsection (e) of section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922) is amended—

(2) The term ‘appropriate congressional committee’ means the Committees on Homeland Security and House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(3) The term ‘chief State election official’ means, with respect to the State, the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(c) The term ‘Commission’ means the Election Assistance Commission.

(d) The term ‘democratic institution’ means the diverse range of institutions that are essential to ensuring an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, and rule of law.

(e) The term ‘election agency’ means any component of a State, or any component of a unit of local government in a State, which is responsible for the administration of elections for Federal office in the State.

(f) The term ‘election infrastructure’ means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations (including those used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registration data bases, voting machines, paper ballots, electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

(g) The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Subsection (e) of section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20509) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall, with respect to an application for a grant received by the Commission—

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing an application pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the Committee shall consider—

(A) The record of the applicant with respect to—

(1) compliance of the applicant with the requirements under subsection (b) of section 301 of title 11 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20509); and


(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle G—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 3601. DEFINITIONS.

Except as provided in section 3402, in this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term ‘Chairman’ means the chair of the Election Assistance Commission.

(2) The term ‘appropriate congressional committee’ means the Committees on Homeland Security and House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(3) The term ‘chief State election official’ means, with respect to the State, the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(4) The term ‘Commission’ means the Election Assistance Commission.

(5) The term ‘democratic institution’ means the diverse range of institutions that are essential to ensuring an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, and rule of law.

(6) The term ‘election agency’ means any component of a State, or any component of a unit of local government in a State, which is responsible for the administration of elections for Federal office in the State.

(7) The term ‘election infrastructure’ means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations (including those used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registration databases, voting machines, paper ballots, electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

(8) The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Homeland Security.
TITLE IV—CAMPAIGN FINANCE

SEC. 4001. FINDINGS RELATING TO ILICIT MONEY UNDERMINING OUR DEMOCRACY.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Criminals, terrorists, and corrupt government officials frequently use anonymously held Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), also known as “shell companies,” to hide, move, and launder the dirty money derived from illicit activities such as trafficking, bribery, exploitation, and embezzlement. Ownership and control of the finances that run through shell companies are obscured to regulators and law enforcement because little information is required and collected when establishing these entities.

(2) The public release of the “Panama Papers” in 2016 and the “Paradise Papers” in 2017 revealed that these shell companies are used to purchase and sell United States real estate. United States anti-money laundering laws do not apply to cash transactions involving real estate effectively concealing the money laundering and transactions from regulators and law enforcement.

(3) Since the Supreme Court’s decisions in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), millions of dollars have flowed into super PACs through LLCs whose funders are anonymous or intentionally obscured. Criminal investigations have uncovered LLCs that were used to funnel illegal campaign contributions from foreign criminal fugitives, to documents who were already under investigation for bribery and racketeering. Voters have no way to know the true sources of the money being spent to influence elections, including whether any of the funds come from foreign or other illicit sources.

(4) Congress should curb the use of anonymous shell companies for illicit purposes by requiring United States companies to disclose their beneficial owners, strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism finance laws.

(5) Congress should examine the money laundering and terrorist financing risks in the real estate market, including the role of anonymous parties, and review legislation to address any vulnerabilities identified.

(6) Congress should examine the methods by which corruption flourishes and the means to...
detect and deter the financial misconduct that fuels this driver of global instability. Congress should monitor government efforts to enforce United States anti-corruption laws and regulations.

SEC. 4002. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN REPORTING OF FOREIGN CONTACTS.

(a) INITIAL NOTICE.—

(1) In section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) DISCLOSURE OF REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACTS.—

(I) COMMITTEE OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—Not later than 1 week after a reportable foreign contact, each political committee shall notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Commission of the reportable foreign contact and provide a summary of the circumstances with respect to such reportable foreign contact. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, not later than 1 week after receiving a notification from a political committee under this paragraph, shall submit to the political committee, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate written or electronic confirmation of receipt of the notification.

(2) INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—Not later than 3 days after a reportable foreign contact—

(A) each candidate and each immediate family member of a candidate shall notify the treasurer or other designated official of the principal campaign committee of such candidate of the reportable foreign contact and provide a summary of the circumstances with respect to such reportable foreign contact; and

(B) each official, employee, or agent of a political committee shall notify the treasurer or other designated official of the committee of the reportable foreign contact and provide a summary of the circumstances with respect to such reportable foreign contact.

(2) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACT.—In this subsection—

(A) ‘In general.—The term ‘reportable foreign contact’ means any direct or indirect contact or communication that—

(i) is between—

(I) a candidate, an immediate family member of the candidate, a political committee, or any official, employee, or agent of such committee; and

(II) an individual that—

(a) is the person described in subsection (I), or

(b) knows, has reason to know, or reasonably believes is a covered foreign national; and

(ii) the person described in clause (i)(I) knows, has reason to know, or reasonably believes involves—

(A) an offer or other proposal for a contribution, donation, expenditure, disbursement, or solicitation described in section 319; or

(B) coordination or collaboration with, an offer or provision of information or services to or from, or persistent and repeated contact with, a foreign national in connection with an election.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

(I) CONTACTS IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS ELECTED OFFICIAL.—The term ‘reportable foreign contact’ shall not include any contact or communication with a covered foreign national by an elected official or an employee of an elected official solely in an official capacity as such an official or employee.

(II) CONTACTS FOR PURPOSES OF ENABLING OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.—The term ‘reportable foreign contact’ shall not include any contact or communication with a covered foreign national by any person which is made for purposes of enabling the observation of elections in the United States by a foreign national or the observation of elections in the United States by a candidate, political committee, or any official, employee, or agent of such committee.

(C) COVERED FOREIGN NATIONAL DEFINED.—

“(j) DISCLOSURE OF REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered foreign national’ means—

(I) a foreign principal described in clause (ii) if the contact or communication involves a contribution, donation, expenditure, disbursement, or solicitation described in section 319.

(2) INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—Not later than 1 week after the date of a contact or communication that—

(A) receive notice of such policies; and

(B) are informed of the provisions under section 321.

(3) CERTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon filing its statement of organization under section 303(a), and with each report filed under section 304(a), the treasurer of each political committee (other than an authorized committee) shall certify that—

(i) the committee has in place policies that meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the committee has designated an official to monitor compliance with such policies; and

(iii) not later than 1 week after the beginning of any formal or informal affiliation with the committee, all officials, employees, and agents of such committee will—

(C) the identity of individuals involved; and

(D) the identity of individuals involved;

(E) any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304) shall be fined not more than $500,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(F) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304) shall be fined not more than $1,000,000, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

SEC. 4003. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN FOREIGN CONTACT REPORTING COMPLIANCE SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(b) of the Federal Election Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACTS COMPLIANCE POLICY.—

(1) REPORTING.—Each political committee shall establish a policy that requires all officials, employees, and agents of such committee (and, in the case of an authorized committee, the candidate and each member of the candidate) to notify the treasurer or other appropriate designated official of the committee of any reportable foreign contact (as defined in this Act) no later than 3 days after such contact was made.

(2) RETENTION AND PRESERVATION OF RECORDS.—Each political committee shall establish a policy that provides for the retention and preservation of records and information related to reportable foreign contacts (as so defined) for a period of not less than 3 years.

(3) DISCLOSURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon filing its statement of organization under section 303(a), and with each report filed under section 304(a), the treasurer of each political committee (other than an authorized committee) shall ensure that—

(i) the committee has in place policies that meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the committee has designated an official to monitor compliance with such policies; and

(iii) not later than 1 week after the beginning of any formal or informal affiliation with the committee, all officials, employees, and agents of such committee will—

(C) the identity of individuals involved; and

(D) the identity of individuals involved;

(E) any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304) shall be fined not more than $500,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(F) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304) shall be fined not more than $1,000,000, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

SEC. 4004. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

Section 304(d)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(d)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304) shall be fined not more than $500,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(E) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304) shall be fined not more than $1,000,000, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

SEC. 4005. REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report relating to notifications received by the Director’s office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation under section 304(i)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section 4002(a) of this Act).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following with respect to notifications described in subsection (a):—

(1) A summary of such notices received from political committees during the year covered by the report.
(2) A description of protocols and procedures developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to receipt and maintenance of records relating to such notifications.
(3) The number of such notifications received during the year covered by the report, a description of any subsequent actions taken by the Director resulting from the receipt of such notifications.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘congressional intelligence committees’ has the meaning given to that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

SEC. 4006. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this section shall be construed to (1) to impede legitimate journalistic activities; or (2) to impose any additional limitation on the right to express political views or to participate in public discourse of any individual who— (A) resides in the United States; (B) is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States, as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)); and (C) is admitted for permanent residence, as defined by section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20)).

Subtitle B—Disclose Act

SEC. 4100. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ‘Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections Act of 2021’ or the ‘Disclose Act of 2021’.

PART I—CLOSING LOOPHOLES ALLOWING SPENDING BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTIONS

SEC. 4101. CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON PAYMENTS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION.—Section 319(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)) is amended— (1) by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end of paragraph (1); (2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting ‘‘; or’’; and (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph: ‘‘(3) a foreign national to direct, dictate, control, or directly or indirectly participate in the decision making process of any person (including a corporation or organization) involved in political committee or political organization, with respect to such person’s Federal or non-Federal election-related activity, including any decision concerning contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements in connection with an election for any Federal, State, or local office or any decision concerning the administration of a political committee.’’.

(b) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE.—Section 319 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30121) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection: ‘‘(c) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE REQUIRED PRIOR TO CARRYING OUT ACTIVITY.—Prior to the making in connection with an election for Federal office of any contribution, donation, expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement for an electioneering communication by a corporation, labor organization (as defined in section 316(b)), limited liability corporation, or partnership (or, if the corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership does not have a chief executive officer, the highest ranking official of the corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership), the chief executive officer of such corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership shall certify that no such corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership has been involved in any campaign contributions, donations, independent expenditures, or disbursements for an electioneering communication or disbursement for an electioneering communication made in connection with an election for Federal office and which ends on the date of a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall take such action as is appropriate.

SEC. 4102. DISCLOSURE OF DISBURSEMENTS BY CORPORATIONS, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

(a) DISCLOSURE OF DISBURSEMENTS.—Section 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)) is amended— (1) by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end of paragraph (1); (2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: ‘‘(C) an expenditure;’’; and (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph: ‘‘(D) a disbursement for an electioneering communication (within the meaning of section 316(h));’’.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall take effect without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations to carry out such amendments.

SEC. 4103. AUDIT AND REPORT ON ILLICIT FOREIGN MONEY IN ELECTIONS.

(a) AUDIT.— (1) The Commission shall conduct an audit of each Federal election cycle to determine the incidence of illicit foreign money in such Federal election cycle.

(b) PROTOCOLS REQUIRED.— (1) The Commission shall adopt and make publicly available such protocols as are necessary to conduct the audit under this subsection.

(c) THRESHOLD.—A disbursement is subject to the audit under subsection (b) if— (1) the disbursement is a disbursement for a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication (within the meaning of section 316(h)); or (2) the disbursement is a disbursement for a communication (within the meaning of section 316(b)) that refers to a clearly identified candidate for Federal, State, or local office (regardless of whether the communication contains express advocacy or the functional equivalent of express advocacy);

(d) REPORT.— (1) The audit required by subsection (a)(1) shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Commission.

SEC. 4104. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN CONNECTION WITH BALLOT INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA.

(a) DISBURSEMENTS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS PROHIBITED.—Section 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)) is amended— (1) by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end of subparagraph (C); and (2) by striking paragraph (D) and inserting the following: ‘‘(D) a disbursement for a broadcast, cable or satellite communication, or for a communication which is placed or promoted for a fee on a website, web application, or digital application, that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the election of a clearly identified candidate for Federal, State, or local office (regardless of whether the communication contains express advocacy or the functional equivalent of express advocacy);’’.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to election cycles that began during November 2022 and each succeeding Federal election cycle.

SEC. 4105. DISBURSEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO FOREIGN MONEY BAN.

(a) DISBURSEMENTS.—Section 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)) is amended— (1) by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end of paragraph (1); and (2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: ‘‘(C) an expenditure;’’.

(b) DISBURSEMENTS FOR A COMMUNICATION.—Section 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)) is amended— (1) by striking ‘‘or’’ at the end of paragraph (1); and (2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: ‘‘(C) a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication which is placed or promoted for a fee on a website, web application, or digital application, that promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the election of a clearly identified candidate for Federal, State, or local office (regardless of whether the communication contains express advocacy or the functional equivalent of express advocacy);’’.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to election cycles that began during November 2022 and each succeeding Federal election cycle.
online platform (as defined in section 304(k)(3)), that discusses a national legislative issue of public importance in a year in which a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office is held, or (2) a local transaction if the disbursement is made by a covered foreign national described in section 304(f)(3)(C);

(1) a disbursement by a covered foreign national described in section 304(f)(3)(C) that contains the information described in paragraph (2) and is transmitted, or any functional equivalent of such transmission, to a recipient of the information in or outside the United States;

(2) a disbursement by any person acting as a nominee, intermediary, or agent of an entity and whose control over or economic interest in or with respect to the entity is through a right of inheritance, unless the disbursement is made by any person who made payments to the account in an aggregate amount of $10,000 or more during the period covered by the statement of more than $1,000, and the name and address of the person to whom the disbursement was made;

(3) a disbursement by a political party, a candidate, a political action committee, a presidential candidate, or the principal campaign committee of a political party.

The prohibition and deposited the payment in an account of the covered organization or in the form of investments (other than investments by the principal shareholder in a limited liability corporation) in the covered organization. For purposes of clause (i), the term "covered organization" means a political party or a political action committee.

(A)(i) If the covered organization makes campaign-related disbursements using exclusively funds in a segregated bank account consisting of funds that were paid directly to such account by persons other than the covered organization that controls the account, for each such payment to the account—

(1) the name and address of each person who made such payment during the period covered by the statement;

(2) the date and amount of such payment; and

(3) the aggregate amount of all such payments made by the person during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the period beginning one year before the disclosure date) and ending on the disclosure date, but only if such payment was made by a person who made payments to the account in an aggregate amount of $10,000 or more during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the period beginning one year before the disclosure date) and ending on the disclosure date.

(B) The requirement to include in a statement filed under paragraph (1) the information described in subparagraph (F) shall not apply if—

(1) the person described in such subparagraph prohibited, in writing, the use of the payment made by such person for campaign-related disbursements; and

(2) the covered organization agreed to follow the prohibition and deposited the payment in an account which is segregated from any account used to make campaign-related disbursements.

(C) THREAT OF HARASSMENT OR REPRISAL. — The requirement to include any information relating to the name or address of any person (other than a candidate) in a statement submitted under paragraph (1) shall not apply if the inclusion of the information would subject the person to serious threats, harassment, or reprisals.

(D) ADMINISTRATION. — The Commission shall promulgate rules established by the Commission to promote the purposes of this section.

(2) EXCEPTIONS. — For purposes of this section:

(A) BENEFICIAL OWNER DEFINED. —

(i) IN GENERAL. — Except as provided in clause (ii), the term 'beneficial owner' means, with respect to any entity, a natural person with a direct or indirect ownership interest in the entity or an entity that has a substantial interest in or receives substantial economic benefits from the assets of the entity.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS. — The term 'beneficial owner' shall not include—

(1) a minor child;

(2) a person acting as a nominee, intermediary, or agent on behalf of another person;

(3) a person acting solely as an employee of an issuer or officer of an issuer and whose control over or economic benefits from the entity derives solely from the employment status of the person; and

(4) a person who only interest in an entity through a right of inheritance or the person also meets the requirements of clause (i); or
’(VA) a creditor of an entity, unless the creditor also meets the requirements of clause (I).

’(i) ANTI-ABUSE RULE.—The exceptions under clause (ii) shall not apply if used for the purpose of evading, circumventing, or avoiding the provisions of clause (i) or paragraph (2)(A).

’(B) DISCLOSURE DATE.—The term ‘disclosure date’ means—

’(i) the first date during any election reporting cycle by which a person has made campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than $10,000, and

’(ii) any other date during such election reporting cycle by which a person has made campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than $10,000 since the most recent disclosure date for such election reporting cycle.

’(C) ELECTION REPORTING CYCLE.—The term ‘election reporting cycle’ means the 2-year period beginning on the date of the most recent general election for Federal office, except that in the case of a campaign-related disbursement for a Federal judicial nomination communication, such term means any calendar year in which the campaign-related disbursement is made.

’(D) PAYMENT.—The term ‘payment’ includes any contribution, donation, transfer, payment of dues, or other payment.

’(B) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROVISIONS.

’(1) OTHER REPORTS FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.—Any information included in a statement or reports filed under section 304.

’(2) TREATMENT AS SEPARATE SEGREGATED FUND ACCOUNT.—Any account referred to in subsection (a)(2)(E) may be treated as a separate segregated fund for purposes of section 527(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

’(C) DECLARATIONS.—Statements required to be filed under subsection (a) shall be subject to the requirements of section 304(d) to the same extent and in the same manner as if such reports had been required under subsection (c) or (g) of section 304.

’(D) CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENT DEFINED.—

’(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘campaign-related disbursement’ means a disbursement by a covered organization for any of the following:

’(A) An independent expenditure which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identifiable candidate for Federal office or which promotes or supports the election of a candidate for Federal office, or which is the functional equivalent of express advocacy because, when taken as a whole, it can be interpreted by a reasonable person only as support or opposition to election or appointment of a candidate for election for Federal office.

’(B) Any public communication which refers to a clearly identified candidate for election for Federal office and which promotes or supports the election of a candidate for that office, or attack or opposes the election of a candidate for that office, without regard to whether the communication expressly advocates a vote for or against a candidate for that office.

’(C) An electioneering communication, as defined in section 316(b).

’(D) A Federal judicial nomination communication.

’(E) A covered transfer.

’(F) A Federal judicial nomination communication.

’(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Federal judicial nomination communication’ means any communication—

’(i) that is by means of any broadcast, cable, or satellite, over the internet, or paid digital communication, paid promotion, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing, telephone bank, telephone messaging effort of more than 500 substantially similar calls or electronic or digital communiques within a 30-day period, or any other form of general public political advertising; and

’(ii) which promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the nomination or Senate confirmation of an individual as a Federal judge or justice.

’(B) EXCEPTION.—Such term shall not include any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station or any print, online, or digital newspaper, magazine, publication, or periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate.

’(B) EXCEPTION.—The term ‘campaign-related disbursement’ does not include any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station or any print, online, or digital newspaper, magazine, publication, or periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate.

’(D) PAYMENT.—The term ‘payment’ includes any contribution, donation, transfer, payment of dues, or other payment.

’(B) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROVISIONS.

’(1) OTHER REPORTS FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.—Any information included in a statement or reports filed under section 304.

’(2) TREATMENT AS SEPARATE SEGREGATED FUND ACCOUNT.—Any account referred to in subsection (a)(2)(E) may be treated as a separate segregated fund for purposes of section 527(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

’(C) DECLARATIONS.—Statements required to be filed under subsection (a) shall be subject to the requirements of section 304(d) to the same extent and in the same manner as if such reports had been required under subsection (c) or (g) of section 304.

’(D) CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENT DEFINED.—

’(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘campaign-related disbursement’ means a disbursement by a covered organization for any of the following:

’(A) A corporation (other than an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code).

’(B) A limited liability corporation that is not otherwise treated as a corporation for purposes of this Act (as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

’(C) An organization described in section 501(c)(4) of such Code, if exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code (other than an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code).

’(D) A labor organization (as defined in section 101(h)).

’(E) Any political organization under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, other than a political committee described in this Act (except as provided in paragraph (6)),

’(F) A political committee with an account that accepts donations that do not comply with the contribution limits or source prohibitions under this Act, but only with respect to such accounts.

’(G) A covered transfer.

’(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘covered transfer’ means any transfer or payment of funds by a covered organization to another covered organization.

’(A) Designates, requests, or suggests that the amounts be used for—

’(i) campaign-related disbursements (other than covered transfers); or

’(ii) making a transfer to another person for the purpose of making or paying for such campaign-related disbursement.

’(B) Made such transfer or payment in response to a solicitation or other request for a donation or payment for—

’(i) the making of or payment for covered organization disbursements (other than covered transfers); or

’(ii) making a transfer to another person for the purpose of making or paying for such campaign-related disbursements.

’(C) Engaged in discussions with the recipient of the transfer regarding—

’(i) the making of or payment for campaign-related disbursements (other than covered transfers); or

’(ii) making a transfer to another person for the purpose of making or paying for such campaign-related disbursements.

’(D) Made campaign-related disbursements (other than a covered transfer) in an aggregate amount of $50,000 or more during the 2-year period ending on the date of the transfer or payment, or knew or had reason to know that the person receiving the transfer or payment made such disbursements in such an aggregate amount during the same period.

’(E) Knew or had reason to know that the person receiving the transfer or payment would make campaign-related disbursements in an aggregate amount of $50,000 or more during the 2-year period beginning on the date of the transfer or payment, or

’(F) COVERAGE OF TRANSFERS TO AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.—The term ‘covered transfer’ does not include any of the following:

’(A) A disbursement made by a covered organization in a commercial transaction in the ordinary course of business, conducted by the covered organization or in the form of investments made by the covered organization.

’(B) A disbursement made by a covered organization if—

’(i) the covered organization prohibited, in writing, the use of such transfer for campaign-related disbursements; and

’(ii) the recipient of the disbursement agreed to follow the prohibition and deposited the disbursement in an account which is segregated from any account used to make campaign-related disbursements.

’(G) SPECIAL RULE REGARDING TRANSFERS AMONG AFFILIATES.—

’(A) SPECIAL RULE.—A transfer of an amount by one covered organization to another covered organization which is treated as a transfer between affiliates under section 304(d) shall be considered a covered transfer by the covered organization which transfers the amount only if the aggregate amount transferred during the year which covered organization is equal to or greater than $50,000.

’(B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS AMONG AFFILIATES.—In determining the amount of a transfer between affiliates for purposes of subparagraph (A), to the extent that the transfer consists of funds attributable to dues, fees, or assessments which are paid by individuals on a regular, periodic basis in accordance with a per-individual calculation which is not based on the basis the transfer shall be attributed to the individuals to whom the dues, fees, or assessments and shall not be attributed to the covered organization.

’(C) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN AFFILIATES.—A transfer of amounts from one covered organization to another covered organization shall be treated as a transfer between affiliates if—

’(i) any one of the organizations is an affiliate of the other organization; or

’(ii) each of the organizations is an affiliate of the same organization except that the transfer shall not be treated as a transfer between affiliates if one of the organizations is established for the purpose of making campaign-related disbursements.

’(D) DETERMINATION OF AFFILIATE STATUS.—For purposes of subparagraph (C), a covered organization is an affiliate of another covered organization if—

’(i) the governing instrument of the organization requires it to be bound by decisions of the other organization;

’(ii) the governing board of the organization includes persons who are specifically designated representatives of the other organization or are members of the governing board, or paid executive staff members of the other organization, or whose service on the governing board is contingent upon the approval of the other organization; or

’(iii) the organization is chartered by the other organization.

’(E) COVERAGE OF TRANSFERS TO AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS—This paragraph shall apply with respect to an amount transferred by a covered organization to an organization described in paragraph (3) of section 501(c)(3) of such Code and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

’(4) NO EFFECT ON OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be
construed to waive or otherwise affect any other requirement of this Act which relates to the reporting of campaign-related disbursements.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 304(10)(G) and (H) of title 52 U.S.C. 30104 is amended by striking “Any requirement” and inserting “Except as provided in section 324(b), any requirement”.

(2) COORDINATION WITH FINCEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury shall provide the Federal Election Commission with such information as necessary to assist in administering and enforcing section 324 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended by this section.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, in consultation with the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury, shall submit to Congress a report with recommendations for providing further legislative authority to assist in the administration and enforcement of such section 324.

SEC. 4112. APPLICATION OF FOREIGN MONEY BAN TO DISBURSEMENTS CONCERNING COVERED TRANSFERS.

Section 319(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30105(a)(1)(A)), as amended by section 4102, is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “; and any disbursement, other than an expenditure described in section 324(a)(3)(A), to another person who made a campaign-related disbursement consisting of a covered transfer (as described in section 324) during the 2-year period ending on the date of the disbursement;”.

SEC. 4113. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to disbursements made on or after January 1, 2022, and shall take effect with respect to disbursements made before such date.

PART III—OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

SEC. 4121. PETITION FOR CERTIORARI.

Section 307(a)(6) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30117(a)(6)) is amended in subsection (a)(5) by inserting a reference in subsection (b) before the Supreme Court on certiorari” after “appeal”.

SEC. 4122. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ACTIONS RELATED TO CAMPAIGN-FINANCE LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 3041 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 406 the following new section:

“(4) On September 6, 2017, The Nation’s largest social media platform disclosed that between June 2012 and May 2017, Russian entities purchased $100,000 in political advertisements, publishing roughly 30,000 ads linked to fake accounts associated with the Internet Research Agency, a pro-Kremlin organization. According to the company, the ads purchased focused “on amplifying divisive social and political messages * * *”.

(5) In 2002, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act became law, establishing disclosure requirements for political advertisements distributed from a television or radio broadcast station or provider of cable or satellite television. In 2003, the Supreme Court upheld regulations on electioneering communications established under the Act, noting that such requirements “provide the electorate with information that the voters are fully informed about the person or group who is speaking.”

(6) According to a study by Borrell Associates in 2016, $1.4 billion was spent on online advertising, more than quadruple the amount in 2012.

(7) The reach of a few large internet platforms makes them larger than any other political ad dispenser, and the fact that the largest cable provider—has greatly facilitated the scale and effectiveness of disinformation campaigns. For instance, the largest platform has over 220 million active viewers every month, and the most-watched television broadcast in United States history had 118 million viewers.

(8) The public nature of broadcast television, radio, and satellite ensures a level of publicity for any political advertisement. These communications are accessible to the press, fact-checkers, and political opponents; this creates strong disincentives for a candidate to disseminate materially false, inflammatory, or contradictory messages to the public. Social media platforms, in contrast, can target portions of the electorate with specific characteristics, ephemeral social media platforms, or other forms of private information the platform has on individuals, enabling political advertisements that are contradictory, racially or socially inflammatory, or materially false in nature.

(9) According to comScore, 2 companies own 8 of the 10 most popular smartphone applications.
as of June 2017, including the most popular social media and email services—which deliver information and news to users without requiring proactivity by the user. Those same 2 companies account for 59 percent of revenue growth from digital advertising in 2016, including 77 percent of gross spending. 79 percent of online Americans—representing 68 percent of all Americans—use the same 50 largest social networking services, while 66 percent of these users are most likely to get their news from that site.

(10) In its 2016 report, the Federal Election Commission noted that only 18 percent of all Americans cited the internet as their leading source of news about the 2016 presidential election. Pew Research Center, “The Role of Social Media in Election 2016,” found that 65 percent of Americans identified an internet-based source as their leading source of information for the 2016 election.

(11) The Federal Election Commission, the independent Federal agency charged with protecting the integrity of the Federal campaign finance process by providing transparency and administering campaign finance laws, has failed to take action to address online political advertisements.

(12) In testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence titled, “Disinformation: A Primer in Russian Active Measures and Influence Campaigns,” multiple expert witnesses testified that while the disinformation of foreign states need not necessarily have changed, social media services now provide “platform(s) practically purpose-built for active measures.” Similarly, as Gen. Keith B. Alexander (RET.), the former Director, of the National Security Agency, testified, during the Cold War “if the Soviet Union sought to manipulate information flow, it would have to do so through its own propaganda outlets or through active measures that would generate specific news: planting of leaflets, inciting of violence, creation of other false material, etc.” But the former KGB was hard to manipulate because it would have required actual control of the organs of media, which took long-term efforts to penetrate. Today, however, because the clear majority of the information on social media sites is curated and there is a rapid proliferation of information sources and other sites that can reframe information, there is an increasing likelihood that the information available to average consumers may be inaccurate (whether intentionally or otherwise) and may be more easily manipulable than in prior eras.

(13) Current regulations on political advertisements do not provide sufficient transparency to uphold the public’s right to be fully informed about political advertisements made online.

SEC. 2402. SENSE OF CONGRESS. It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the dramatic increase in digital political advertisements, and the growing centrality of online platforms in the lives of Americans, requires the Congress and the Federal Election Commission to take meaningful action to ensure that laws and regulations provide the accountability and transparency that is fundamental to our democracy;

(2) no fair elections require both transparency and accountability which give the public a right to know the true sources of funding for political advertisements in order to make informed decisions to hold elected officials accountable; and

(3) transparency of funding for political advertisements are enforceable under other campaign finance laws, including the prohibition on campaign spending by foreign nationals.

SEC. 2405. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF PUBLIC COMMUNICATION. (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (22) of section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(22)) is amended by striking “or satellite”; and inserting “satellite, paid internet, or paid digital communication”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking “on broadcast or cable facilities, or in newspapers, magazines, or similar types of general public political advertising and inserting “in any public communication”; and

(2) in paragraph (9)(B)—

(A) by amending clause (i) to read as follows: “(i) any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through any broadcast, online, or digital newspaper, magazine, blog, publication, or periodical, unless such broadcasting, print, or digital facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate;” and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “on broadcast, online, or digital facilities, or similar types of general public political advertising” and inserting “in any public communication”.

(c) DISCLOSURE AND DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS.—Subsection (a) of section 318 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120) is amended—

(1) by striking “financing any communication through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising” and inserting “financing any public communication;” and

(2) by striking “solicits any contribution through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising” and inserting “solicits any contribution through any public communication.”

SEC. 2406. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION. (a) EXPANSION TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.—(1) APPLICATION TO QUALIFIED INTERNET AND DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—(A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 304(f)(3) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)(A)) is amended by adding “or similar types of general public political advertising” after “in any public communication”.

(b) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION.—Paragraph (3) of section 304(f)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘qualified internet or digital communication’ means any communication which is in video format or any other type of communication, the placement or promotion of which is made or the majority of the text in the communication appears in letters at least as large as the majority of the text in the communication, and which is not otherwise a broadcast, cable, or satellite.”

SEC. 2407. APPLICATION OF DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS TO ONLINE COMMUNICATION. (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (22) of section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(22)) is amended by striking “or satellite”; and inserting “satellite, paid internet, or paid digital communication”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)(B), by striking “on broadcast or cable facilities, or in newspapers, magazines, or similar types of general public political advertising and inserting “in any public communication”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following flush sentence: “For purposes of this section, a communication shall be made in a clear and conspicuous manner if it is difficult to read or hear if the placement is easily overlooked.”

(c) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 318 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of any qualified internet or digital communication (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)) which is disseminated through a text or graphic communication, the provision of all of the information specified in this section is not possible, the communication shall, in a clear and conspicuous manner—

“(A) state the name of the person who paid for the communication; and

“(B) provide a means for the recipient of the communication to obtain the remainder of the information required under this section with minimal effort and without receiving or viewing any additional material other than such required information.

“(2) SAFE HARBOR FOR DETERMINING CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER.—A statement in qualified internet or digital communication (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)) shall be considered to be in a clear and conspicuous manner as provided in subsection (a) if the communication meets the following requirements:

“(A) TEXT OR GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of a text or graphic communication, the statement—

“(i) appears in letters at least as large as the majority of the text in the communication; and

“(ii) meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).

“(B) AUDIO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of an audio communication, the statement is spoken in a clearly audible and intelligible manner at the beginning or end of the communication and lasts at least 3 seconds.

“(C) VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of a video communication which also includes audio, the statement—

“(i) is included at either the beginning or the end of the communication; and

“(ii) is made both in—

“(I) a written format that meets the requirements of subparagraph (A) and appears for at least 3 seconds; and

“(II) an audible format that meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).

“(D) OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of any other type of communication, the statement is at least as clear and conspicuous as the statement specified in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

“(2) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS.—The exceptions provided in section 110.11(f)(1)(i) and (ii) of title 11, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor to such rules, shall not apply to any qualified internet or digital communications (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

“(c) MODIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 318(d) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking “which is transmitted through radio” and inserting “which is in an audio format” and

(B) by striking “BY RADIO” in the heading and inserting “AUDIO FORMAT”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) by striking “which is transmitted through television” and inserting “which is in video format”;
(B) by striking "BY TELEVISION" in the head-
ing and inserting "VIDEO FORMAT"; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "transmitted through radio or
television" and inserting "made in audio or video format"; and

(B) by striking "through television" in the second sentence and inserting "in video format".

SEC. 4209. PREVENTING CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES, INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE FORM OF ONLINE ADVERTISING.

Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section 319(c), shall be interpreted as requiring the Commission to provide a study and report on media literacy with respect to online political content consumption among voting-age Americans.

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) RESPONSIBILITIES DESCRIBED.—Each television or radio broadcast station, provider of cable or satellite television, or online platform required under section (a) shall submit the report to the Commission, if an online platform shows whether or not a request to purchase a qualified political advertisement which is made by a person whose aggregate requests to purchase qualified political advertisements on such online platform during the calendar year exceeds $500.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVERTISERS.—Any person who requests to purchase a qualified political advertisement on an online platform shall provide the online platform with such information as is necessary for the online platform to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(2) CONTENTS OF RECORD.—A record maintained under paragraph (1)(A) shall contain—

(A) a digital copy of the qualified political advertisement;

(B) a description of the audience targeted by the advertisement, the number of views generated from the advertisement, and the date and time that the advertisement is first displayed and last displayed; and

(C) information regarding—

(i) the name of the candidate to which the advertisement refers and the office to which the candidate is seeking election, the election to which the advertisement refers, or the national legislative issue to which the advertisement refers (as applicable);

(ii) in the case of a request made by, or on behalf of, the candidate, the authorized committee of the candidate, and the treasurer of such committee; and

(iii) in the case of any request not described in clause (i) or (ii), the name of the person purchasing the advertisement, the name and address of a contact person for such person, and a list of the chief executive officers or members of the executive committee or of the board of directors of such person, and, if the person purchasing the advertisement is acting as the agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), a statement that the person is acting as the agent of a foreign principal and the identification of the foreign principal involved.

(2) An analysis of the effects of media literacy on education and particular media literacy skills on the ability to critically consume online political content, including political advertising.

(3) Recommendations for improving voting-age Americans’ ability to critically consume online political content, including political advertising.

(c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the entity conducting the study and report under subsection (a) shall submit the report to the Commission.

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the report under subsection (c), the Commission shall submit the report to the Committee on Rules and Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, together with such comments on the report as the Commission considers appropriate.

(e) DEFINITION OF MEDIA LITERACY.—The term "media literacy" means the ability to—

(1) access relevant and accurate information through multiple accounts into a coherent understanding of an issue, understand the context of information and share information, among voting-age Americans;

(2) critically analyze media content and the influences of media;

(3) evaluate the comprehensiveness, relevance, credibility, authority, and accuracy of information;

(4) make educated decisions based on informed analysis of the effects of media literacy;

(5) make decisions based on informed analysis of the effects of media literacy;

(6) reflect on how the use of media and technology may affect private and public life.

The term "media literacy" means the ability to—

(1) access relevant and accurate information through multiple accounts into a coherent understanding of an issue, understand the context of information and share information, among voting-age Americans;

(2) critically analyze media content and the influences of media;

(3) evaluate the comprehensiveness, relevance, credibility, authority, and accuracy of information;

(4) make educated decisions based on informed analysis of the effects of media literacy;

(5) reflect on how the use of media and technology may affect private and public life.

The term "media literacy" means the ability to—

(1) access relevant and accurate information through multiple accounts into a coherent understanding of an issue, understand the context of information and share information, among voting-age Americans;

(2) critically analyze media content and the influences of media;

(3) evaluate the comprehensiveness, relevance, credibility, authority, and accuracy of information;

(4) make educated decisions based on informed analysis of the effects of media literacy;

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(4) make educated decisions based on informed analysis of the effects of media literacy;

(5) reflect on how the use of media and technology may affect private and public life.

The term "media literacy" means the ability to—

(1) access relevant and accurate information through multiple accounts into a coherent understanding of an issue, understand the context of information and share information, among voting-age Americans;
“(1) Ensuring display and sharing of sponsor identification in online political advertisements.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—An online platform displaying a qualified political advertisement shall—

“(A) display with the advertisement a visible notice identifying the sponsor of the advertisement (or, if it is not practical for the platform to display such a notice, a notice that the advertisement is sponsored by a person other than the platform); and

“(B) ensure that the notice will continue to be displayed if a viewer of the advertisement shares the advertisement with others on that platform.

“(2) DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.—

“(A) INDIVIDUAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.—The individual disclosure statement described in this subparagraph is the following: ‘I am , and I approve this message’, with the blank filled in with the name of the applicable individual.

“(B) ORGANIZATIONAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.—The organizational disclosure statement described in this subparagraph is the following: ‘I am , the of , and I approve this message’, with the question marks filled in with the applicable information.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to advertisements displayed on or after the 120-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Stand By Every Ad

SEC. 4301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ‘‘Stand By Every Ad Act’’.

SEC. 4302. STAND BY EVERY AD.

(a) EXPANDED DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 318 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120), as amended by section 4207(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) EXPANDED DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY CANDIDATES OR COMMITTEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), any communication described in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) which is transmitted in an audio or video format (including an Internet or digital communication), or which is an Internet or digital communication transmitted in a text or graphic format, and is paid for in whole or in part with a payment which is treated as a campaign-related disbursement under section 324—

“(i) the Top Five Funders list (if applicable); or

“(ii) the case of a communication which, as determined on the basis of criteria established in regulations issued by the Commission, is of such short duration that including the Top Five Funders list in the communication would constitute a hardship to the person paying for the communication by requiring a disproportionate amount of the content of the communication to consist of the Top Five Funders list, the name of a website which contains the Top Five Funders list (if applicable) or, the case of an Internet or digital communication, a hyperlink to such website.

“(C) If the communication is transmitted in an audio or video format and is paid for in whole or in part with a payment which is treated as a campaign-related disbursement under section 324—

“(i) the Top Five Funders list (if applicable); or

“(ii) in the case of a communication which, as determined on the basis of criteria established in regulations issued by the Commission, is of such short duration that including the Top Two Funders list in the communication would constitute a hardship to the person paying for the communication by requiring a disproportionate amount of the content of the communication to consist of the Top Two Funders list, the name of a website which contains the Top Two Funders list (if applicable) or, in the case of a Top Two Funders list (if applicable) the name of the applicable individual or by providing a landing page which will provide all of the information described in paragraph (3) of subsection (a), in a clear and conspicuous manner.

“(D) COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTED IN VIDEO FORMAT.—In the case of a communication to which this subsection applies which is transmitted in a video format, the disclosure statements required by paragraph (1) shall be made by audio by the applicable individual in a clear and conspicuous manner.

“(E) COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTED IN VIDEO FORMAT.—In the case of a communication to which this subsection applies which is transmitted in a video format, the information required under paragraph (1)—

“(i) shall appear in writing at the end of the communication or in a crawl along the bottom of the communication in a clear and conspicuous manner, with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the printed text, for a period of at least 6 seconds; and

“(ii) shall also be conveyed by an unobscured, full-color individual or by the applicable individual making the statement in voice-over accompanied by a clearly identifiable photograph or similar image of the individual, except in the case of a Top Five Funders list.

“(4) APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—The term ‘applicable individual’ means, with respect to a communication to which this subsection applies—

“(A) if the communication is paid for by an individual, the individual involved;

“(B) if the communication is paid for by a corporation, the chief executive officer of the corporation (or, if the corporation does not have a chief executive officer, the highest ranking official of the corporation);

“(C) if the communication is paid for by a labor organization, the highest ranking officer of the labor organization or, the title of the applicable individual; and

“(D) if the communication is paid for by any other person, the highest ranking official of such person.

“(5) Top Five Funders list and Top Two Funders list defined.—

“(A) TOP FIVE FUNDERS LIST.—The term ‘Top Five Funders list’ means, with respect to a communication otherwise in part with a campaign-related disbursement (as defined in section 324), a list of the five persons who, during the 12-month period ending on the date of the disbursement, provided the largest payments of any type in an aggregate amount equal to or exceeding $10,000 to the person who is paying for the communication and the second largest payments of any type in an aggregate amount equal to or exceeding $10,000 to the person who is paying for the communication, the person paying for the communication and the amount of the payments each such person provided.

“(B) Top Two Funders list.—The term ‘Top Two Funders list’ means, with respect to a communication which is paid for in whole or in part with a campaign-related disbursement (as defined in section 324), a list of the persons who, during the 12-month period ending on the date of the disbursement, provided the largest and the second largest payments of any type in an aggregate amount equal to or exceeding $10,000 to the person who is paying for the communication and the amount of the payments each such person provided.

“(C) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS.—For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), in determining the amount of payments made by a person to a person paying for a communication, the following types of payments shall be excluded:

“(i) any amounts provided in the ordinary course of any trade or business conducted by the person paying for the communication or in the course of any trade or business conducted by the applicable individual.

“(ii) any payment which the person prohibited, in writing, from being used for campaign-related disbursements, but only if the person paying for the communication agreed to follow the prohibition and deposited the payment in an account which is segregated from any account used for other campaign-related disbursements.

“(D) SPECIAL RULES FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—

“(1) Exception for communications paid for by political parties and certain political committees.—This subsection does not apply to any communication to which subsection (a)(2) applies.

“(2) Treatment of video communications lasting 10 seconds or less.—In the case of a communication to which this subsection applies which is transmitted in a text or graphic format, if the communication is an Internet or digital communication which is transmitted in a text or graphic format, the communication shall meet the following requirements:

“(i) The communication shall include the individual disclosure statement described in paragraph (2)(A) (if the person paying for the communication is an individual) or the organizational disclosure statement described in paragraph (2)(B) (if the person paying for the communication is not an individual).

“(ii) The statement described in clause (i) shall appear in writing at the end of the communication, or in a crawl along the bottom of the communication, in a clear and conspicuous manner, with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the printed text, for a period of at least 4 seconds.

“(iii) The communication shall include, in a clear and conspicuous manner, a website address with a landing page which will provide all of the information described in paragraph (1) with respect to the communication, such address shall appear for the full duration of the communication.

“(iv) To the extent that the format in which the communication is presented is a hyperlink, the communication shall include a hyperlink to the website address described in clause (iii).

“(2) Implementation of expanded requirements to public communications consisting of campaign-related disbursements.—
PRERECORDED TELEPHONE CALLS

COMMUNICATIONS MADE THROUGH PRERECORDED TELEPHONE CALLS.

(a) APPLICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Section 301(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)), as amended by section 4206(c), is amended by striking “shall state” and inserting “shall (except in the case of a Federal judicial nomination communication, as defined in section 324(d)(2)) state.”

(b) TREATMENT AS COMMUNICATION TRANSMITTED IN AUDIO OR VIDEO FORMATION.—Any communication subject to expanded disclaimer requirements—Section 318(e)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(e)(3)), as added by section 4302(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) PRERECORDED TELEPHONE CALLS.—In the case of a communication to which this subparagraph applies which is transmitted in a substantial part of a prerecorded audio message, the communication shall be considered to be transmitted in an audio format.”.

SEC. 4304. NO EXPANSION OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS ON INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle may be construed to re-quire any person or entity not required under subsection 318 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to include a disclaimer on communications made by the person through the internet to include any disclaimer on any such communications.

SEC. 4305. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this subtitle shall apply with respect to communications made on or after January 1, 2022, and shall take effect without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations to carry out such amendments.

Subtitle E—Deterrence Under Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971

PART I—DETERRENCE UNDER FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971

SEC. 4401. RESTRICTIONS ON EXCHANGE OF CAMPAIGN RESOURCES AND FOREIGN POWERS.

Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section 4101(b), section 4106(b), section 4209, and section 4401, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (2);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting “; or”;

and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) a person to knowingly provide substan- tial assistance to another person in carrying out an activity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3),”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(5) KNOWINGLY DESCRIBED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(4), the term ‘knowingly’ means actual knowledge, constructive knowledge, awareness of pertinent facts that would lead a reasonable person to conclude there is a substantial probability, or awareness of pertinent facts that lead a reasonable person to conduct a reasonable inquiry to establish—

“(A) with respect to an activity described in subsection (a)(1), that the contribution, donation, or solicitation has been, or will be, provided to a covered foreign national; and

“(B) with respect to an activity described in subsection (a)(2) that the contribution or donation solicited, accepted, or received is from a for- eign national;

and

“(C) with respect to an activity described in subsection (a)(3), that the person directing, dic- tating, controlling, or directly or indirectly par- ticipating in the decisionmaking process is a for- eign national.

“(2) PERTINENT FACTS.—For purposes of para- graph (1), pertinent facts include, but are not limited to, the person directing, dictating, or participating in the decisionmaking process as a foreign national;
from whom the contribution or donation is solicited, accepted, or received, or that the person dictating, directing, controlling, or directly or indirectly participating in the decisionmaking process.”

“(A) uses a foreign passport or passport number for identification purposes;

“(B) provides a foreign address;

“(C) submits an instrument drawn on a foreign bank, or by a wire transfer from a foreign bank, in carrying out the activity; or

“(D) resides abroad.”

“(g) SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—As used in this section, the term ‘substantial assistance’ means, with respect to an activity prohibited by paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a), intent to facilitate successful completion of the activity.”.

SEC. 4040. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN MONEY BAN.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF PROMISE OR DONATION OF A THING OF VALUE.—Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) UNITED STATES OF PROVISION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION AS CONTRIBUTION OR DONATION OF THINGS OF VALUE.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), a person, political committee, or other entity shall not, within 60 days of an election for Federal office at which a candidate for Federal office could be elected for the ballot, distribute, with actual malice, materially deceptive audio or visual media of the candidate with the intent to injure the candidate’s reputation in order to alter the vote or to cause election fraud. If the candidate seeks injunctive or other equitable relief, the court shall not enjoin a political committee from providing an opinion about a candidate as a thing of value for purposes of this section.”.

(b) CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN MONEY BAN TO ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS OF THINGS OF VALUE AND TO ALL SOLICITATIONS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS OF THINGS OF VALUE.—Section 319(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “promise to make a contribution or donation” and inserting “promise to make such a contribution or donation”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “donation” and inserting “donation of money or other thing of value, or that the person did not have if the person were hearing or seeing the unaltered, original version of the image or audio or video recording.”.

(3) REQUIRED LANGUAGE.—The prohibition in subsection (a) does not apply if the audio or visual media includes—

“(A) a disclosure stating: ‘This has been manipulated.’

“(B) filled in the blank in the disclosure under subparagraph (A), the term ‘image’, ‘video’, or ‘audio’, as most accurately describes the media.

“(C) VISUAL MEDIA.—For visual media, the text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer and no smaller than the largest font size of other text appearing in the visual media. If the visual media does not include any other text, the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer. For visual media that is video, the disclosure shall appear for the duration of the video.

“(D) AUDIO-ONLY MEDIA.—If the media consists of audio only, the disclosure shall be read in a clearly spoken manner and in a pitch that can be easily heard by the average listener, at the beginning of the audio, at the end of the audio, and, if the audio is greater than 2 minutes in length, interspersed within the audio at intervals of not greater than 2 minutes each.

“(E) INAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—This section does not apply to the following:

“(1) A radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, that broadcasts materially deceptive audio or visual media prohibited by this section as part of a bona fide newscast, news interview, news documentary, or on-the-spot coverage of events, if the broadcast clearly acknowledges through content or a disclosure, in a manner that can be easily heard or read by the average listener or viewer, that there are questions about the authenticity of the materially deceptive audio or visual media.

“(2) A radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, when it is paid to broadcast materially deceptive audio or visual media.

“(3) An internet website, or a regularly published newspaper, magazine, or other periodical of general circulation, including an internet or electronic publication, that routine publishes news or commentary of general interest, and that publishes materially deceptive audio or visual media prohibited by this section, if the publication clearly states that the materially deceptive audio or visual media are not representative of the speech or conduct of the candidate.

“(4) MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE AUDIo OR VISUAL MEDIA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘materially deceptive audio or visual media’ means an image or an audio or video recording of a candidate’s appearance, speech, or conduct that has been intentionally manipulated in a manner such that both of the following conditions are met:

“(1) The image or audio or video recording would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be authentic.

“(2) The image or audio or video recording would cause a reasonable person to have a fundamentally different understanding or impression of the expressive content of the image or audio recording than what person would have if the person were hearing or seeing the unaltered, original version of the image or audio recording.”.

(b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 309(d)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(d)(1)), as amended by section 4004, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) Any person who knowingly and willfully commits a violation of section 325 shall be fined not more than $10,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(c) EFFECT ON DEFAMATION ACTION.—For purposes of an action for defamation, a violation of section 325 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as added by subsection (a), shall constitute defamation per se.

PART 4—ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER FARA FOR REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

SEC. 4431. ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER FARA FOR REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct and submit to Congress an assessment of the implications of the exemption provided under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), and section 4004 of this Act, for agents of foreign principals who are also registered lobbyists under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and shall include in the assessment an analysis of the extent to which revisions in such Acts might mitigate the risk of foreign government money influencing elections or political processes in the United States.
Subtitle F—Secret Money Transparency

SEC. 4501. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION OF USE OF FUNDS BY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICES TO BRING TRANSPARENCY TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

Section 122 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 4502. REPEAL OF REGULATIONS.

The final rule issued by the Department of the Treasury relating to guidance under section 6033 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 regarding the reporting requirements of exempt organizations, as in effect at 85 Fed. Reg. 54929 (May 28, 2020) shall have no force and effect.

Subtitle G—Shareholder Right-to-Know

SEC. 4601. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS BY SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION TO ENSURE SHAREHOLDERS OF CORPORATIONS HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF CORPORATION POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Section 631 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 4602. ASSESSMENT OF SHAREHOLDER PREFERENCES FOR DISBURSEMENTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 10D the following:

"SEC. 10E. ASSESSMENT OF SHAREHOLDER PREFERENCES FOR DISBURSEMENTS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘disbursement for a political purpose’ means an expenditure of any amount by any person in connection with elections for Federal, State, or local office; or in connection with any primary or special election, or in connection with a primary or special election, that is expressly advocated by the person making the expenditure for the purpose of influencing the outcome of the election for a public office.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—The term ‘disbursement for a political purpose’ does not include any of the following:


(B) Any transfer of funds to another person which is made in a commercial transaction in the ordinary course of any trade or business conducted by the corporation or in the form of investments made by the corporation.

(C) Any transfer of funds to another person which is made with the intent that such person will use the funds to make such a disbursement.

(D) Any other disbursement which is made for the purpose of influencing the outcome of an election for a public office.

Background: This section amends section 10E of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30118) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to assess the preferences of its shareholders with respect to making such disbursements.

Subtitle H—Disclosure of Political Spending by Government Contractors

SEC. 4701. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL SPENDING BY GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS.

Section 735 of the Postal Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260) is hereby repealed.

Subtitle I—Limitation and Disclosure Requirements for Presidential Inaugural Committees

SEC. 4801. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ‘Presidential Inaugural Committee Oversight Act of 2021.’

SEC. 4802. LIMITATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN DONATIONS TO, AND DISBURSEMENTS BY, INAUGURAL COMMITTEES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR INAUGURAL COMMITTEES.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), as amended by section 4431, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 326. INAUGURAL COMMITTEES.

(1) PROHIBITED DONATIONS.—

(A) In general.—It shall be unlawful—

(i) for an Inaugural Committee to accept or solicit, accept, or receive a donation from a person that is not an individual; or

(ii) to solicit, accept, or receive a donation from a foreign national;

(B) for a person—

(i) to make a donation to an Inaugural Committee in the name of another person, or to knowingly authorize his or her name to be used to effect such a donation;

(ii) to knowingly accept a donation to an Inaugural Committee made by a person in the name of another person; or

(iii) to convert a donation to an Inaugural Committee to personal use as described in paragraph (2); and

(C) for a foreign national to, directly or indirectly, make a donation, or make an express or implied promise to make a donation, to an Inaugural Committee;

(2) CONVERSION OF DONATION TO PERSONAL USE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(iii), a..."
donation shall be considered to be converted to personal use if any part of the donated amount is used to fulfill a commitment, obligation, or expense of a person that would exist irrespective of the responsibilities of the Inaugural Committee under section 5 of title 36, United States Code.

§530. Disclosure of and prohibition on certain donations

"A committee shall not be considered to be the Inaugural Committee for purposes of this chapter unless the committee agrees to, and meets, the requirements of section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to Inaugural Committees established under chapter 5 of title 36, United States Code, for inaugurations held in 2025 and any succeeding year.

Subtitle J—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 5001. EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROVISIONS.

Each provision of this title and each amendment made by a provision of this title shall take effect on the effective date provided under this title for such provision or such amendment without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission, the Attorney General, or any other person has promulgated regulations to carry out such provision or such amendment.

SEC. 5002. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

TITLE V—CAMPAIGN FINANCE EMPOWERMENT

Subtitle A—Findings Relating to Citizens United Decision

Sec. 5001. Findings relating to Citizens United decision.

Sec. 5002. Congressional Elections.

Sec. 5003. Short title.

PART I—MY VOICE VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 5004. Establishment of pilot program.

Sec. 5005. Voucher program described.

Sec. 5006. Reports.

Sec. 5007. Definitions.

PART II—SUPPORT OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Sec. 5101. Benefits and eligibility requirements for candidates.

Subtitle A—Benefits

Sec. 5010. Benefits for participating candidates.

Sec. 5011. Use of Benefits.

Sec. 5012. Procedures for making payments.

Sec. 5013. Use of Benefits.

Sec. 5014. Qualified small dollar contributions described.

Subtitle B—Eligibility and Certification

Sec. 5110. Eligibility.

Sec. 5111. Benefits and eligibility requirements for candidates.
Congress finds the following:

(1) The American Republic was founded on the principle that all people are created equal, with rights and responsibilities as citizens to vote, be represented, speak, debate, and participate in the democratic process in an equal manner regardless of wealth. To secure these rights and responsibilities, our Constitution not only protects the equal rights of all Americans but also provides for a system of checks and balances to prevent corruption and prevent concentrated power and wealth from undermining effective self-government.

(2) The Founders designed the First Amendment to help prevent tyranny by ensuring that the people have the tools they need to ensure self-government and to keep their elected leaders responsive to the public. The Amendment thus guarantees freedom of speech. In addition to protecting the government for redress, to assemble together, and for a free press. It only the wealthiest individuals can participate meaningfully in our democracy, then these First Amendment principles become an illusion.

(3) Campaign finance laws promote these First Amendment interests. They increase robust debate from diverse voices, enhance the responsiveness of elected officeholders, and help prevent corruption. They do not censor anyone’s speech but simply ensure that no one’s speech is drowned out by the speech of the wealthy. Nor can we fail to recognize that these laws are essential, proactive rules that help guarantee true democratic self-government.

(4) The Supreme Court’s decisions in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) and McCutcheon v. FEC, 572 U.S. 185 (2014) and other court decisions, erroneously invalidated even-handed rules about the spending of money in local, State, and Federal elections. These rules do not prevent any one from speaking their mind, much less pick winners and losers of political battles. Although the Court has upheld other content-neutral laws like these, it has failed to apply the same logic to campaign finance laws. These flawed decisions have empowered large corporations, extremely wealthy individuals, and special interests to dominate election spending. Corruption and fraud undermine our democracy through tidal waves of unlimited and anonymous spending. These decisions also stand in contrast to a long history of efforts by Congress and the States to curb corruption and protect democracy, and they illustrate a troubling deregulatory trend in campaign finance-related court decisions. Additionally, an unknown amount of money continues to be spent in our political system as subsidiaries of foreign-based corporations and hostile foreign actors sometimes connected to nation-states work to influence elections.

(5) The Supreme Court’s misinterpretation of the Constitution to empower monied interests at the expense of the American people in elections has seriously eroded over 100 years of congressional action to promote fairness and protect elections from the toxic influence of money.

(6) In 1907, the Tillman Act in response to the concentration of corporate power in the post-Civil War Gilded Age. The Act prohibited corporations from making contributions in connection with elections, aiming “not merely to prevent the subversion of the integrity of the electoral process [but] * * * to sustain the active, alert responsibility of the individual citizen in democracy for the wise conduct of government”.

(7) By 1910, Congress began passing disclosure requirements and contribution limits, and dozens of States passed corrupt practices Acts to prohibit corporate spending in elections. States also enacted campaign spending limits, and some States even passed laws that would amount that people could contribute to campaigns.

(8) In 1947, the Taft-Hartley Act prohibited corporations and unions from making campaign contributions or other expenditures to influence elections. In 1962, a Presidential commission on election spending recommended spending limits and incentives to increase small contributions from more people.

(9) The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA), as amended in 1974, required disclosure of contributions and expenditures, imposed contribution and spending limits for individuals and groups, set spending limits for campaigns, candidates, and groups, implemented a public funding system for Federal campaigns, and created the Federal Election Commission to oversee and enforce the new rules.

(10) In the wake of Citizens United and other decisions, Federal court decisions, Americans have witnessed an explosion of outside spending in elections. Outside spending increased more than 700 percent between the 2008 and 2020 Presidential elections. Outside groups nearly doubled again from 2016 to 2020 with super PACs, tax-exempt groups, and others spending more than $3,000,000,000. And as political entities adapt to a post-Citizens United, post-McCutcheon landscape, these trends are getting worse, as evidenced by the record-setting 2020 elections which cost more than $14,000,000,000 in total.

(11) Since the landmark Citizens United decision, 21 States and more than 800 municipalities, including large cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Philadelphia, have gone on record supporting a constitutional amendment. Transcending political leanings and geographic location, voters in States and municipalities have turned to self-help to protect democratic decision making and asked amendment questions on the ballot. These initiatives, especially by considerably large margins.

(12) The Court has tied the hands of Congress and the States, severely restricting them from setting reasonable limits on campaign spending. For example, the Court has held that only the “quid pro quo” corruption, like bribery, or the appearance of such corruption, can justify limits on campaign contributions. More broadly, the Court has held that money does not necessarily reduce the ability of the Nation’s wealthiest and most powerful to skew our democracy in their favor by buying outsized influence in our elections. Because this distortion of the Constitution has prevented other critical regulation or reform of the way we finance elections in America, a constitutional amendment is needed to achieve a democracy for all the people. Spending by outside groups in elections from the toxic influence of money in politics. Dozens of organizations, representing tens of millions of individuals, have come together in a shared strategy of supporting such an amendment.

(13) In order to protect the integrity of democracy for the electoral process and to ensure political equality for all, the Constitution should be amended so that Congress and the States may regulate and set limits on the raising and spending of money to influence elections and may distinguish between natural persons and artificial entities, like corporations, that are created by law, including by prohibiting such artificial entities from spending money to influence elections.

Subtitle B—Congressional Elections

SEC. 5100. SHORT TITLE. This subtitle may be cited as the “Government By the People Act of 2021”.

PART I—MY PEOPLE VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM

SEC. 5101. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Federal Election Commission (hereafter in this part referred to as the “Commission”) shall establish a pilot program under which the Commission shall select 3 eligible States to operate a voucher pilot program which is described in section 5102 during the program operation period.

(b) ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.—A State is eligible to be selected to operate a voucher pilot program under this part if, not later than 180 days after the beginning of the program operation period, the State submits to the Commission an application containing—

(1) information and assurances that the State will operate a voucher program which contains the elements described in section 5102(a);

(2) information and assurances that the State will establish fraud prevention mechanisms described in section 5102(b);

(3) information and assurances that the State will establish a commission to oversee and implement the program as described in section 5102(c);

(4) information and assurances that the State will establish a fraud prevention mechanism and that the State will carry out a public information campaign as described in section 5102(d);

(5) information and assurances that the State will submit annual reports as required under section 5103; and

(6) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(c) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the beginning of the program application period, the Commission shall select the 3 States which will operate voucher pilot programs under this part.

(2) CRITERIA.—In selecting States for the operation of the voucher pilot programs under this part, the Commission shall apply such criteria and metrics as the Commission considers appropriate to determine the ability of a State to operate the program successfully, and shall attempt to select States in a variety of geographic regions and with a variety of political party preferences.

(3) NO SUPERMAJORITY REQUIRED FOR SELECTION OF STATES.—The selection of States by the Commission under this subsection shall require the approval of only half of the Members of the Commission.
voucher pilot program under this part shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that the State will be ready to operate the program during the program operation period, and shall comply with any requirements not later than the beginning of the program operation period.

(e) TERMINATION.—Each voucher pilot program under this part shall terminate as of the first day after the program operation period.

(f) REIMBURSEMENT OF COSTS.—

(1) GENERAL.—The Commission shall reimburse actual and necessary costs incurred by a State in operating the voucher pilot program under this part during the cycle.

(2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Payments to States under a voucher pilot program shall be made using amounts in the Freedom From Influence Fund under section 541 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section 5111), hereinafter referred to as the ‘‘Fund’’.

(3) MANDATORY REDUCTION OF PAYMENTS IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS IN FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND.—

(A) PRO RATA BASIS.—Not later than 90 days before the first day of each program operation period, the Commission shall—

(i) audit the Fund to determine whether, after first making payments to participating candidates under title V of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section 5111), the amount of the Fund will be sufficient to make payments to States under this part in the amounts provided under this subsection; and

(ii) submit a report to Congress describing the results of the audit.

(B) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

(i) PRO RATA BASIS.—If, on the basis of the audit described in subparagraph (A), the Commission determines that the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to a election cycle in- volved is not, or may not be, sufficient to make payments to States under this part in the full amount provided under this subsection, the Commission shall—

(1) terminate the program operation period applicable to the candidates under title V of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section 5111), hereinafter referred to as the ‘‘Fund’’.

(2) Reduce the aggregate amount of payments made to any State with respect to any such cycle, and to the extent that such amounts are available, the Commission may make a payment on a pro rata basis to each such State with respect to the cycle in the amount of such State’s payments reduced under clause (i) (or any portion thereof), to the extent that such amounts are available, the Commission may make a payment on a pro rata basis to each such State with respect to the cycle involved in the amount of the portion of the value of the My Voice Voucher that the individual allocated to the candidate shall be necessary to ensure that the reasonable costs incurred by the State in operating the program under this part for such period, the State shall reduce the amount of the voucher provided to each qualified individual by such pro rata amount as may be necessary to ensure that the reasonable costs incurred by a voucher pilot program will not exceed the amount paid to the State with respect to such period.

SEC. 5102. VOUCHER PROGRAM DESCRIBED.

(a) GENERAL.—

(1) ELEMENTS DESCRIBED.—The elements of a voucher pilot program operated by a State under this part are as follows:

(A) The State must provide each qualified individual upon the individual’s request with a voucher worth $25 to be known as a ‘‘My Voice Voucher’’ during the election cycle which will be assigned a numerical value and which at the option of the individual will be provided in either paper or electronic form.

(B) Using the routing number assigned to the My Voice Voucher, the individual may submit the My Voice Voucher in either electronic or paper form to qualified candidates for election for the office of Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress and allocates such portion of the value of the My Voice Voucher in increments of $5 as the individual may select to any such candidate.

(C) If the candidate transmits the My Voice Voucher to the Commission, the Commission shall pay the candidate the portion of the value of the My Voice Voucher that the individual allocated to the candidate shall be necessary to ensure that the reasonable costs incurred by the candidate for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

(2) DESIGNATION OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—

For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), a ‘‘qualified individual’’ with respect to a State means an individual—

(A) who is a resident of the State;

(B) who will be of voting age as of the date of the election for the candidate to whom the individual submits a My Voice Voucher; and

(C) who is not an authorized Federal law from making contributions to candidates for election for Federal office.

(3) TREATMENT AS CONTRIBUTION TO CANDIDATE.—For purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, the submission of a My Voice Voucher to a candidate by an individual shall be treated as a contribution to the candidate by the individual in the amount of the portion of the value of the Voucher that the individual allocated to the candidate.

(b) FAKE PREVENTION MECHANISM.—In addition to the elements described in subsection (a), a State operating a voucher pilot program under this part shall permit an individual to revoke a My Voice Voucher not later than 2 days after submitting the My Voice Voucher to a candidate.

(c) OVERSIGHT COMMISSION.—In addition to the elements described in subsection (a), a State operating a voucher pilot program under this part shall establish a commission or designate an existing entity to oversee and implement the program in the State, except that no such commission or entity may be comprised of elected officials.

(d) PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.—In addition to the elements described in subsection (a), a State operating a voucher pilot program under this part shall carry out a public information campaign to disseminate awareness of the program among qualified individuals.

SEC. 5103. REPORTS.

(a) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the first election cycle of the program operation period, a State which operates a voucher pilot program under this part shall submit a report to the Commission analyzing the operation and effectiveness of the program during the cycle and including such other information as the Commission considers appropriate regarding the expansion of the pilot program to all States and territories, along with such other recommendations and other information as the Commission considers appropriate.

SEC. 5104. DEFINITIONS.

(a) ELECTION CYCLE.—In this part, the term ‘‘election cycle’’ means the period beginning on the day after the date of the most recent regularly scheduled general election for a office and ending on the date of the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.

(b) DEFINITIONS RELATING TO PERIODS.—In this part, the following definitions apply:

(1) PROGRAM APPLICATION PERIOD.—For purposes of section 5102(b), the term ‘‘program application period’’ means the first election cycle which begins after the enactment of this Act.

(2) PROGRAM PREPARATION PERIOD.—The term ‘‘program preparation period’’ means the first election cycle which begins after the program application period.

(3) PROGRAM OPERATION PERIOD.—The term ‘‘program operation period’’ means the 2 election cycles which begin after the program preparation period.

PART 2—SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

SEC. 5111. BENEFITS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘TITLE V—SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Subtitle A—Benefits

SEC. 501. BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If a candidate for election to the office of Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress is certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to an election for such office, the candidate shall be entitled to payments as provided under this title.

(b) LIMIT ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The aggregate amount of payments made to a participating candidate under this title during the election cycle, without regard to whether or not the candidate received any of the contributions before, during, or after the Small Dollar Democracy qualifying period applicable to the candidate under section 511(c).

‘‘SEC. 502. PROCEDURES FOR MAKING PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make a payment under section 501 to a candidate who is certified as a participating candidate upon receipt of the candidate of a request for payment which includes—

(1) a statement of the number and amount of qualified small dollar contributions received by
the candidate since the most recent payment made to the candidate under this title during the election cycle;

(2) a statement of the amount of the payment the candidate participates receiving with respect to the request;

(3) a statement of the total amount of payments the candidate has received under this title as of the request; and

(4) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(b) Restrictions on submission of requests. — (1) A person shall not submit a request under subsection (a) unless each of the following applies:

(a) The amount of the qualified small dollar contribution described in the statement referred to in subsection (a)(1) is equal to or greater than $5,000, unless the request is submitted during the 30-day period which ends on the date of a general election.

(b) The candidate did not receive a payment under this title during the 7-day period which ends on the date the candidate submits the request.

(c) Time of payment. — The Commission shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the Secretary is able to make payments under this section from the Treasury not later than 2 business days after the receipt of a request submitted under subsection (a).

(a) Use of funds for unauthorized campaign expenditures. — A candidate shall use payments made under this title, including payments provided with respect to a previous election cycle which are withheld from remittance to the Commission in accordance with section 324(a)(2), only for making direct payments for the receipt of goods and services which constitute authorized expenditures (as determined in accordance with title III) in connection with the election cycle involved.

(b) Prohibiting use of funds for legal expenses, fines, or penalties. — Notwithstanding standing title III, a candidate may not use payments made under this title for the payment of expenses incurred in connection with any action, claim, or other matter before the Commission or before any court, hearing officer, arbitrator, or other dispute resolution entity, or for the payment of any fine or civil monetary penalty.

(a) Qualified small dollar contributions. — "(a) In this title, the term 'qualified small dollar contribution' means, with respect to a candidate, the amount of a contribution to a candidate which meets the following requirements:

(1) The contribution is in an amount that is

(A) not less than $1; and

(B) not more than $200.

(2) The contribution is made directly by an individual to the candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate, a contribution that meets the following requirements:

(A) The contribution is made by an individual who provides the information to such individual solely on the grounds that the contribution is made in response to information provided or the request, suggestion, or recommendation of another person who provided the information to such individual.

(B) The individual who makes the contribution does not make prior contributions to the candidate or the authorized committees of the candidate with respect to the election involved in an aggregate amount that exceeds the amount described in paragraph (1).

(C) The candidate did not receive a payment after receiving the subsequent contribution, the candidate may return the subsequent contribution made by the individual involved.

(3) The candidate did not receive a payment after receiving the subsequent contribution, the candidate may return the subsequent contribution made by the individual involved.

(4) Not later than 2 weeks after receiving the contribution, the candidate may return the subsequent contribution to the individual making the contribution by any person, so long as the candidate or authorized committee does not know the identity of the person who provided the information to such individual.

(b) Treatment of My Voice vouchers. — Any payment received by a candidate and the authorized committees of a candidate which has been made to the candidate or the authorized committees of the candidate under the Government By the People Act of 2021 shall be considered a qualified small dollar contribution for purposes of this title, so long as the individual making the payment meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a).

(c) Restriction on subsequent contributions. — (1) Prohibiting donor from making subsequent nonqualified contributions during election cycle. —

(A) In general. — An individual who makes a qualified small dollar contribution to a candidate or the authorized committees of a candidate with respect to an election may not make any subsequent contribution to such candidate or the authorized committees of such candidate with respect to the election cycle which is not a qualified small dollar contribution.

(B) Exception for contributions to candidates who voluntarily withdraw from participating in the program under this title.

(2) Treatment of subsequent nonqualified contributions. — If, notwithstanding the provisions described in paragraph (1), an individual who makes a qualified small dollar contribution to a candidate or the authorized committees of a candidate with respect to an election makes a subsequent contribution to such candidate or the authorized committees of such candidate with respect to the election which is prohibited under paragraph (1) because the contribution is not a qualified small dollar contribution, the candidate may take one of the following actions:

(A) Not later than 2 weeks after receiving the contribution, the candidate may return the subsequent contribution to the individual. In the case of a subsequent contribution which is not a qualified small dollar contribution because the contribution fails to meet the requirements of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) (relating to the aggregate amount of contributions made to the candidate or the authorized committees of the candidate by the individual making the contribution), the candidate may return an amount equal to the difference between the amount of the subsequent contribution and the aggregate amount described in paragraph (1)(B) of subsection (a).

(B) The candidate may retain the subsequent contribution, so long as not later than 2 weeks after receiving the contribution, the candidate, as a condition of participating in the Freedom From Influence Fund under section 541 an amount equal to any payments received by the candidate under this title which are attributable to the qualified small dollar contribution made by the individual involved.

(c) Notification requirements for candidates. —

(1) Notification. — Each authorized committee of a candidate who seeks to be a participating candidate under this title must provide the following information in any materials for the solicitation of contributions, including any internet site through which individuals may make contributions to the committee:

(A) A statement that if the candidate is certified as a participating candidate under this title, the candidate will receive matching payments in an amount which is based on the total amount of qualified small dollar contributions received.

(B) A statement that a contribution which meets the requirements set forth in subsection (a) shall be treated as a qualified small dollar contribution under this title.

(C) A statement that if a contribution is treated as a qualified small dollar contribution under this title, the individual who makes the contribution may not make any contribution to the candidate or the authorized committees of the candidate during the election cycle which is not a qualified small dollar contribution.

(2) Alternative methods of meeting requirements. — An authorized committee may meet the requirements of paragraph (1) —

(A) by including the information described in paragraph (1) in the receipt provided under section 322(b)(3) to a person making a qualified small dollar contribution; or

(B) by modifying the information it provides to persons making contributions which is otherwise required under title III (including information it provides through the internet).

Subtitle B — Eligibility and Certification

SEC. 511. ELIGIBILITY.

(a) In general. — A candidate for the office of Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the United States Virgin Islands who is to be certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to an election in the case of a subsequent contribution which is not a qualified small dollar contribution, or for purposes required under title III (including information it provides through the internet).

(b) General election. — Notwithstanding subsection (a), a candidate shall not be eligible to be certified as a participating candidate under this title for a general runoff election unless the candidate’s party nominated the candidate to be placed on the
ballot for the general election or the candidate is otherwise qualified to be on the ballot under State law.

(c) Small Dollar Democracy Qualifying Period.—The term ‘Small Dollar Democracy qualifying period’ means, with respect to any candidate for an office, the 180-day period (during the election cycle for such office) which begins on the date on which the candidate files a statement of intent under section 511(a)(1), except that such period may not continue after the date that is 30 days before the date of the general election for the office.

SEC. 512. QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Receipt of Qualified Small Dollar Contributions.—A candidate for the office of Representative in Congress, Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress meets the requirement of this section if, during the Small Dollar Democracy qualifying period described in section 511(c), each of the following occurs:

(1) Not fewer than 1,000 individuals make a qualified small dollar contribution to the candidate.

(2) The candidate obtains a total dollar amount of qualified small dollar contributions which is equal to or greater than $50,000.

(b) Requirements Relating to Receipt of Qualified Small Dollar Contributions.—Each qualified small dollar contribution—

(1) may be made by means of a personal check, money order, debit card, credit card, electronic funds transfer, or any other method deemed appropriate by the Commission;

(2) shall be accompanied by a signed statement (or, in the case of a contribution made online or through other electronic means, an electronic equivalent) containing the contributor’s name and address; and

(3) shall be acknowledged by a receipt that is sent to the contributor, presented to the contributor at the time of the contribution, or kept by the candidate for the Commission.

(c) Verification of Contributions.—The Commission shall establish procedures for the auditing and verification of the contributions received and expenditures made by participating candidates under this title, including procedures for random audits, to ensure that such contributions and expenditures meet the requirements of this title.

SEC. 513. CERTIFICATION.

(a) Deadline and Certification.—

(1) Not later than 30 days after the candidate files an affidavit under section 511(a)(4), the Commission shall—

(A) verify that the candidate meets the requirements for certification as a participating candidate;

(B) if the Commission determines that the candidate meets the requirements, certify the candidate as a participating candidate; and

(C) notify the candidate of the Commission’s determination.

(b) Deemed Certification for All Elections in Election Cycle.—If the Commission certifies a candidate as a participating candidate with respect to the first election of the election cycle involved, the Commission shall be deemed to have certified the candidate as a participating candidate with respect to all subsequent elections of the election cycle.

(c) Revocation of Certification.—

(1) Effect of revocation.—If a candidate’s certification is revoked under this subsection—

(A) the candidate may not receive payments under this title during the remainder of the election cycle involved; and

(B) in the case of a candidate whose certification is revoked pursuant to subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (C) of paragraph (1)—

(i) the candidate shall repay to the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 541 an amount equal to the payments received under this title with respect to the election cycle involved plus interest (at a rate determined by the Commission on the basis of an appropriate annual percentage rate for the month involved) on any such amount received; and

(ii) the candidate may not be certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to the next election cycle.

(2) Participation in Future Elections for Candidates with Multiple Elections.—If the Commission revokes a certification under this title with respect to any subsequent election shall, with respect to all elections occurring during the election cycle involved; and

(C) the candidate has not submitted a request for payment under section 502.

(d) Participating Candidate Defined.—In this title, a ‘participating candidate’ means a candidate for the office of Representative in Congress, Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress who is certified under this section as eligible to receive funds.

Subtitle C—Requirements for Candidates Certified as Participating Candidates

SEC. 514. CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Permitted Sources of Contributions and Expenditures.—Except as provided in subsection (c), a participating candidate with respect to an election shall, with respect to all elections occurring during the election cycle for the office involved, accept no contributions from any source and make no expenditures from any amounts, other than the following:

(1) Qualified small dollar contributions.

(2) Payments under this title.

(b) Contributions from Political Committees Established and Maintained by a National or State Political Party.—Subject to the applicable limitations of section 315.

(1) Subject to subsection (a), personal funds of the candidate or of any immediate family member of the candidate (other than funds received through qualified small dollar contributions).

(2) Contributions from political committees established and maintained by a national or state political party under paragraph (1), other than funds received through qualified small dollar contributions.

(3) Contributions from individuals who are otherwise qualified to make contributions under this Act, subject to the applicable limitations of section 315, except that the aggregate amount of contributions a participating candidate may accept from any such individual with respect to any election during the election cycle may not exceed $1,000.

(4) Payments for joint fundraising committees.—An authorized committee of a candidate who is certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to an election may not establish a joint fundraising committee or have any joint fundraising committee with another authorized committee of the candidate.
“(2) STATUS OF EXISTING COMMITTEES FOR PRIOR ELECTIONS.—If a candidate established a joint fundraising committee described in paragraph (1) with respect to a prior election for which the candidate was not certified as a participating candidate under this title and the candidate does not terminate the committee, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of section 301(c)(1) so long as the joint fundraising committee does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements during the election cycle for which the candidate is certified as a participating candidate under this title.

“(f) PROHIBITION ON LEADERSHIP PACS.—

“(1) PROHIBITION.—A candidate who is certified as a participating candidate under this title and the candidate does not terminate the leadership PAC, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of paragraph (1) so long as the leadership PAC does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements during the election cycle for which the candidate is certified as a participating candidate under this title.

“(2) LEADERSHIP PAC DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘leadership PAC’ has the meaning given such term in section 304(h)(8).

“SEC. 522. ADMINISTRATION OF CAMPAIGN.

“(a) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING FOR VARIOUS PERMITTED CONTRIBUTIONS.—Each authorized committee of a candidate certified as a participating candidate under this title—

“(1) shall provide for separate accounting of each type of contribution described in section 522(a)(1) by the committee; and

“(2) shall provide for separate accounting for the payments received under this title.

“(b) ENHANCED DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION ON DONORS.—

“(1) MANDATORY IDENTIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS MAKING QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Each authorized committee of a participating candidate under this title shall, in accordance with section 304(b)(3)(A), include in the reports the committee submits under section 304 the identification of each person who makes a qualified small dollar contribution to the committee.

“(2) MANDATORY DISCLOSURE THROUGH INTERNET.—Each authorized committee of a participating candidate under this title shall ensure that all information reported to the Commission under this Act with respect to contributions and expenditures of the committee is available to the public on the internet (whether through a site established for purposes of this subsection, a hyperlink on another public site of the committee, or a hyperlink on a report filed electronically with the Commission) in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable manner.

“SEC. 523. PREVENTING UNNECESSARY SPENDING OF PUBIC FUNDS.

“(a) MANDATORY SPENDING OF AVAILABLE PRIVILIGE FUNDS.—An authorized committee of a candidate certified as a participating candidate under this title shall make any expenditure of any payments received under this title in any amount which has made an expenditure in an equivalent amount of funds received by the committee which are described in paragraphs (1), (3), (4), (5), and (6) of section 523(a).

“(b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) applies to an authorized committee only to the extent that the funds referred to in such subsection are available to such committee at the time the committee makes an expenditure of a payment received under this title.

“SEC. 524. REMITTING UNSPENT FUNDS AFTER ELECTION.

“(a) REMITTANCE REQUIRED.—Not later than the date that is 180 days after the last election for which a candidate certified as a participating candidate qualifies to be on the ballot during the election cycle involved, such participating candidate shall remit to the Commission an amount equal to the balance of the payments received under this title by the authorized committees of the candidate which remain unexpended as of such date.

“(b) PERMITTING CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING IN NEXT ELECTORAL POINTS ELECTION TO RETAIN PORTION OF UNSPENT FUNDS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a participating candidate may withhold not more than $100,000 from the amount required to be remitted under subsection (a) if the candidate files a signed affidavit with the Commission that the candidate will seek certification as a participating candidate with respect to the following election cycle, except that the candidate may not use any portion of the amount withheld until the candidate is certified as a participating candidate with respect to that next election cycle.

“SEC. 525. ELIGIBILITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A candidate is eligible to receive an additional payment under this subtitle if the candidate meets each of the following requirements:

“(1) The candidate is on the ballot for the general election for the office the candidate seeks.

“(2) The candidate is certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to the election.

“(3) During the enhanced support qualifying period, the candidate receives qualified small dollar contributions in a total amount of not less than $50,000.

“(4) During the enhanced support qualifying period, the candidate submits to the Commission a request for the payment which includes—

“(A) a statement of the amount of unspent funds the candidate is required to remit to the Commission under section 524(a)(1); and

“(B) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A candidate shall use the additional payment under this subtitle only for authorized expenditures in connection with the election involved.

“SEC. 526. ELIGIBILITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A candidate is eligible to receive an additional payment under this subtitle if the candidate meets each of the following requirements:

“(1) The candidate is on the ballot for the general election for the office the candidate seeks.

“(2) The candidate is certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to the election.

“SEC. 527. WAIVER OF AUTHORITY TO RETAIN PORTION OF UNSPENT FUNDS.

“(b) LIMIT.—The amount of the additional payment determined under subsection (a) with respect to a candidate who may not exceed $500,000.

“(c) NO EFFECT ON AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The amount of the additional payment under this subtitle shall not be included in determining the aggregate amount of payments made to a participating candidate with respect to an election cycle under section 501(c).

“SEC. 534. WAIVER OF AUTHORITY TO RETAIN PORTION OF UNSPENT FUNDS AFTER ELECTION.

“(b) LIMIT.—The amount of the additional payment determined under subsection (a) with respect to a candidate who may not exceed $500,000.

“(c) NO EFFECT ON AGGREGATE LIMIT.—The amount of the additional payment under this subtitle shall not be included in determining the aggregate amount of payments made to a participating candidate with respect to an election cycle under section 501(c).

“Subtitle E—Administrative Provisions

“SEC. 541. FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Freedom From Influence Fund’.

“(b) AMOUNTS HELD BY FUND.—The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:


“(2) DEPOSITS.—Amounts deposited into the Fund under—

“(A) section 521(c)(1)(B) (relating to exceptions to contribution requirements);

“(B) section 523 (relating to remittance of unused payments from the Fund); and

“(C) section 544 (relating to violations).

“(3) USE OF FUND TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.—

“(A) PAYMENTS TO PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation for payment to participating candidates as provided in this title.

“(B) MANDATORY REDUCTION OF PAYMENTS IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

“(C) ADVANCE AUDITS BY COMMISSION.—Not later than 90 days before the first day of each election cycle, the Commission shall make an advance audit of the amounts in the Fund which are available for payment to participating candidates under this title during such election cycle; and

“(ii) submit a report to Congress describing the results of the audit.

“(D) AUTOMATIC REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

“(i) automatic reduction on pro rata basis.—If, on the basis of the audit described in
subparagraph (A), the Commission determines that the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to the election cycle involved is not, or may not be, sufficient to satisfy the amount of funds anticipated to be made available for payments under this title for such election cycle, the Commission shall reduce each amount which would otherwise be paid to a participating candidate under this title by such proportionate amount as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate amount of payments anticipated to be made with respect to the election cycle will not exceed the amount anticipated to be available for such payments in the Fund with respect to such election cycle.

(ii) RESTORATION OF FUNDS IN CASE OF AVAILABILITY OF OFFSPRING FUNDS DURING ELECTION CYCLE.—If, after reducing the amounts paid to participating candidates with respect to an election cycle under clause (i), the Commission determines that there are sufficient amounts in the Fund to restore the amount by which such payments were reduced (or any portion thereof), to the extent that such amounts are available, the Commission may make a payment on a pro rata basis to each such participating candidate with respect to the election cycle in the amount by which such candidate’s payments were reduced (or any portion thereof, as the case may be).

(iii) NO USE OF AMOUNTS FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR PAYMENTS TO A PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—In conducting a comprehensive review of the Small Dollar financing program under this title, including—

(1) to make payments to States under the My Voice Voter Program under the Government By the People Act of 2021, subject to reductions under section 5101(f)(3) of such Act;

(2) to make payments to candidates under chapter 95 of subtitle H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, subject to reductions under section 9013(b) of such Code; and

(3) to make payments to candidates under chapter 96 of subtitle H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, subject to reductions under section 9043(b) of such Code.

(4) In General.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this title.

§ 542. REVIEWS AND REPORTS BY GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.

(a) REVIEW OF ACTIONS RELATING TO QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Small Dollar financing program under this title, including—

(A) the maximum and minimum dollar amounts of qualified small dollar contributions under section 504;

(B) the number and value of qualified small dollar contributions a candidate is required to obtain under section 512(a) to be eligible for certification as a participating candidate;

(C) the maximum amount of payments a candidate may receive under this title;

(D) the overall satisfaction of participating candidates and the American public with the program; and

(E) any other matters relating to financing of campaigns as the Comptroller General determines are appropriate.

(2) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW.—In conducting the review required by paragraph (A), the Comptroller General shall consider the following:

(A) QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Whether the number and dollar amounts of qualified small dollar contributions required by this title strike an appropriate balance regarding the importance of voter involvement, the need to assure adequate incentives for participating, and fiscal responsibility, taking into consideration the number of primary and general election participating candidates, the electoral costs of producing and propagating the candidate messages which such payments are intended to carry out, and any other information the Comptroller General determines is appropriate.

(B) REVIEW OF PAYMENT LEVELS.—Whether the total amount of funds anticipated to be raised by participating candidates (including through qualified small dollar contributions) and payments under this title are sufficient for the purposes of making such payments to the candidates to cast an informed vote, taking into account the historic amount of spending by winning candidates, media costs, primary election dates, and election cycle of the Comptroller General determines is appropriate.

(C) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—Based on the review conducted under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General may recommend to Congress adjustments of the following amounts:

(A) The number and value of qualified small dollar contributions a candidate is required to obtain under section 512(a) to be eligible for certification as a participating candidate.

(B) The maximum amount of payments a candidate may receive under this title.

(C) Reports.—Not later than each June 1 which follows a regularly scheduled general election, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives a report—

(1) containing an analysis of the review conducted under subsection (a), including a detailed statement of Comptroller General’s findings, conclusions, and recommendations based on such review, including any recommendations for adjustments of amounts described in subsection (a)(3);

(2) documenting, evaluating, and making recommendations relating to the administrative implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this title.

(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

§ 543. ADMINISTRATION BY COMMISSION.

(a) The Commission shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this title, including regulations implementing and enforcing the provisions of this title.

(b) The amount of payments so used or not used under section 504(a)(1) (relating to the amount of a qualified small dollar contribution) or section 504(a)(2) (relating to the total dollar amount of qualified small dollar contributions) shall be deposited into the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 541.

(c) Prohibiting certain candidates from certifying as participating candidates.—If the Commission determines that any payment made to a participating candidate was not used as provided for in this title or that a participating candidate has violated any of the limits for remission of funds contained in this title, the Commission shall impose a penalty against the candidate in an amount that is not more than 3 times the amount of the contribution or expenditure. Any amounts collected under this section shall be deposited into the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 541.

§ 544. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

(a) CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CERTIFICATION AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.—If a candidate who has been certified as a participating candidate accepts a contribution or makes an expenditure that is prohibited under section 521, the Commission may assess a civil penalty against the candidate in an amount that is not more than 3 times the amount of the contribution or expenditure. Any amounts collected under this section shall be deposited into the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 541.

(b) REIMBURSEMENT FOR IMPROPER USE OF FREE DOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND.—Notwithstanding section 541(a)(2) of the Act, the candidate is not eligible to be certified as a participating candidate under this title with respect to any subsequent election unless the amount of the contribution that was made under this title is restored to the Fund.

(c) Use of payments to the Fund.—If a candidate who has been certified as a participating candidate under this title is not eligible to be certified for a subsequent election, except that if each of the payments was assessed against the candidate under section 512(a) with respect to an election if a penalty has been assessed against the candidate under section 504(a)(2) with respect to any previous election.

§ 545. INDEXING OF AMOUNTS.

(a) INDEXING.—In any calendar year after 2021, the Commission shall adjust each amount described in subsection (b) in the same manner as such section applies to the limitations established under subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), except that for purposes of applying such section to the amounts described in subsection (b), the ‘‘base period’’ shall be 2026.

(b) AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The amounts described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) The amount referred to in section 502(b)(1) (relating to the minimum amount of qualified small dollar contributions included in a request for payment).

(2) The amounts referred to in section 504(a)(1) (relating to the amount of a qualified small dollar contribution).

(3) The amount referred to in section 512(a)(2) (relating to the total dollar amount of qualified small dollar contributions).

(4) The amount referred to in section 512(a)(5) (relating to the aggregate amount of contributions a participating candidate may accept from any individual with respect to an election).

(5) The amount referred to in section 521(b)(1)(A) (relating to the amount of personal funds that may be used by a candidate who is certified as a participating candidate).

(6) The amounts referred to in section 524(a)(2) (relating to the amount of unpaid penalties.
funds a candidate may retain for use in the next election cycle.

“(7) The amount referred to in section 352(a)(3) (relating to the total dollar amount of qualified small dollar contributions for a candidate seeking an additional payment under subtitle D).

“(8) The amount referred to in section 352(b) (relating to the amount on the amount of an additional payment made to a candidate under subtitle D).

“SEC. 547. ELECTION CYCLE DEFINED.

“In this title, the term ‘election cycle’ means, with respect to an election for an office, the period beginning on the day after the date of the most recent general election for that office (or, if the general election is on the date of the runoff election, the date of the runoff election) and ending on the date of the next general election for that office (or, if the general election resulted in a runoff election, the date of the runoff election).”

“SEC. 5112. CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES BY MULTICANDIDATE AND POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES ON BEHALF OF PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.

(a) AUTHORIZING CONTRIBUTIONS ONLY FROM SEPARATE ACCOUNTS CONSISTING OF QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 315(a) of such Act (relating to the election of a candidate who is not otherwise prohibited from involvement.

(b) AUTHORIZING UNLIMITED COORDINATED EXPENDITURES FROM SMALL DOLLAR SOURCES BY MULTICANDIDATE AND POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES ON BEHALF OF MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL PARTIES.—Section 504(a)(1) with respect to the election in which a qualified small dollar contribution under section 315(a) which meets the requirements for the amount of such contribution may be made to a political committee for a candidate who is a participating candidate under such title may be used only for authorized expenditures in connection with the campaign for such office, subject to section 303(b).”

“SEC. 5114. ASSESSMENTS AGAINST FINES AND PENALTIES.

(a) ASSESSMENTS RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) In the case of a multicandidate political committee or any political committee of a political party who is a participating candidate under title V with respect to an election only if the contribution is paid from a separate, segregated account of the committee which consists of contributions which meet the following requirements:

“(A) Each such contribution is in an amount which does not exceed the dollar amount at which begins the highest rate bracket in effect under section 1 with respect to the election in which the contribution was paid.

“(B) Each such contribution is made by an individual who is not otherwise prohibited from making a contribution under this Act.

“(C) The individual who makes the contribution does not make contributions to the committee during the year in an aggregate amount which exceeds the limit described in section 504(a)(1).

“(C) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Any entity of the Federal Government which is authorized under any law, rule, or regulation to impose a civil penalty shall assess on each person, other than a natural person who is not a corporate officer or person with equivalent authority in any other organization, in an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of the settlement.

“(D) MANNER OF COLLECTION.—An amount assessed under paragraph (2) of such subsection (with the United States in satisfaction of any allegation that the defendant committed a civil offense under Federal law an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of the settlement.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of a civil penalty which such covered penalty is assessed.

“(d) EXCEPTION FOR PENALTIES AND SETTLEMENTS AUTHORITY IN ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION WHO HAS ENTERED INTO A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT OR CONSENT DECREE ENTERED INTO BY THE ENTITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INVOLVED.

“(e) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3902(b) of this title, there shall be transferred from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Freedom From Influence Fund under section 541 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 an amount equal to the amount of any fine imposed on that defendant in the sentence imposed for such conviction.

“(f) SETTLEMENTS.—The court shall assess on any organizational defendant or defendant who is a corporate officer or person with equivalent authority in any other organization who is convicted of a criminal offense under Federal law an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of the settlement.

“(g) MANNER OF COLLECTION.—An amount assessed under section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Freedom From Influence Fund under section 541 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 an amount equal to the amount of the assessment collected under this section.

“(h) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3902(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:

“Title V—Freedom From Influence Fund

“Subchapter A—Freedom From Influence Fund

“Chapter 1—Special Assessments for Freedom From Influence Fund

“Section 5706. Special assessments for Freedom From Influence Fund

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person required to pay a covered penalty shall pay an additional amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of such penalty.

“(2) COVERED PENALTIES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘covered penalty’ means any addition to tax, additional amount, penalty, or other liability provided under chapter A or B.

“(a) TRANSFERS.—In the case of any entity of the Federal Government which is authorized under any law, rule, or regulation to enter into a settlement agreement or consent decree with the United States in satisfaction of any criminal offense under Federal law an amount equal to 4.75 percent of any fine imposed on that defendant in the sentence imposed for such conviction.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of a civil penalty which such covered penalty is assessed.

“(D) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the additional agreement or consent decree with any person, other than a natural person who is not a corporate officer or person with equivalent authority in any other organization, on whom such a penalty is imposed an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of the penalty.

“(D) ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.—Any entity of the Federal Government which is authorized under any law, rule, or regulation to enter into a settlement agreement or consent decree with any person, other than a natural person who is not a corporate officer or person with equivalent authority in any other organization, on whom such a penalty is imposed an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of the penalty.

“(E) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of a civil penalty which such covered penalty is assessed.

“(F) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN RULES.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the additional
amount determined under subsection (a) shall be treated for purposes of this title in the same manner as the covered penalty to which such additional amount relates.

(6) Effect From Freedom From Influence Fund.—The Secretary shall deposit any additional amount under subsection (a) in the General Fund of the Treasury and shall transfer from such Fund to the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 541 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 an amount equal to the amounts so deposited (and, notwithstanding subsection (a), such additional amount shall not be the basis for any deposit, transfer, credit, appropriation, or any other payment, to any other trust fund or account). Rules of the Commission regarding the use of the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 561 shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapters for chapter 68 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"SUBCHAPTER D—SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND".

(d) Effective Dates.—(1) In General.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to convictions, agreements, and penalties which occur on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Assessment relating to certain penalties under the internal revenue code of 1986.—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall apply to penalties assessed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5115. STUDY AND REPORT ON SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING PROGRAM.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the completion of the first election cycle in which the program established under title V of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as added by section 311, is in effect, the Federal Election Commission shall—

(1) assess—

(A) the amount of payment referred to in section 591 of such Act; and

(B) the amount of a qualified small dollar contribution referred to in section 504(a)(1) of such Act; and

(2) submit to Congress a report that discusses whether such amounts are sufficient to meet the goals of the program.

(b) UPDATE.—The Commission shall update and revise the study and report required by subsection (a) on a biennial basis.

(c) DEFINITION.—The requirements of this section shall terminate ten years after the date on which the first study and report required by subsection (a) is submitted to Congress.

SEC. 5116. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) Section 5200. SHORT TITLE.

(b) Section 5201(b)(3) of such Code is amended by striking "matching contributions" and inserting "matchable contributions".

(c) Modification of Payment Limitation.—Section 9043(b) of such Code is amended by striking "The total" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The total (2) by striking "shall not exceed" and all that follows and inserting "shall not exceed $250,000,000"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any applicable period beginning after 2029, the dollar amount referred to in paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year following the year which such applicable period begins, determined by substituting "calendar year 2028" for "calendar year 1992" in subparagraph (B) thereof;

(B) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term "applicable period" means each 4-year period beginning with the first day following the date of the general election for the office of President and ending on the date of the next such general election.

(c) Rounding.—If any amount determined under subparagraph (1) is not a multiple of $10,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $10,000.

SEC. 5202. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MATCHING PAYMENTS.

(a) AMOUNT OF AGGREGATE CONTRIBUTIONS PER STATE; DISREGARDING OF AMOUNTS CONTRIBUTED IN EXCESS OF $250,000.—Section 9033(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking "$5,000", and inserting "$25,000"; and

(2) by striking '20 States' and inserting the following: '20 States (disregarding any amount of contributions from any such resident to the extent that the total of the amounts contributed by such resident for the election exceeds $200)'.

(b) CONTRIBUTION LIMIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 9033(b) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

"(4) the candidate and the authorized committees of the candidate will not accept aggregate contributions from any such resident to the extent that the total of the amounts contributed by such resident for the election exceeds $200); and

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 9032(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"SUBSEC. D—SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND"

"(a) INCREASE AND MODIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section 9033(a) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking "an amount equal to the amount of such contribution" and inserting "an amount equal to 900 percent of the amount of each matchable contribution (disregarding any amount of contributions from any person to the extent that the total of the amounts contributed by such person for the election exceeds $200)"; and

(B) by striking 'authorized committees' and all that follows through "$230" and inserting 'authorized committees' and all that follows through "$230".

(2) MATCHABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 9034 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking the last sentence of subsection (a), and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) MATCHABLE CONTRIBUTION DEFINED.—For purposes of this section and section 9034(b)—

(1) MATCHABLE CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'matchable contribution' means, with respect to the nomination for election to the office of President of the United States, a contribution by an individual to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate with respect to which the candidate has certified in writing that—

(A) the individual making such contribution has not made aggregate contributions (including such matchable contribution) to such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate in excess of $1,000 for the election;

(B) such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate not accept contributions from such individual (including such matchable contribution) aggregating more than the amount described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) such contribution was a direct contribution.

(2) CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'contribution' means a gift of money made by a written instrument which identifies the individual making the contribution by full name and mailing address, but does not include a subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money, or anything of value or anything described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 9034(a).

"(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'direct contribution' means, with respect to a candidate, a contribution made directly by an individual to the candidate or an authorized committee of the candidate and is not—

(i) forwarded from the individual making the contribution to the candidate or committee by another person; or

(ii) received by the candidate or committee with the knowledge that the contribution was made at the request, suggestion, or recommendation of another person.

"(B) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In subparagraph (A)—

(i) the term 'person' does not include an individual (other than an individual described in section 304(i)(7) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, or a committee of a political party, or any political committee which is not a separate segregated fund described in section 316(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, or a political committee or party which makes contributions or independent expenditures, does not engage in lobbying activity under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and is not established by, controlled by, or affiliated with a registered lobbyist under such Act, an agent of a registered lobbyist under such Act, or an organization which retains or employs a registered lobbyist under such Act; and

(ii) a contribution is not 'made at the request, suggestion, or recommendation of another person' solely on the grounds that the contribution is made in response to information provided to the individual making the contribution by any person, so long as the candidate or authorized committee does not know the identity of the person who provided the information to such individual.

"(C) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

"(i) the term 'person' does not include an individual (other than an individual described in section 304(i)(7) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, or a committee of a political party, or any political committee which is not a separate segregated fund described in section 316(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, or a political committee or party which makes contributions or independent expenditures, does not engage in lobbying activity under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and is not established by, controlled by, or affiliated with a registered lobbyist under such Act, an agent of a registered lobbyist under such Act, or an organization which retains or employs a registered lobbyist under such Act; and

(ii) a contribution is not 'made at the request, suggestion, or recommendation of another person' solely on the grounds that the contribution is made in response to information provided to the individual making the contribution by any person, so long as the candidate or authorized committee does not know the identity of the person who provided the information to such individual.'"
SEC. 5203. USE OF FUND AS SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 9035 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“(b) LIMITATIONS.—If, on the basis of the audit described in paragraph (1), the Commission determines that the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to the election cycle involved is not, or may not be, sufficient to satisfy the full entitlements of candidates to payments under this chapter for such cycle, the Commission shall reduce each amount which would otherwise be paid to a candidate under this chapter by such pro rata amount as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate amount of payments anticipated to be made with respect to the cycle will not exceed the amount anticipated to be available for such payments in the Fund with respect to such cycle.”

(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(13) QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.—

“(A) Generally.—The term ‘qualified campaign contribution’ means, with respect to any election for the office of President of the United States, a contribution to a candidate that is—

(i) a contribution made to such candidate in writing—

(I) from an individual to a candidate or an authorized committee of such candidate; or

(II) from a political committee, joint fundraising committee, or other committee (including any unincorporated organization), with respect to such candidate, of which a political committee, joint fundraising committee, or other committee (including any unincorporated organization) with respect to such candidate, a political committee, joint fundraising committee, or other committee (including any unincorporated organization) with respect to such candidate, or a joint fundraising committee with respect to such candidate;

(ii) qualified campaign contributions received under any other provision of this Act that is not section 9006(a)(6) or 9006(e).”

SEC. 5204. PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF MATCHING FUNDS.

Section 9326(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “the beginning of the calendar year in which a general election for the office of President of the United States will be held” and inserting “the date that is 6 months prior to the date of the earliest State primary election.”

SEC. 5205. EXAMINATION AND AUDITS OF MATCHABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Section 9328(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “and matchable contributions received by” after “qualified campaign expenses of.”

SEC. 5206. MODIFICATION TO LIMITATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

Section 315(a)(6) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (32 U.S.C. 3101(a)(6)) is amended by striking “four-year election cycle” and inserting “‘four-year election cycle’.”

SEC. 5207. USE OF FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND AS SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 96 of subtitle H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 9043. USE OF FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND AS SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.

“(a) General provision.—In addition to any other provision of this chapter, with respect to the Presidential election held in 2028 and each succeeding Presidential election, all payments made to candidates under this chapter shall be made from the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 541 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘Fund’).

“(b) MANDATORY REDUCTION OF PAYMENTS IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

“(1) ADVANCE AUDITS BY COMMISSION.—Not later than 90 days before the first day of each Presidential election cycle (beginning with the cycle for the election held in 2028), the Commission shall—

“(A) audit the Fund to determine whether, after first making payments to participating candidates under title V of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 and then making payments to States under the My Voice Voucher Program under the Government By the People Act, the amounts in the Fund will be sufficient to make payments to candidates under this chapter in the amounts provided under this chapter during such election cycle; and

“(B) submit a report to Congress describing the results of the audit.

“(2) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

“(A) REDUCTION ON PRO RATA BASIS.—If, on the basis of the audit described in paragraph (1), the Commission determines that the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to the election cycle involved is not, or may not be, sufficient to satisfy the full entitlements of candidates to payments under this chapter for such cycle, the Commission shall reduce each amount which would otherwise be paid to a candidate under this chapter by such pro rata amount as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate amount of payments anticipated to be made with respect to the cycle will not exceed the amount anticipated to be available for such payments in the Fund with respect to such cycle.

“(B) RESTORATION OF REDUCTIONS IN CASE OF AVAILABLE SUPER ABILITY OF FUNDS DURING ELECTION CYCLE.—If, after reducing the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to the election cycle involved (or any portion thereof), to the extent that such amounts are available, the Commission may make a payment on a pro rata basis to each such candidate with respect to the election cycle in the amount by which such candidate’s payments were reduced under subparagraph (A) (or any portion thereof, as the case may be).

“(C) EXISTING COMMITTEES.—If a candidate established a joint fundraising committee described in subparagraph (A) with respect to a prior election for which the candidate was not eligible to receive payments under section 9037 and the candidate does not terminate the committee, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this paragraph so long as that joint fundraising committee does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements during the election cycle for which the candidate is eligible to receive payments under such section.”

SEC. 5211. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC FINANCING.

Subsection (a) of section 9003 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidate in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (A) with respect to a prior election for which the candidate was not eligible to receive payments under section 9037 and the candidate does not terminate the committee, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of subparagraph (A) so long as that joint fundraising committee does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements with respect to the election for which the candidate is eligible to receive payments under section 9006.”

SEC. 5212. REPEAL OF EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS AND USE OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) USE OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS WITHOUT EXPENDITURE LIMITS; APPLICATION OF SAME REQUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR, MINOR, AND NEW PARTIES.—Section 9003 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

“(b) USE OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEFRAY EXPENSES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidate in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (A) with respect to a prior election for which the candidate was not eligible to receive payments under section 9037 and the candidate does not terminate the committee, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of subparagraph (A) so long as that joint fundraising committee does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements with respect to the election for which the candidate is eligible to receive payments under section 9006.”

(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.—Section 9002 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.—

“The term ‘qualified campaign contribution’ means, with respect to any election for the office of President of the United States, a contribution to a candidate that is—

“(A) a contribution made to such candidate in writing—

(I) from an individual to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate; or

(II) from a political committee, joint fundraising committee, or other committee (including any unincorporated organization), with respect to such candidate, a political committee, joint fundraising committee, or other committee (including any unincorporated organization) with respect to such candidate, a political committee, joint fundraising committee, or other committee (including any unincorporated organization) with respect to such candidate, or a joint fundraising committee with respect to such candidate; or

(III) a contribution to defray expenses which would otherwise be paid to a candidate under this chapter by such pro rata amount as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate amount of payments anticipated to be made with respect to the cycle will not exceed the amount anticipated to be available for such payments in the Fund with respect to such cycle.

“(B) the candidate makes the certification required under this subsection at the same time the candidate makes the certification required under subsection (a)(3).”
the amount described in subparagraph (A) with respect to such election.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REPEAL OF EXPENSE LIMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 315(c) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30116(c)) is amended—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking ‘‘(b)’’;

and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by striking ‘‘subsection (b) and (d)’’ and inserting ‘‘subsection (d)’’.

(2) REPEAL OF REPAYMENT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 9007(b) of such Code, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended—

(i) by striking ‘‘a major party’’ and inserting ‘‘a party’’;

(ii) by striking ‘‘contributions (other than qualified contributions) and inserting ‘‘contributions (other than qualified contributions);’’ and

(iii) by striking ‘‘(other than qualified campaign expenses)’’ and inserting ‘‘(other than campaign expenses)’’;

and

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 9006(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (a);

(B) PENALTY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF DISALLOWED CONTRIBUTIONS; APPLICATION OF SAME PENALTY FOR CANDIDATES OF MAJOR, MINOR, AND NEW PARTIES.—Subsection (b) of section 9012 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.’’. The individual making such contribution was a direct contributor and the authorized committees of such candidate in excess of $1,000 for the election; (B) such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate will not accept contributions from such individual including such matchable contribution other than one year; or (C) such contribution was a direct contributor to the election of the Secretary shall take into account in determining the amount of moneys which will be deposited into the fund for purposes of the previous sentence, the amounts contributed by such person for the eligible candidates of all major political parties.

Amounts paid to any such candidates shall be under the control of such candidates.’’

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The first sentence of section 9006(c) of such Code is amended by striking ‘‘the time of a certification by the Commission on the date of the next national election’’ and inserting ‘‘the time of making a payment under subsection (b)’’.

(B) TIME FOR CERTIFICATION.—Section 9005(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ‘‘10 days’’ and inserting ‘‘24 hours’’.

SEC. 5216. AMOUNTS IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUND.

Section 9002(11) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: ‘‘(i) any expenditure incurred by a candidate or authorized committee for general election legal and accounting compliance purposes shall be considered to be an expense to further the election of such candidate.’’

SEC. 5218. USE OF FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND AS SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (H) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
"SEC. 9013. USE OF FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND AS SOURCE OF PAYMENTS.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, effective with respect to the election cycle involved in 2028 and each succeeding Presidential election, all payments made under this chapter shall be made from the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 941 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

(b) MANDATORY REDUCTION IN PAYMENTS IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

(1) By COMMISSION.—Not later than 90 days before the first day of each Presidential election cycle (beginning with the cycle for the election held in 2028), the Commission shall—

(A) audit the Fund to determine whether, after first making payments to participating candidates under chapter 95 of subtitle H of such Code and each succeeding Presidential election, all payments made under this chapter shall be made from the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 941 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

(B) submit a report to Congress describing the results of the audit.

(2) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—

(A) AUTOMATIC REDUCTION ON PRO RATA BASIS.—If, on the basis of the audit described in paragraph (1), the Commission determines that the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to the Presidential election cycle involved is not, or may not be, sufficient to satisfy the full entitlements of candidates to payments under this chapter for such cycle, the Commission shall reduce each amount which would otherwise be paid to a candidate under this chapter by such pro rata amount as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate amount of payments anticipated to be made under this chapter for such cycle will not exceed the amount anticipated to be available for such payments in the Fund with respect to such cycle.

(B) RESTORATION OF REDUCTIONS IN CASE OF AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS DURING ELECTION CYCLE.—If, after reducing the amounts paid to candidates with respect to an election cycle under paragraph (A), the Commission determines that there are sufficient funds in the Fund to restore the amount by which such payments were reduced (or any portion thereof), to the extent that such amounts are available, the Commission may make a payment on a pro rata basis to each such candidate with respect to such election cycle in an amount by which such candidate’s payments were reduced under subparagraph (A) (or any portion thereof, as the case may be).

(C) NO USE OF AMOUNTS FROM OTHER SOURCES.—In any case in which the Commission determines that there are insufficient moneys in the Fund to make payments to candidates under this chapter, moneys shall not be made available from any other source for the purpose of making such payments.

(3) NO EFFECT ON AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED FOR PREVIOUS RESEARCH INITIATIVE.—This section does not apply to the transfer of funds under section 9006(a).

(4) PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLE DEFINED.—In this subsection ‘ Presidential election cycle’ means, with respect to a Presidential election, the period beginning on the day after the date of the previous Presidential general election and ending on the date of the Presidential election.”

"CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 95 of subtitle H of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"Sec. 9013. Use of Freedom From Influence Fund as source of payments."
case of a contribution made by a national committee of a political party from an account described in paragraph (1), exceed $10,000’’.

(b) ELIMINATION OF LIMIT ON COORDINATED EXPENDITURES.—Section 315(d)(5) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(d)(5)) is amended by striking ‘‘subsection (a)(9)’’ and inserting ‘‘subsection (a)(9) or subsection (a)(11)’’.

(c) ACCIDENTAL HINDSIGHT.—Section 315(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)), as amended by section 5112(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(II) an account described in this paragraph is a separate, segregated account of a national committee of a political party (including a national congressional campaign committee of a political party) maintained exclusively of contributions made during a calendar year by individuals whose aggregate contributions to the committee during the year do not exceed $200’’.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5001. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

SEC. 5002. MEMBERSHIP OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

(a) REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—(A) Section 306 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(c)) is amended by—

(i) striking the period at the end of the first sentence and all that follows and inserting the following: ‘‘(1) a representative of a political party and a member of the House of Representatives who is serving at the time the Commission is composed of 5 members appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of whom no more than 2 may be affiliated with the same political party. A member shall be treated as affiliated with a political party if the member is a member of the National Congressional Campaign Committee of a political party or was affiliated with such a committee in the calendar year prior to the date on which such individual is nominated to be a member of the Commission. A majority of the number of members of the Commission who are serving at the time shall constitute a quorum.’’.

(B) Such Act is further amended by striking ‘‘affirmative vote of 4 of its members’’ and inserting ‘‘affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time the Commission shall be required in order for the Commission to take any action in accordance with paragraph (6), (7), (8), or (9) of section 307(a) or with chapter 95 or chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986’’.

(C) NO REAPPOINTMENT PERMITTED.—An individual who is appointed to serve terms that begin in 2022 may not serve for an additional term unless the individual is nominated to be a member of the Commission before January 2, 2022, one such member (as designated by the President at least one but not more than 3 individuals for nomination for appointment as a member of the Commission.

(b) TERMS OF SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(2) TERMS OF SERVICE.—(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may select the membership of the Commission shall serve for a single term of 6 years.

(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the members first appointed to serve terms that begin in 2022, the President shall designate 2 to serve for a 3-year term.

(C) NO REAPPOINTMENT PERMITTED.—An individual who served a term as a member of the Commission may not serve for an additional term, except that—

(i) an individual who served a 3-year term under subparagraph (B) may also be appointed to serve a 6-year term under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) for purposes of this subparagraph, an individual who is appointed to fill a vacancy under subparagraph (D) shall not be considered to have served a term if the portion of the unexpired term the individual fills is less than 50 percent of the period of the term.

(D) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original appointment. Except as provided in subparagraph (C), an individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term of office shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the member he or she succeeds.

(E) LIMITATION ON SERVICE AFTER EXPIRATION OF TERM.—A member of the Commission shall continue to serve after the expiration of the member’s term for an additional period, but only until the earlier of—

(i) the date on which the member’s successor has taken office as a member of the Commission; or

(ii) the expiration of the 1-year period that begins on the first day of the session following the expiration of the member’s term.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 306(a)(7) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(7)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(7) QUALIFICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may select an individual for service as a member of the Commission if the individual has experience in election law and has a demonstrated record of integrity, impartiality, and good judgment.

(B) ASSISTANCE OF BLUE RIBBON ADVISORY PANEL.—

(ii) In general.—Prior to the regularly scheduled expiration of the term of a member of the Commission and upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the membership of the Commission pursuant to the expiration of such term the President shall convene a Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel that includes individuals representing each major political party and individuals who are independent of a political party and that consists of an odd number of individuals selected by the President from retired Federal judges, former law enforcement officials, or individuals with experience in election law, except that the President may not select any individual to serve on the panel who holds any public office at the time of selection. The President shall also make reasonable efforts to encourage racial, ethnic, and gender diversity on the panel.

(iii) RECOMMENDATIONS.—With respect to each member of the Commission whose term is expiring or any vacancy in the membership of the Commission (as the case may be), the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel shall recommend to the President at least one but not more than 3 individuals for nomination for appointment as a member of the Commission.

(iv) PUBLICATION.—At the time the President submits the Senate Concurrent Resolution of Nomination for any individual to be appointed as members of the Commission, the President shall publish the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel’s recommendations for such nominations.

(v) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel convened under this subparagraph.

(C) PROHIBITING ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER BUSINESS OR EMPLOYMENT DURING SERVICE.—A member of the Commission shall not engage in any other business, vocation, or employment. Any individual who is engaging in any other business, vocation, or employment at the time of her appointment or during her term shall terminate or liquidate such activity no later than 90 days after such appointment.

SEC. 6003. ASSIGNMENT OF POWERS TO CHAIR OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR BY PRESIDENT.—

(i) In general.—Section 306(a)(5) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(5) CHAIR.—

(A) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Of the members first appointed to serve terms that begin in 2022, one such member (as designated by the President at the time the President submits nominations to the Senate) shall serve as Chair of the Commission.

(B) SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS.—Any individual who is appointed to succeed the member

Subtitle A—Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections

Sec. 6001. Short title.

Sec. 6002. Membership of Federal Election Commission.

Sec. 6003. Assignment of powers to Chair of Federal Election Commission.

Sec. 6004. Reform of enforcement process.

Sec. 6005. Permitting appearance at hearings on requests for advisory opinions by persons opposing the requests.

Sec. 6006. Permanent extension of administrative penalty authority.

Sec. 6007. Restrictions on ex parte communications.

Sec. 6008. Clarifying authority of FEC attorneys to represent FEC in Supreme Court.

Sec. 6009. Referendum forms to permit use of accent marks.

Sec. 6100. Effective date; transition.

Subtitle B—Stopping Super PAC-Candidate Coordination

Sec. 6101. Short title.

Sec. 6102. Clarification of treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions to candidates.

Sec. 6103. Clarification of ban on fundraising for super PACs by Federal candidates and officeholders.

Subtitle C—Disposal of Contributions or Donations

Sec. 6201. Timeframe for and prioritization of review of contributions or donations.

Sec. 6202. 1-year transition period for certain individuals.

Subtitle D—Recommendations to Ensure Filing of Reports Before Date of Election

Sec. 6301. Recommendations to ensure filing of reports before date of election.

Subtitle E—Severability

Sec. 6401. Severability.

Subtitle A—Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections

Sec. 6001. Short title.
who serves as Chair of the Commission for the term beginning in January 2022 (as well as any individual who is appointed to fill a vacancy if such member does not serve a full term as Chair) shall be the chief administrative officer of the Commission, and shall have the authority to administer the Commission and its staff, with the concurrence of at least two other members of the Commission; shall have the power—

(i) to appoint and remove the staff director of the Commission;

(ii) to prescribe the rules and regulations for the transaction of business by the Commission; and

(iii) to make such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) POWERS.—(1) ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN POWERS TO CHAIR.—Section 307(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30107) is amended as follows:

(a) DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN CHAIR AND COMMISSION.—

(i) POWERS ASSIGNED TO CHAIR.—The powers of the Commission shall be the power of the Chair (or, pursuant to subsection (B), the Commission), and shall include the following:

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS.—The Chair of the Commission shall be the chief administrative officer of the Commission and shall have the authority to administer the Commission and its staff, with the concurrence of at least two other members of the Commission; shall have the power—

(A) to initiate (through civil actions for injunction, declaratory, or other appropriate relief) any action or appeal (including a proceeding before the Supreme Court on certiorari) against any person to which the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, through its general counsel;

(B) to conduct investigations and hearings, pursuant to the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(C) to conduct such investigations and hearings, to carry out the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and to report apparent violations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities; and

(E) to transmit to the President and Congress not later than June 1 of each year a report which states in detail the activities of the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act, and includes findings for any legislative or other action the Commission considers appropriate.

(ii) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—The following powers shall be exercised by the Commission:

(A) to develop such prescribed forms and to arrange such records as are necessary to carry out the provisions of such Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(B) to send written notices and other proceedings by regular mail, registered mail, certified mail, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or any other means of communication; and

(C) to issue a subpoena or conduct any other form of discovery pursuant to the investigation. Upon the expiration of the 15-day period which begins on the date the general counsel provides such notification, the general counsel may issue the subpoena or conduct the discovery, unless during such 15-day period the Commission, by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time, prohibits the general counsel from issuing the subpoena or conducting the discovery.

(b)(A) Upon completion of an investigation under paragraph (2), the general counsel shall promptly submit to the Commission the general counsel’s recommendation that the Commission find either that there is probable cause to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of this Act or chapter 95 or chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Commission shall include with the recommendation a brief stating the position of the general counsel on the legal and factual issues of the case.

(b)(B) At the time the general counsel submits to the Commission the recommendation under subparagraph (A), the general counsel shall simultaneously notify the respondent of such recommendation and the reasons therefore, shall provide the respondent with an opportunity to submit a brief within 30 days stating the position of the respondent on the legal and factual issues of the case and replying to the brief of the general counsel. The general counsel shall promptly submit such brief to the Commission upon receipt.

(c) Not later than 30 days after the general counsel submits the recommendation to the Commission under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Commission shall either approve or disapprove the recommendation by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time.

(c)(1) REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATION.—The Commission shall have the power—

(A) to develop such prescribed forms and to arrange such records as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and to report apparent violations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities; and

(B) to transmit to the President and Congress not later than June 1 of each year a report which states in detail the activities of the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act, and includes findings for any legislative or other action the Commission considers appropriate.

(c)(2) PERMITTING COMMISSION TO EXERCISE OTHER POWERS TO ANY PERSON.—The Chair (or, pursuant to subsection (B), the Commission) shall have the power—

(A) to develop such prescribed forms and to arrange such records as are necessary to carry out the provisions of such Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(B) to send written notices and other proceedings by regular mail, registered mail, certified mail, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, or any other means of communication; and

(C) to issue a subpoena or conduct any other form of discovery pursuant to the investigation. Upon the expiration of the 15-day period which begins on the date the general counsel provides such notification, the general counsel may issue the subpoena or conduct the discovery, unless during such 15-day period the Commission, by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time, prohibits the general counsel from issuing the subpoena or conducting the discovery.

(c)(2)(A) Upon completion of an investigation under paragraph (2), the general counsel shall promptly submit to the Commission the general counsel’s recommendation that the Commission find either that there is probable cause to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of this Act or chapter 95 or chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Commission shall include with the recommendation a brief stating the position of the general counsel on the legal and factual issues of the case.

(c)(2)(B) At the time the general counsel submits to the Commission the recommendation under subparagraph (A), the general counsel shall simultaneously notify the respondent of such recommendation and the reasons therefore, shall provide the respondent with an opportunity to submit a brief within 30 days stating the position of the respondent on the legal and factual issues of the case and replying to the brief of the general counsel. The general counsel shall promptly submit such brief to the Commission upon receipt.

(c)(3) STANDARD FOR INITIATING INVESTIGATION AND DETERMINING WHETHER VIOLATIONS HAVE OCCURRED.—

(1) REVISION OF STANDARDS.—Section 309(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

"(2)(A) The general counsel, upon receiving a complaint filed with the Commission under paragraph (1) or upon the basis of information ascertained by the Commission in the normal course of its investigation or other responsibilities, shall make a determination as to whether or not there is reason to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of section 307(a)(1) or section 307(a)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and as to whether or not the Commission should either initiate an investigation of the matter or that such complaint should be dismissed. The general counsel shall promptly provide notification to the Commission of such determination and the reasons therefore, together with any written submission in support of the determination made by the person alleged to have committed the violation. Upon the expiration of the 30-day period which begins on the date the general counsel provides such notification, the Commission, by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time, may make such assistance available to the Commission shall have the power—

(i) to appoint and remove the staff director of the Commission;

(ii) to prescribe the rules and regulations for the transaction of business by the Commission; and

(iii) to make such regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, through its general counsel.

(b) REVISION OF STANDARD FOR REVIEW OF DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 309(a)(8) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(8)) is amended to read as follows:

"(8)(A)(i) Any party aggrieved by any order of the Commission dismissing a complaint filed by such party may file a petition with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Any petition under this subparagraph shall be filed within 60 days after the date on which the party received notice of the dismissal of the complaint.

(ii) In any proceeding under this subparagraph, the court shall determine by de novo review whether the agency’s dismissal of the complaint was contrary to law or on the basis of which the penalty for the alleged violation is greater than $50,000, the court shall disregard
SEC. 6008. CLARIFYING AUTHORITY OF FEC AT- 
TERNKEYS TO FEC IN SUPER- 
PREMRE COURT.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 306(f)(4) 
of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30106(f)(4)) is amended by striking “any action instituted under this Act, either (A) by the General Counsel of the Commission or (B) by the General Counsel of the Commission” and inserting “any action instituted under this Act, including an action before the Supreme Court of the United States, either (A) by the General Counsel of the Commission and other actions arising from any such broadcast or written, graphic, or other form of campaign material prepared by the candidate or committee or by agents of the candidate or committee (in- cluding any exception or any claim under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(4)(C)(v)) is promulgated by the Commission regarding such communicate)”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply to actions filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6009. REQUIRING FORMS TO PERMIT USE OF 
ACCENT MARKS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 311(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 3111(a)(1)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the follow- ing: “,” and shall ensure that all such forms (including forms in an electronic format) permit the person using the form to include an accent mark as part of the person’s identification.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply beginning January 1, 2022.

SEC. 6010. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, the provisions added by this Act shall apply on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TRANSITION.—

(1) TERMINATION OF SERVICE OF CURRENT MEMBERS.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, the term of any individual serving as a member of the Federal Election Commission prior to such date or any proceeding against such person shall expire on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING CASES OR PRO- 
CEEDINGS.—Nothing in this subtitle or any amendment made by this Act shall affect any proceeding against any of the powers exercised by the Federal Election Commission failed to act, with respect to complaints which were filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6011. STOPPING SUPER PAC-CANDIDATE 
COORDINATION.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Stop Super PAC-Candidate Coordination Act”.

SEC. 6012. CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CO- ORDINATED EXPENDITURES AS CON- TRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES.

(a) TREATMENT AS CONTRIBUTION TO CANDIDATE.—Section 301(b)(A) of the Federal Elec- 
tration Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30110(b)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of clause (i);

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (i); and

(3) by adding the following new clause:

“(ii) the communication constitutes a campaign expenditure (as such term is defined in section 326) which is not otherwise treated as a contribution under clause (i) or clause (ii).”;

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Title III of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), as amended by section 4421 and section 4422(a)(1) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 327. PAYMENTS FOR COORDINATED EX- 
PENDITURES.

(a) COORDINATION DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 310(b)(A)(iii), the term ‘‘coordinated expenditure’’ means—

(A) any expenditure, or any payment for a covered communication described in subsection (d), which is made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, a political committee of a political party, or agents of the candidate or committee, and shall be subject to limitations on ex parte communication which republishes, disseminates, or distributes, in whole or in part, any communication regarding the candidate or committee, or any other person established and used a firewall or similar procedures to restrict the sharing of information between individuals who are employees of the person sponsoring the debate or who are serving as agents for the person making the payment.

(2) NO EFFECT ON PARTY COORDINATION 
STANDARD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the determination of coordination between a candidate and a political committee of a political party for purposes of section 315(d).

(b) NO SAFE HARBOR FOR USE OF FIREWALL.—

A person shall be determined to have made a payment in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, a political committee of a political party, or agents of the candidate or committee, and shall be subject to limitations on ex parte communication which republishes, disseminates, or distributes, in whole or in part, any communication regarding the candidate or committee, or any other person established and used a firewall or similar procedures to restrict the sharing of information between individuals who are employees of the person sponsoring the debate or who are serving as agents for the person making the payment.
"(c) PAYMENTS BY COORDINATED SPENDERS FOR COVERED COMMUNICATIONS.—

(1) PAYMENTS MADE IN COOPERATION, CONSULTATION, OR CONCERT WITH CANDIDATES.—For purposes of section 301(4)(A), if a person who makes a payment for a covered communication, as defined in subsection (d), is a coordinated spender under paragraph (2) with respect to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate, the person is not an individual described in subsection (d)(1), the payment for the covered communication is made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, the candidate, or the person has more than de-

(2) COORDINATED SPENDER DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘coordinated spender’ means, with respect to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate, a person (other than a political commi-

"(d) COVERED COMMUNICATION DEFINED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-

(2) COVERED COMMUNICATION DEFINED.—

"(D) The person has retained the professional

(3) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMMUNICATIONS INVOLVING CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES.—For pur-

"(A) in the case of a communication which re-

(2) APPLICABLE ELECTION PERIOD.—In para-

(3) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—Any person

(1) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—Any person

(2) PENALTY.—

"(i) Returning such contributions or dona-

"(e) PENALTY.—

"(c) solicits, receive, direct, or transfer funds

"(B) in the case of a communication which re-

(3) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMMUNICATIONS INVOLVING CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES.—For pur-

"(A) in the case of a communication which re-

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-

"(B) The candidate or committee or any agent of

(1) PAYMENTS MADE IN COOPERATION, CONS-

(2) PENALTY.—

"(A) First, to pay any debts or obligations owed in connection with an election for Federal office of the individual.

"(B) Second, to the extent such contribution or donations remain available after the applica-

"(C) solicits, receive, direct, or transfer funds to or on behalf of any political committee which accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of this Act (or to or on behalf of any account of a political committee which is established for the purpose of accepting such donations or contributions), or to or on be-

"(B) by striking the period at the end of subpara-

"(A) in the case of a communication which re-

"(C) refers to the candidate or an opponent of the candidate but is not described in subpara-

"(A) in the case of a communication which re-

"(B) in the case of a communication which re-

(2) APPLICABLE ELECTION PERIOD.—In para-

(1) PAYMENTS MADE IN COOPERATION, CONS-

(3) SPECIAL RULES FOR COMMUNICATIONS INVOLVING CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES.—For pur-

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-

"(C) refers to the candidate or an opponent of the candidate but is not described in subpara-

(2) APPLICABLE ELECTION PERIOD.—In para-

(2) APPLICABLE ELECTION PERIOD.—In para-

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-

"(A) First, to pay any debts or obligations owed in connection with an election for Federal office of the individual.

"(B) Second, to the extent such contribution or donations remain available after the applica-

"(A) First, to pay any debts or obligations owed in connection with an election for Federal office of the individual.

"(B) Second, to the extent such contribution or donations remain available after the applica-

"(C) solicits, receive, direct, or transfer funds to or on behalf of any political committee which accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of this Act (or to or on behalf of any account of a political committee which is established for the purpose of accepting such donations or contributions), or to or on be-

"(A) First, to pay any debts or obligations owed in connection with an election for Federal office of the individual.

"(B) Second, to the extent such contribution or donations remain available after the applica-

"(C) solicits, receive, direct, or transfer funds to or on behalf of any political committee which accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of this Act (or to or on behalf of any account of a political committee which is established for the purpose of accepting such donations or contributions), or to or on be-
“(ii) Making contributions to an organization described in section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(iii) Making transfers to a national, State, or local committee of a political party.”

SEC. 6202. 1-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual described in subsection (b), any contributions or donations remaining available to the individual shall be disposed of—

(1) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section; and

(2) in accordance with the prioritization specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (c) of section 312 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114), as amended by section 1201.

(b) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subsection is an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this section—

(1)(A) is not a candidate with respect to an election for any Federal office for a period of not less than 6 years beginning on the day after the date of the most recent such election in which the individual was a candidate for any such office; and

(B) is an individual who becomes a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

(2) would be in violation of subsection (c) of section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114), as amended by section 1201.

Subtitle D—Recommendations to Ensure Filing of Reports Before Date of Election

SEC. 6301. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE FILING OF REPORTS BEFORE DATE OF ELECTION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election Commission shall submit a report to Congress providing recommendations, including suggestions for changes to existing law, on how to ensure that each political committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, including a committee which accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of such Act, will file a report under section 304 of such Act prior to the date of the election for which the committee receives contributions or makes disbursements, without regard to the date on which the committee first receives a contribution or makes a disbursement, and shall be in violation of subsection (c) as a result of the inaccuracy of the report.

Subtitle E—Severability

SEC. 6401. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title, or the application of any provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title shall remain in effect, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

DIVISION C—ETICS

TITLE VII—ETHICAL STANDARDS

Subtitle A—Supreme Court Ethics

Sec. 7001. Code of conduct for Federal judges.

Sec. 7002. Establishing authority to impose civil money penalties.

Sec. 7003. Disclosure of transactions involving things of financial value concerning officeholders.

Sec. 7004. Ensuring online access to registration statements.

Subtitle C—Lobbying Disclosure Reform

Sec. 7201. Expanding scope of individuals and activities subject to requirements of Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

Sec. 7202. Prohibiting receipt of compensation for lobbying activities on behalf of foreign countries violating human rights.

Sec. 7203. Requiring lobbyists to disclose status as lobbyists upon making any lobbying contacts.

Subtitle D—Recusal of Presidential Appointees

Sec. 7301. Requiring lobbyists to disclose status as lobbyists upon making any lobbying contacts.

Subtitle E—Federal Judges.

Sec. 7401. Establishment of clearinghouse.

Sec. 7501. Severability.

Subtitle F—Supreme Court Ethics

SEC. 7601. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FEDERAL JUDGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 964. Code of Conduct

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Judicial Council shall issue a code of conduct, which applies to each and every judge of the United States, except that such code of conduct may include provisions that are applicable only to certain categories of judges or justices.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item related to section 963 the following:

“964. Code of conduct.”.

Subtitle B—Foreign Agents Registration

SEC. 7701. ESTABLISHMENT OF FARA INVESTIGATIVE UNIT WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

Section 8 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 618), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) DEDICATED ENFORCEMENT UNIT.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Attorney General shall establish a unit within the countrespionage section of the National Security Council, the Department of Justice with responsibility for the enforcement of this Act.

“(2) POWERS.—The unit established under this subsection is authorized to—

“(A) take appropriate legal action against individuals suspected of violating this Act; and

“(B) coordinate any such legal action with the United States Attorney for the relevant jurisdiction.

“(3) CONSULTATION.—In operating the unit established under this subsection, the Attorney General shall, as appropriate, consult with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of State.

“(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities of the unit established under this subsection $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2021 and each succeeding fiscal year.”.

SEC. 7702. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.

(a) ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY.—Section 8 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 618), is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.—

“(1) REGISTRATION STATEMENTS.—Whoever fails to file timely or complete a registration statement as required under section 2(a) shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $10,000 per violation.

“(2) SUPPLEMENTS.—Whoever fails to file timely or complete supplements as provided under section 2(b) shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $1,000 per violation.

“(3) OTHER VIOLATIONS.—Whoever knowingly fails to—

“(A) remedy a defective filing within 60 days after notice of such defect by the Attorney General;

“(B) comply with any other provision of this Act, shall, upon proof of such knowing violation by a preponderance of the evidence, be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $200,000, depending on the extent and gravity of the violation.

“(4) NO FINES PAID BY FOREIGN PRINCIPALS.—A civil money penalty paid under paragraph (1) may not be paid, directly or indirectly, by a foreign principal.

“(5) USE OF FINES.—All civil money penalties collected under this subsection shall be used to defray the cost of the enforcement unit established under this section.”.

SEC. 7703. DISCLOSURE OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THINGS OF FINANCIAL VALUE CONFERRED ON OFFICEHOLDERS.

(a) REQUIRING AGENTS TO DISCLOSE KNOWN TRANSACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(a)), is amended—

“(A) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12); and

“(B) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) To the extent that the registrant has knowledge of any transaction which occurred in the preceding 60 days of and which the foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting as an agent conferred on a Federal or State officeholder any thing of financial value, including a gift, profit, salary, favorable regulatory treatment, or any other direct or indirect economic or financial benefit, a detailed statement describing each such transaction.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7704. DISCLOSURE OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THINGS OF FINANCIAL VALUE CONFERRED ON OFFICEHOLDERS.

(a) REQUIRING AGENTS TO DISCLOSE KNOWN TRANSACTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(a)), is amended—

“(A) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12); and

“(B) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) To the extent that the registrant has knowledge of any transaction which occurred in the preceding 60 days of and which the foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting as an agent conferred on a Federal or State officeholder any thing of financial value, including a gift, profit, salary, favorable regulatory treatment, or any other direct or indirect economic or financial benefit, a detailed statement describing each such transaction.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to statements filed on or after the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CURRENT REGISTRANTS.—Not later than the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act, each registrant who, prior to the expiration of such period, filed a registration statement with the Attorney General under section 2(a) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(a)) and who has knowledge of any transaction described in paragraph (10) of section 2(a) of such Act (as added by subsection (a)(1)) which occurred at any time during which the registrant was an agent of the foreign principal involved, shall file with the Attorney General a supplemental statement to such transaction, on a form prescribed by the Attorney General, containing a detailed statement describing each such transaction.

SEC. 7705. ENSURING ONLINE ACCESS TO REGISTRATION STATEMENTS.

(a) REQUIRING STATEMENTS FILED BY REGISTRANTS TO BE IN DIGITIZED FORMAT.—Section 2(a) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(a)), is amended by striking “in electronic form” and inserting “in a digitized format which will enable the Attorney General to meet the requirements of section 6(d)(1) (relating to public access to an electronic database of statements and updates)”.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRONIC DATABASE OF STATEMENTS AND UPDATES.—Section 6(d)(1) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 616(d)(1)) is amended—

”
(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "to the extent technically practicable"; and
(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "includes the information" and inserting "includes in a digitized format the information".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to lobbying activities under paragraph (7) for purposes of this Act on or after the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBTITLE C—Lobbying Disclosure Reform

SEC. 7201. EXPANDING SCOPE OF INDIVIDUALS AND ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995.

(a) COVERAGE OF INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING COUNSELING SERVICES.—
(1) TREATMENT OF COUNSELING SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF LOBBYING CONTACTS AS LOBBYING ACTIVITY.—Section 3(7) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601(7)) is amended—
(A) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting "any lobbying contact made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
(b) TREATMENT OF LOBBYING CONTACT MADE WITH A PURPOSE OF COUNSELING SERVICES AS LOBBYING CONTACT MADE BY INDIVIDUAL PROVIDING SERVICES.—Section 3(8) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1601(8)) is amended by adding at the end the following: 
(III) include any entity in which the spouse of the President has a substantial interest.
[(c) TREATMENT OF PROVIDERS OF COUNSELING SERVICES.—Any individual, with authority to directly or indirectly influence a lobbying contact or contacts made by another individual, and for financial or other compensation provides counseling services in support of preparation and planning activities which are treated as lobbying activities under paragraph (7) for that other individual’s lobbying contact or contacts and who has knowledge that the specific lobbying contacts were made, shall be considered to have made the same lobbying contact at the same time and in the same manner to the covered executive branch official or covered legislative branch official involved.

(b) REDUCTION OF PERCENTAGE EXEMPTION FOR DETERMINATION OF THRESHOLD OF LOBBYING CONTACTS REQUIRED FOR INDIVIDUALS TO REGISTER.—Section 3(9) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601(9)) is amended by striking "less than 20 percent" and inserting "less than 10 percent".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7202. PROHIBITING RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION FOR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

"SEC. 5A. PROHIBITING RECEIPT OF COMPENSATION FOR LOBBYING ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS.

"[[(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, no person may accept financial or other compensation for lobbying activity under this Act on behalf of a client who is a government which the President has determined to be a government that engages in gross violations of human rights.

[(b) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR OFFICERS.—Nothing in this section was intended to affect any activity of a duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer of a foreign government who is so recognized by the Department of State, while said officer is engaged in activities which are recognized by the Department of State as being within the scope of the functions of such officer.

[(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to lobbying activity under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 which occurs pursuant to contracts entered into after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7203. REQUIRING LOBBYISTS TO DISCLOSE STATUS AS LOBBYISTS UPON MAKING LOBBYING CONTACTS.

(a) MANDATORY DISCLOSURE AT TIME OF CONTACT.—Section 14 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1609) is amended—
(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:
"(a) IDENTIFICATION AT TIME OF LOBBYING CONTACT.—Any person or entity that makes a lobbying contact shall disclose that person or entity is a lobbyist (as defined in section 101) with respect to a particular matter and to the extent technically practicable, including in electronic form) of registration statements filed with the Attorney General to obtain registration under this Act.
"(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—[The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TREATMENT OF COUNSELING SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF PREPARATION AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE TREATED AS LOBBYING ACTIVITIES UNDER PARAGRAPH (7) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.—Section 14 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1609) is amended—
(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:
"(a) IDENTIFICATION AT TIME OF LOBBYING CONTACT.—Any person or entity that makes a lobbying contact shall disclose that person or entity is a lobbyist (as defined in section 101) with respect to a particular matter and to the extent technically practicable, including in electronic form) of registration statements filed with the Attorney General to obtain registration under this Act.
"(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBTITLE D—Recusal of Presidential Appointees

SEC. 7801. RECALL OF APPOINTEES.

Section 208 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"[[(e)(1) Any officer or employee appointed by the President or designated by the President shall recuse himself or herself from any particular matter involving specific parties in which a party to that matter is—
(II) a covered legislative branch official or a covered executive branch official, at the time of the lobbying contact—
(i) indicate whether the person or entity is registered under this chapter and identify the client on whose behalf the lobbying contact is made;
(ii) indicate whether such client is a foreign entity and identify any foreign entity required to be disclosed under section 4(b)(4) that has a direct interest in the outcome of the lobbying activity; and
by subsection (c) as subsection (b).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7301. RECUSAL OF APPOINTEES.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by such holding.

TITLE VIII—ETHICS REFORMS FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Subtitle A—Executive Branch Conflict of Interest

Sec. 8001. Short title.
Sec. 8002. Restrictions on private sector payments for government service.
Sec. 8003. Requirements relating to slowing the revolving door.
Sec. 8004. Prohibition of procurement officers accepting employment from government contractors.
Sec. 8005. Revolving door restrictions on employees moving into the private sector.
Sec. 8006. Guidance on unpaid employees.
Sec. 8007. Limitation on use of Federal funds and contracting at businesses owned by Federal officers and employees.
Sec. 8008. Federal contractors.
Sec. 8009. Federal contractors.
Sec. 8010. Federal contractors.
Sec. 8011. Short title.
Sec. 8012. Divestiture of personal financial interests of the President and Vice President that pose a potential conflict of interest.
Sec. 8013. Initial financial disclosures.
Sec. 8014. Contracts by the President or Vice President.
Sec. 8015. Legal Defense Funds.

Subtitle B—Ethics Reform for the President

Sec. 8021. White House Ethics Transparency.
Sec. 8022. Procedure for waivers and authorizations relating to ethics requirements.

Subtitle C—Executive Branch Ethics

Sec. 8031. Short title.
Sec. 8032. Reauthorization of the Office of Government Ethics.
Sec. 8033. Tenure of the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.
Sec. 8034. Duties of Director of the Office of Government Ethics.
Sec. 8035. Agency ethics officials training and duties.
Sec. 8036. Prohibition on use of funds for certain federal employee travel in contravention of certain regulations.
Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by add-

Sec. 8071. Short title.

Sec. 8061. Short title.

Sec. 8052. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8042. Disclosure of certain types of con-

Subtitle E—Conflicts From Political Fundraising

Sec. 8057.>Ethics requirement for certain transitions.

Sec. 8056. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle H—Travel on Private Aircraft by Senior

Sec. 8055. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle G—Ethics Pledge For Senior Executive

Sec. 8054. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle F—Transition Team Ethics

Sec. 8053. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle D—Conflicts From Compensation That

Sec. 8051. Short title.

Sec. 8050. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle C—Conflicts From Financial Interests

Sec. 8049. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle B—Executive Branch Conflict of

Sec. 8048. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle A—Executive Branch Conflict of

Sec. 8047. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Subtitle I—Severability

Sec. 8046. Presidential transition ethics pro-

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Sec. 8037. Reports on cost of Presidential travel.

Sec. 8036. Reports on cost of senior Federal offi-

Sec. 8035. Costs of presidential transition.

Sec. 8034. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8033. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8032. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8031. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8030. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8029. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8028. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8027. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8026. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8025. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8024. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8023. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8022. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8021. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8020. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8019. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8018. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8017. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8016. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8015. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8014. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8013. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8012. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8011. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8010. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8009. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8008. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8007. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8006. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8005. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8004. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8003. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8002. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8001. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 8000. Presidential transition ethics pro-

Sec. 7934.>Effective date of restrictions.

Sec. 7933.>Effect on Federal employees.

Sec. 7932.>Supervisory employees.

Sec. 7931.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7930.>Applicability.

Sec. 7929.>Supervisory employees.

Sec. 7928.>Applicability.

Sec. 7927.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7926.>Applicability.

Sec. 7925.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7924.>Applicability.

Sec. 7923.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7922.>Applicability.

Sec. 7921.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7920.>Applicability.

Sec. 7919.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7918.>Applicability.

Sec. 7917.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7916.>Applicability.

Sec. 7915.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7914.>Applicability.

Sec. 7913.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7912.>Applicability.

Sec. 7911.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7910.>Applicability.

Sec. 7909.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7908.>Applicability.

Sec. 7907.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7906.>Applicability.

Sec. 7905.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7904.>Applicability.

Sec. 7903.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7902.>Applicability.

Sec. 7901.>General prohibition.

Sec. 7900.>Applicability.
amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§82108. Prohibition on involvement in certain former contractor employees in procurements

"An employee of the Federal Government may not participate personally and substantially in any award of a contract to, or the administration of a contract awarded to, a contractor that is a former employer of such employee during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the employee leaves the employment of the contractor.

"(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2108. Prohibition on involvement in certain former contractor employees in procurements.

"(d) REGULATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Government Ethics, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall promulgate regulations to carry out and ensure the enforcement of chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code, pending by this section.

"(e) MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE.—The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with designated agency ethics officials (as that term is defined in section 109(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)), shall monitor compliance with such chapter 21 by individuals and agencies.

SEC. 8003. REVOLVING DOOR RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYEES MOVING INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking "ONE-YEAR" and inserting "TWO-YEAR";

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "1 year" in each instance and inserting "2 years"; and

(B) by striking "conducts any lobbying activity to facilitate any communication to or appearance before," after "any communication to or appearance before"; and

(2) in paragraph (b), by striking "1-year" and inserting "2-year".

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to any individual covered by subsection (c) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, separating from the civil service on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8006. GUIDANCE ON UNPAID EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by subsection (c) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, separating from the civil service on or after the date of enactment of this Act:

(1) the term "agency" includes the Executive Office of the President and the White House; and

(2) the term "unpaid employee" includes any individual occupying a position at an agency and who is unpaid by operation of section 3100 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, but does not include any employee who is unpaid by reason of being on leave in appreciation of the good service of the agency and who is unpaid by operation of section 3101 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, but does not include any employee who is unpaid by operation of section 3102 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, but does not include any employee who is unpaid by operation of section 3103 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 8007. LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND CONTRACTING AT BUSINESS ENTERPRISES OWNED BY CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.

(a) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FUNDS.—Beginning January 1, 2022, and in each fiscal year thereafter, no Federal funds may be obligated or expended for purposes of procuring goods or services at any business owned or controlled by a covered individual or any family member of such an individual, unless such obligation or expenditure of funds is authorized under the Presidential Protection Assistance Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-52-52).

(b) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS.—No Executive agency may enter into or hold a contract with a business owned or controlled by a covered individual or any family member of such an individual.

(c) DETERMINATION OF OWNERSHIP.—For purposes of subsection (a), a business shall be deemed to be owned or controlled by a covered individual or any family member of such an individual if the covered individual or member of family (as that term is defined in section 109(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)) is a member of the board of directors or similar governing body of the business; or

(2) directly or indirectly owns or controls more than 50 percent of the voting shares of the business; or

(3) is the beneficiary of a trust which owns or controls more than 50 percent of the business and can direct distributions under the terms of the trust.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "covered individual" means—

(A) the President;

(B) the Vice President;

(C) the head of any Executive department (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 5, United States Code); and

(D) any individual occupying a position designated by the President as a Cabinet-level position.

(2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term "family member" means an individual with any of the following relationships to a covered individual:

(A) Spouse, and parents thereof.

(B) Sons and daughters, and spouses thereof.

(C) Parents, and spouses thereof.

(D) Brothers and sisters, and spouses thereof.

(E) Grandparents and grandchildren, and spouses thereof.

(F) Domestic partner and parents thereof, including domestic partners of any individual in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term "executive agency" has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

Subtitle B—Presidential and Vice-Presidential Conflicts of Interest

SEC. 8011. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Presidential Conflicts of Interest Act of 2021".

SEC. 8012. DIVESTURE OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT THAT POSE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding after title VI (as added by section 8003) the following:

"TITLE VII—DIVESTURE OF FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

§701. Divestiture of financial interests posing a conflict of interest

(1) APPLICABILITY TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.—The President and Vice President shall, within 30 days of assuming office, divest of all financial interests that pose a conflict of interest because the President or Vice President, the spouse, dependent child, or general partner of the President or Vice President, or any person or organization with whom the President or Vice President is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment, has a financial interest, by—

(1) converting each such interest to cash or other investment that meets the criteria established by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics through regulation as being an interest so remote or inconsequential as not to pose a conflict; or

(2) placing each such interest in a qualified blind trust, as defined in section 102(f)(3) or a diversified trust under section 102(f)(4)(B).

(b) DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the President or Vice President complies with the following:

(1) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES.—Section 102(a) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) With respect to any such report filed by the President or Vice President, for any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business enterprise in which the President, Vice President, or the spouse or dependent child of the President or Vice President, has a significant financial interest—

(A) the name of each other person who holds a significant financial interest in the firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity;

(B) the value, identity, and category of each liability in excess of $10,000; and

(C) a description of the nature and value of any assets with a value of $10,000 or more.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall promulgate regulations to define the criteria required by section 701(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (as added by subsection (a)) and the term "significant financial interest" for purposes of section 102(a)(9) of the Ethics in Government Act (as added by subsection (b)).

SEC. 8013. INITIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

In section (a) of section 301 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking "position" and adding at the end the following: "position, with the exception of the President and Vice President, who must file a new report.

SEC. 8014. CONTRACTS BY THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 431 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "the President, Vice President, Cabinet Member, or a lower Contracts by"; and

(2) in the first undesignated paragraph, by inserting "the President, Vice President, or any Cabinet member" after "Whoever, being"

"TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The tables of sections for chapter 22 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 431 and inserting the following: "431. Contracts by the President, Vice President, or a Member of Congress."

SEC. 8015. LEGAL DEFENSE FUNDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Director" means the Director of the Office of Government Ethics;

(2) the term "legal defense fund" means a trust:

(A) that has only one beneficiary;

(B) that is subject to a trust agreement creating an enforceable fiduciary duty on the part of the trustee to the beneficiary, pursuant to the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the trust is established; and

(C) that is subject to a trust agreement that provides for the mandatory public disclosure of all donations and disbursements;

(D) that is subject to a trust agreement that prohibits the use of its resources for any purpose other than—

(i) the administration of the trust;

(ii) the payment or reimbursement of legal fees or expenses incurred in investigative, civil, criminal, or other proceedings of which by or arising by virtue of service by the trust's beneficiary as an officer or employee, defined in this section, or as an employee, contractor, consultant or volunteer in the campaign of the President or Vice President; or

(iii) the distribution of unused resources to a charity selected by the trustee that has not been selected or recommended by the beneficiary of the trust;

(E) that is subject to a trust agreement that prohibits the use of its resources for any other purpose or personal legal matters, including tax planning, personal injury litigation, protection of property rights, divorces, or estate probate; and

(F) that is subject to a trust agreement that prohibits the acceptance of donations, except in
In accordance with this section and the regulations of the Office of Government Ethics; (3) the term "lobbying activity" has the meaning given in section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1501); (4) the term "officer or employee means—(A) an officer (as that term is defined in section 2104 of title 5, United States Code) or employee (as that term is defined in section 2106 of such title) of the executive branch of the Government; (B) the Vice President; and (C) the President; and (5) the term "relative" has the meaning given in section 3101 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) Legal defense funds.—An officer or employee may not accept or use any gift or donation for the payment or reimbursement of legal fees or costs incurred in an investigation, judicial, criminal, or other legal proceedings relating to or arising by virtue of the officer or employee's service as an officer or employee, as defined in this section, or as an employee, contractor, consultant or volunteer of the campaign of the President or Vice President except through a legal defense fund that is certified by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics; (c) Limits on gifts and donations.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall promulgate regulations to establish limits with respect to gifts and donations described in subsection (b), which shall, at a minimum—(1) prohibit the receipt of any gift or donation described in subsection (b); (A) from a single donor; or (B) from a single registered lobbyist; (C) from a foreign government or an agent of a foreign principal; (D) from a State government or an agent of a State government; (E) from any person seeking official action from, or seeking to do or doing business with, the agency employing the officer or employee; (F) from any person conducting activities regulated by the agency employing the officer or employee; (G) from any person whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the official duties of the officer or employee; (H) from an officer or employee of the executive branch; or (I) from any organization or entity of which members or officers are employees described in paragraph (1) or (2); and (2) require that a legal defense fund, in order to be certified by the Director, only permit distributions to the applicable officer or employee. (d) Written notice.—(1) In General.—An officer or employee who wishes to accept funds or have a representative accept funds from a legal defense fund shall first ensure that the proposed trustees of the legal defense fund submit the Director the following information: (A) a resume and contact information of any approved trustee of the legal defense fund. (B) A copy of any proposed trust document for the legal defense fund. (C) the nature of the legal proceeding (or proceedings), investigation or other matter which give rise to the establishment of the legal defense fund. (D) a acknowledgment signed by the officer or employee and the trustee indicating that they will be bound by the regulations and limitations under this section. (E) An officer or employee may not accept any gift or donation to pay, or to reimburse any person for, fees or expenses described in subsection (b) of this section except through a legal defense fund that has been certified in writing by the Director following that office's receipt and approval of the information submitted under paragraph (1) and approval of the structure of the fund. (e) Reporting.—(1) In General.—An officer or employee who establishes a legal defense fund may not directly or indirectly accept distributions from a legal defense fund unless the fund has provided the Director a quarterly report for each quarter of every calendar year since the establishment of the legal defense fund that discloses, with respect to the quarter covered by the report—(A) the source and amount of each contribution to the legal defense fund; and (B) the amount, recipient, and purpose of every expenditure from the legal defense fund, including all distributions from the trust for any purpose. (2) Public Availability.—The Director shall make publicly available—(A) each report submitted under paragraph (1) in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable form; (B) each trust agreement and any amendment thereto; (C) the written notice and acknowledgment required by subsection (d); and (D) the Director's written certification of the legal defense fund. (f) Records.—An officer or employee, other than the President and the Vice President, who is the beneficiary of a legal defense fund may not participate personally and substantially in any executive or judicial proceeding in which the officer or employee knows a donor of any source of a gift or donation to the legal defense fund established for the officer or employee has a financial interest, direct or indirect, in the outcome of the proceeding, or is a party to the proceeding. (g) Subtitle C—White House Ethics Transparency. SEC. 8021. SUBTITLE C—WHITE HOUSE ETHICS TRANSPARENCY. This subtitle may be cited as the “White House Ethics Transparency Act of 2021”. SEC. 8022. PROCEDURE FOR WAIVERS AND AUTHORIZATIONS RELATING TO ETHICS REQUIREMENTS. (a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after an officer or employee issues or approves a waiver or authorization pursuant to any Executive order related to ethics commitments or compliance by covered employees, such officer or employee shall—(1) transmit a written copy of such waiver or authorization to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics; (2) make a written copy of such waiver or authorization available in the public on the website of the employing agency of the covered employee; (b) Office of Government Ethics Public Availability.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a written copy of a waiver or authorization under subsection (a)(1), the Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall make such waiver or authorization available to the public on the website of the Office of Government Ethics. (c) Definition of Covered Employee.—In this section, the term "covered employee" means a non-career Presidential or Vice Presidential appointee, non-career appointee in the Senior Executive Service (or other SES-type system), or an appointee to a position that has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policy-making character (Schedule C and other positions excepted on comparable criteria) in an executive agency; and (2) does not include any individual appointed as a member of the Senior Foreign Service or solely as a uniformed service commissioned officer. Subtitle D—Executive Branch Ethics Enforcement SEC. 8031. SHORT TITLE. This subtitle may be cited as the “Executive Branch Comprehensive Ethics Enforcement Act of 2021”. SEC. 8032. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS. Section 405 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking "fiscal year 2017" and inserting "fiscal years 2021 through 2025." SEC. 8033. TENURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS. Section 401(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting "; subject to removal only for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. The Director may continue to serve beyond the expiration of the term until a successor is appointed and has qualified, except that the Director may not continue to serve for more than one year after the date on which the term would otherwise expire under this subsection.". SEC. 8034. DUTIES OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS. (a) In General.—(1) means a non-career Presidential or Vice Presidential appointee, non-career appointee in the Senior Executive Service (or other SES-type system), or an appointee to a position that has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policy-making character (Schedule C and other positions excepted on comparable criteria) in an executive agency; and (2) by striking “developing, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Office of Personnel Management, rules and regulations to be promulgated by the President or the Director” and inserting “developing and promulgating rules and regulations”; and (3) by striking “by title II and inserting “title I”; (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following: “(2) by providing mandatory education and training programs for designated agency ethics officials, which may be delegated to each agency or the White House Counsel as deemed appropriate by the Director’; (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “title II” and inserting “title I”; (4) in paragraph (4), by striking “problems” and inserting “issues”; (5) in paragraph (6)— (A) by striking “by the President or the Director” and; (B) by striking “problems” and inserting “issues”; (6) in paragraph (7)—(A) by striking “by the President”; and (B) by striking “conflict of interest problems” and inserting “conflicts of interest, as well as other ethics issues”; (7) in paragraph (9)—(A) by striking “ordering” and inserting “receiving allegations of violations of this Act or regulations of the Office of Government Ethics and, when necessary, investigating an allegation to determine whether a violation occurred, and ordering”; and (B) by inserting before the semi-colon the following: “requiring appropriate disciplinary action”; (8) in paragraph (12)—(A) by striking “evaluating, with the assistance of’’ and inserting “promulgating, with input from’’; and (B) by striking “the need for”; and (C) by striking “conflict of interest and ethical problems” and inserting “conflict of interest and ethics issues”; (9) in paragraph (13)—(A) by striking “with the Attorney General” and inserting “with the Inspectors General and the Attorney General”; (B) by striking “violations of the conflict of interest law” and inserting “conflict of interest laws and regulations and this Act’’; and (C) by striking “as required by section 535 of title 28, United States Code”; (10) in paragraph (14), by striking “and” at the end;
(11) in paragraph (15)—
(A) by striking ‘‘, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management,’’;
(B) by striking ‘‘title II’’ and inserting ‘‘title I’’;
and
(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
and
(12) by adding at the end the following:
(i) by striking ‘‘(D) in subparagraph (B)(ii)—’’;
(ii) by striking ‘‘Subject to clause (iv) of this subparagraph, before and inserting ‘‘Before’’;
and
(iii) by striking subparagraphs (A) of paragraph (iii) and inserting subparagraph (A) of paragraph (iv);
(ii) by striking ‘‘Subject to clause (ii) of this subparagraph, before’’;
(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) of paragraph (ii) and inserting subparagraphs (A) of paragraph (iii);
(ii) by striking ‘‘Subject to clause (iv) of this subparagraph, before and inserting ‘‘Before’’;
and
(iii) by striking clause (ii) of this subparagraph.

(17) reviewing and approving, when determined appropriate by the Director, any rescusals, exemptions, or waivers from the conflicts of interest and ethics laws, rules, and regulations and making approved rescusals, exemptions, and waivers made public available by the relevant agency available in a central location on the official website of the Office of Government Ethics.

(c) Written Procedures.—Paragraph (1) of section 402(d) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—
(1) by striking ‘‘, by the exercise of any authority otherwise available to the Director under this title,’’;
(2) by striking ‘‘the agency is’’; and
(3) by inserting after ‘‘by the following:’’ the period and inserting a semicolon.

(d) CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—Section 402(f) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:
‘‘(g) For purposes of this title—
(1) the term ‘agency’ shall include the Executive Office of the President, and
(2) the term ‘officer or employee’ shall include any individual occupying a position, providing any official services, or acting in an advisory capacity, in the White House or the Executive Office of the President.

(h) In this title, a reference to the head of an agency shall include the President or the President’s designee.

(i) The Director shall not be required to obtain the prior approval, comment, or review of any officer or agency of the United States, including the Office of Management and Budget, before submitting to Congress, or any committee or subcommittee thereof, any information, reports, recommendations, comments, if such submissions include a statement indicating that the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.

(SEC. 8037. Reports on Cost of Presidential Travel.)

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall submit a report to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate detailing travel of Federal officials employed at the Executive Office of the President or the Office of Management and Budget. Each such report shall be submitted by the appointing authority of the official.

(2) The Director shall provide the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.

SEC. 8035. AGENCY ETHICS OFFICIALS TRAINING AND DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a), by adding a period at the end of the matter following paragraph (2); and
(2) by adding the following new paragraph:
‘‘(c)(1) All designated agency ethics officials and alternate designated agency ethics officials shall register with the Director as well as with the appointing authority of the official.

(2) The Director shall provide ethics education and training to all designated and alternate designated agency ethics officials in a timely manner and manner deemed appropriate by the Director.

(3) Each designated agency ethics official and each alternate designated agency ethics official shall biannually attend ethics education and training, as provided by the Director under paragraph (2).

(1) Each designated Agency Ethics Official, including the Designated Agency Ethics Official for the Executive Office of the President—
(1) shall provide to the Director, in writing, a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format, all approvals, authorizations, certifications, compliance reviews, determinations, directed divestitures, public financial disclosure reports, notices of deficiency in compliance, signatures and any other records designated by the Director, unless disclosure is prohibited by law;
and
(2) shall, for all information described in paragraph (1) that is protected from disclosure to the public under law, make the information available to the public by publishing the information on the website of the Office of Government Ethics, providing a link to download an electronic copy of the information, or providing printed paper copies of such information to the public;

(2) may charge a reasonable fee for the cost of providing paper copies of the information pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(3) may charge a reasonable fee for the cost of printing such copies.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 408 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 8038. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TRAVEL IN CONTRAVENTION OF CERTAIN REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, no Federal employee appropriated or otherwise made available in any fiscal year may be used for travel expenses of any senior Federal official in contravention of section 101–10.360 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(b) QUARTERLY REPORT ON TRAVEL.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall submit a report to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate detailing travel of Federal officials employed at the Executive Office of the President.

(2) The Director shall provide the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.

(1) EACH DESIGNATED AGENCY ETHICS OFFICIAL.—In this section, the term ‘senior Federal official’ has the meaning given that term in section 101–10.360 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, and includes any senior Federal official as that term is defined in such section.

SEC. 8037. REPORTS ON COST OF PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Air Force, shall submit to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report detailing the direct and indirect costs to the Department of Defense in support of Presidential travel. Each such report shall include costs incurred for travel to a property owned or operated by the United States, the individual or an immediate family member of such individual.

(b) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘immediate family member’ includes any member of the individual’s bloodline, the adult or minor child of such individual, or the spouse of an adult child of such individual.
SEC. 8038. REPORTS ON COST OF SENIOR FEDERAL OFFICIAL TRAVEL.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each succeeding year thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report detailing the direct and indirect costs to the Department of Defense in support of travel by senior Federal officials on military aircraft. Each such report shall include whether spousal travel furnished by the Department was reimbursed to the Federal Government.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Required travel, as outlined in the memorandum of Defense Directive 4500.56, shall not be included in reports under subsection (a).

(c) SENIOR FEDERAL OFFICIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term “senior Federal official” has the meaning given that term in section 8036(d).

Subtitle E—Conflicts From Political Fundraising

SEC. 8041. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Conflicts from Political Fundraising Act of 2021”.

SEC. 8042. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 109 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (19) as paragraphs (5) through (22), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) ‘covered contribution’ means a payment, advance, forbearance, rendering, or deposit of money, or any thing of value—

(A)(i) that—

(I) is—

(aa) made by or on behalf of a covered individual; or

(bb) solicited in writing by or at the request of a covered individual; and

(ii) is—

(aa) to a political organization, as defined in section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

(bb) to an organization—

(1) that is described in paragraph (4) or (6) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code; and

(2) that promotes or opposes changes in Federal laws or regulations that are (or would be) administered by the agency in which the covered individual has been nominated for appointment to a covered position or is serving in a covered position; or

(BB) that is a covered position, the individual shall constitute a conflict of interest, and the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A) by a covered individual shall, within 30 days of assuming a position, be reported to the director of the Office of Government Ethics; and

(C) in subsection (d), by inserting “and, if the individual is serving in a covered position, the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A)” after “described in section 102(a)”; and

(D) in subsection (e), by inserting “and, if the individual was serving in a covered position, the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A)” after “described in section 102(a)”; and

(2) in section 102—

(A) in subsection (g), by striking “political campaign funds” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (J), political campaign funds”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) In this subsection—

(1) the term ‘applicable period’ means—

(i) with respect to a report filed pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of section 101, the calendar year preceding the year of the filing; and

(ii) with respect to a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of section 101, the preceding calendar year;

(2) the term ‘covered gift’ means a gift that—

(I) is made to a covered individual, the spouse of a covered individual, or the dependent child of a covered individual; and

(ii) is made by an entity described in item (aa) or (bb) of section 109(2)(A)(i)(II); and

(iii) have been required to be reported under subsection (a)(2) if the covered individual had been required to file a report under section 101(d) with respect to the calendar year during which the gift occurred in which it is made not less than the contribution limitation in effect under section 315(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 3016(a)(1)(A)) for elections occurring during such calendar year; and

(3) ‘covered individual’ means an individual who has been nominated or appointed to a covered position; and

(4) ‘covered position’—

(A) means—

(i) a position described under sections 313 through 316 of title 5, United States Code; and

(ii) a position placed in level IV or V of the Executive Schedule under section 317 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) a position as a limited term appointee, limited emergency appointee, or noncareer appointee ap- pointee to a position not subject to the Executive Schedule, as defined under paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of section 312(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(iv) a position in the executive branch of the Government of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Reg- ulations; and

(B) does not include a position if the individual in serving in the position has been excluded from the application of section 101(f)(3)”;.

(b) DISCLOSURE.—The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 102—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by inserting “(1)” before “Within”;

(ii) by striking “unless” and inserting “and”, if the individual is assuming a covered position, the information required by section 102(j), except that, subject to paragraph (2), the individual shall not be required to file a report if;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If an individual has left a position described in subsection (f) that is not a covered position and, within 30 days, assumes a position that it is a covered individual shall, within 30 days of assuming the covered position, file a report containing the information described in section 102(j)(2)(A).”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1), in the first sentence, by inserting “and the information required by section 102(j)” after “described in section 102(b)”;

(C) in subsection (d), by inserting “and, if the individual is serving in a covered position, the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A)” after “described in section 102(a)”; and

(D) in subsection (e), by inserting “and, if the individual was serving in a covered position, the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A)” after “described in section 102(a)”; and

(2) in section 102—

(A) in subsection (g), by striking “political campaign funds” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (J), political campaign funds”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(J) In this subsection—

(1) the term ‘applicable period’ means—

(i) with respect to a report filed pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of section 101, the year of the filing and the following calendar years preceding the year of the filing; and

(ii) with respect to a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of section 101, the preceding calendar year;

(2) the term ‘covered gift’ means a gift that—

(I) is made to a covered individual, the spouse of a covered individual, or the dependent child of a covered individual; and

(ii) is made by an entity described in item (aa) or (bb) of section 109(2)(A)(i)(II); and

(iii) have been required to be reported under subsection (a)(2) if the covered individual had been required to file a report under section 101(d) with respect to the calendar year during which the gift occurred in which it is made not less than the contribution limitation in effect under section 315(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 3016(a)(1)(A)) for elections occurring during such calendar year; and

(3) ‘covered individual’ means an individual who has been nominated or appointed to a covered position; and

(4) ‘covered position’—

(A) means—

(i) a position described under sections 313 through 316 of title 5, United States Code; and

(ii) a position placed in level IV or V of the Executive Schedule under section 317 of title 5, United States Code;

(iii) a position as a limited term appointee, limited emergency appointee, or noncareer appointee appointment to a position not subject to the Executive Schedule, as defined under paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of section 312(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

(iv) a position in the executive branch of the Government of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Reg- ulations; and

(B) does not include a position if the individual in serving in the position has been excluded from the application of section 101(f)(3)”;.

(c) EXCEPTION.—Required use travel, as outlined in the memorandum of Defense Directive 4500.56, shall not be included in reports under subsection (a).

(d) E XCEPTION.—Required use travel, as outlined in the memorandum of Defense Directive 4500.56, shall not be included in reports under subsection (a).

(4) Section 499(h)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290h(b)(2)) is amended by striking "section 199(6) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978" and inserting "section 199 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)."

Subtitle F—Transition Team Ethics
SEC. 8051. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the "Transition Team Ethics Improvement Act.

SEC. 8052. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ETHICS PROGRAMS.
Section 6(b)(1) of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (2 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—
(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end; and
(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
"(C) a description of the role of each transition team member, including a list of any policy issues with which each transition team member will be recused while serving as a member of the transition team pursuant to the transition team ethics plan outlined in section 4(p)(3); and
"(D) information that no transition team member has a financial conflict of interest that precludes the member from working on the matters described in subparagraph (E)."

Subtitle G—Ethics Pledge for Senior Executive Branch Employees
SEC. 8061. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the "Ethics in Public Service Act.

SEC. 8062. ETHICS PLEDGE REQUIREMENT FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES.
The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after title I the following new title:

"TITLE II—ETHICS PLEDGE

SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.
"For purposes of this title, the following definitions apply:

"(1) the term `executive agency' has the meaning given that term in section 106 of title 5, United States Code, and includes the Executive Office of the President, the United States Postal Service, and Postal Regulatory Commission, but does not include the Government Accountability Office;

"(2) the term `appointee' means any noncareer Presidential or Vice-Presidential appointee, noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service (or other SES-type system), or appointee in a position that has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policymaking character (Schedule C and other positions excepted under comparable excepted status laws), so long as such positions are not included under law:

"(A) has the meaning given that term in section 2635.203(b) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and
"(B) may apply to those terms excluded by sections 2635.204(b), (c), (e)(1), (e)(3), (i), (b), and (I) of such title 5,

"(3) the term `covered executive branch official' has the meaning given those terms in section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1993 (2 U.S.C. 1002),

"(5) the term `registered lobbyist or lobbying organization' means a lobbyist or an organization filing a registration pursuant to section 4(a) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1993 (2 U.S.C. 1603(10)) or an organization filing such a registration, `registered lobbyist' includes each of the lobbyists identified therein.

"(6) the term `lobby' and `lobbied' mean to act or have acted as a lobbyist;

"(7) the term `former employer'—

"(A) means a person or entity for whom an appointee served as an employee, officer, director, trustee, partner, agent, attorney, consultant, or contractor during the 2-year period ending on the date before the date on which the covered employee begins service in the Federal Government;

"(B) does not include—

"(i) an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

"(ii) a State or local government;

"(iii) the District of Columbia;

"(iv) an Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304); or

"(v) the government of a territory or possession of the United States.

"(8) the term `term client' means a person or entity for whom an appointee served personally as agent, attorney, or consultant during the 2-year period ending on the date before the date on which the covered employee begins service in the Federal Government, but does not include an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

"(9) the term `directly and substantially related to' to my former employer or former clients' means matters in which the appointee's former employer or a former client is a party or represents a party;

"(10) the term `participate' means to participate personally and substantially;

"(11) the term `post-employment restrictions' includes the provisions and exceptions in section 207(c) of title 18, United States Code, and the implementing regulations;

"(12) the term `Government official' means any employee of the executive branch.

"(13) the term `Administration' means all terms of office of the incumbent President serving at the time of the appointment of an appointee covered by this title;

"(14) the term `pledge' means the ethics pledge set forth in section 202 of this title.

"(15) all references to provisions of law and regulations shall be treated as references to such provisions as in effect on the date of enactment of this title.

"SEC. 202. ETHICS PLEDGE.
"Each appointee in every executive agency appointed on or after the date of enactment of this title shall be required to sign an ethics pledge upon appointment. The pledge shall be signed and dated within 30 days of taking office and shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

"(1) I will not, for a period of 2 years from the date of my appointment, participate in any particular matter involving any particular party or parties described in subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

"(a) The President or the President's designee may grant to any current or former appointee a written waiver of any restrictions contained in the pledge signed by such appointee if, and to the extent that, the President, or the President's designee certifies (in writing) that, in light of all the relevant circumstances, the interest of the Federal Government in the employee's participation outweighs the concern that a reasonable person may question the integrity of the agency's programs or operations.

"(b) Any waiver under this section shall take effect when the certification is signed by the President or the President's designee.

"(c) For purposes of subsection (a), the public interest shall include exigent circumstances relating to national security or to the economy. De minimis contact with an executive agency shall be cause for a waiver of the restrictions contained in paragraph (2)(B) of the pledge.

"(d) For any waiver granted under this section, the individual who granted the waiver shall—

"(1) provide a copy of the waiver to the Director not more than 48 hours after the waiver is granted; and

"(2) publish the waiver on the website of the appointing agency not later than 30 calendar days after granting such waiver.

"(e) Upon receiving a written waiver under subsection (d), the Director shall—

"(1) review the waiver to determine whether the Director has any objection to the issuance of the waiver; and

"(2) notify the Director so objects—

"(A) provide reasons for the objection in writing to the head of the agency who granted the waiver not more than 15 calendar days after the waiver was granted; and

"(B) publish the written objection on the website of the Office of Government Ethics not
more than 30 calendar days after the waiver was granted.

SEC. 204. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) The head of each executive agency shall, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, establish such rules or procedures (conforming as nearly as practicable to the agency’s general ethics rules and procedures, including those relating to designated agency ethics officers) as are necessary or appropriate to ensure—

(1) that every appointee in the agency signs the pledge upon assuming the appointed office or otherwise becoming an appointee;

(2) that compliance with paragraph (2)(B) of the pledge is addressed in a written ethics agreement with each appointee to whom it applies;

(3) that spousal employment issues and other conflicts not expressly addressed by the pledge are addressed in ethics agreements with appointees or, where no such agreements are required, through ethics counseling; and

(4) compliance with this title within the agency.

(b) With respect to the Executive Office of the President, the duties set forth in subsection (a) shall be the responsibility of the Counsel to the President.

(c) The Director of the Office of Governmental Ethics shall—

(1) ensure that the pledge and a copy of this title are made available for use by agencies in fulfilling their duties under subsection (a);

(2) in consultation with the Attorney General or the Counsel to the President, when appropriate, assist designated agency ethics officers in providing advice to current or former appointees regarding the application of the pledge;

(3) adopt such rules or procedures as are necessary or appropriate;

(4) carry out the responsibilities assigned by this subsection;

(5) apply the lobbyist gift ban set forth in paragraph I of the pledge to all executive branch employees;

(6) to authorize limited exceptions to the lobbyist gift ban for circumstances that do not implicate the purposes of the ban;

(7) to make clear that no person shall have violated the lobbyist gift ban if the person properly disposes of a gift;

(8) to ensure that existing rules and procedures for Government employees engaged in negotiations for future employment with private businesses that are affected by their official actions do not affect the integrity of the Government’s programs and operations; and

(9) in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, that the requirement set forth in paragraph (4) of the pledge is honored by every employee of the executive branch;

(10) in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, report to the President, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on whether full compliance is being achieved with existing laws and regulations governing executive branch procurement lobbying disclosure and on steps the executive branch can take to expand to the fullest extent practicable disclosure of such executive branch procurement lobbying and of lobbying by presidential pardons, and to include in the report both immediate action the executive branch can take and, if necessary, recommended legislation; and

(11) provide an annual public report on the administration of the pledge and this title.

(d) All pledges signed by appointees, and all waiver certifications with respect thereto, shall be filed with the head of the appointee’s agency for permanent retention in the appointee’s official personnel folder or equivalent folder.”.

Subtitle H—Travel on Private Aircraft by Senior Political Appointees

SEC. 8071. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Stop Waste And Misuse by Presidential Fleets Landing Yet Evading Rules and Standards” or the “SWAMP FLYERS”.

SEC. 8072. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR TRAVEL ON PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.

(a) In General.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this subtitle, no Federal funds appropriated or otherwise made available in any fiscal year may be used to pay the travel expenses of any senior political appointee for travel on an official appointment on a non-commercial, private, or chartered flight.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply—

(1) if no commercial flight was available for the travel in question, consistent with subsection (c); or

(2) to any travel on aircraft owned or leased by the Government.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any senior political appointee who travels on a non-commercial, private, or chartered flight under the exception provided in paragraph (2)(B) shall, not later than 30 days after the date of such travel, submit a written statement to Congress certifying that no commercial flight was available.

(2) PENALTY.—A statement submitted under paragraph (1) shall be considered a statement for purposes of applying section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

Subtitle I—Severability

SEC. 8081. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title, or any application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional, the remainder of the provisions of this title and the amendments made by this title, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

Title IX—Congressional Ethics Reform

Subtitle A—Requiring Members of Congress To Reimburse Treasury for Amounts Paid as Settlements and Awards Under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

Sec. 9001. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts paid as settlements and awards under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

Sec. 9002. Requiring disclosure in certain reports filed with Federal Election Commission of persons who are registered lobbyists.

Subtitle B—Conflicts of Interests

Sec. 9101. Prohibiting Members of Congress From Serving on Boards of For-Profit Entities.

Sec. 9102. Prohibiting Members of Congress From Serving on Boards of For-Profit Entities.

Subtitle C—Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure

Sec. 9201. Short title.

Sec. 9202. Reports on Outside Compensation Earned by Congressional Employees.

Subtitle D—Access to Congressional Mandated Reports

Sec. 9301. Short title.

Sec. 9302. Definitions.

Sec. 9303. Establishment of online portal for congressional reports.

Sec. 9304. Federal agency responsibilities.

Sec. 9305. Removing and altering reports.

Sec. 9306. Relationship to the Freedom of Information Act.

Sec. 9307. Implementation.

Subtitle E—Reports on Outside Compensation Earned by Congressional Employees

Sec. 9401. Reports on outside compensation earned by congressional employees.

Subtitle F—Severability

Sec. 9501. Severability.

Subtitle A—Requiring Members of Congress To Reimburse Treasury for Amounts Paid as Settlements and Awards Under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

Sec. 9001. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts paid as settlements and awards under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

Sec. 9002. Requiring disclosure in certain reports filed with Federal Election Commission of persons who are registered lobbyists.

Sec. 9003. Effective date.

Subtitle D—Access to Congressional Mandated Reports

Sec. 9301. Short title.

Sec. 9302. Definitions.

Sec. 9303. Establishment of online portal for congressional reports.

Sec. 9304. Federal agency responsibilities.

Sec. 9305. Removing and altering reports.

Sec. 9306. Relationship to the Freedom of Information Act.

Sec. 9307. Implementation.

Subtitle E—Reports on Outside Compensation Earned by Congressional Employees

Sec. 9401. Reports on outside compensation earned by congressional employees.

Subtitle F—Severability

Sec. 9501. Severability.
as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and
(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.

**Subtitle C—Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure**

**SEC. 9301. SHORT TITLE.**—This subtitle may be cited as the “Connecting Lobbyists and Elec**

**SEC. 9202. REQUIRING DISCLOSURE IN CERTAIN CASES FILED WITH FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF PERSONS WHO ARE REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.**—

(a) REPORTS FILED BY POLITICAL COMMITTEES.—Section 304(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended—

The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to reports required to be filed under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 of the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

**Subtitle D—Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports**

**SEC. 9302. DEFINITIONS.**—In this subtitle—

(A) Congressionally mandated report.—The term “congressionally mandated report”—

(i) includes 

(ii) any report supporting the legislation.

(B) Director.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

(C) Federal agency.—The term “Federal agency” means the Office of Management and Budget, if the report is a federal report, or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, if the report is a non-federal report.

(D) Lobbying Disclosure Act.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).


(G) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2002.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2002” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).


(K) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2012.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2012” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(L) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2014.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2014” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(M) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2016.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2016” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(N) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2018.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2018” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(O) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2020.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2020” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(P) Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2021.—The term “Lobbying Disclosure Act of 2021” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(Q) Member of Congress.—The term “Member of Congress” means a Member of Congress who is a Member of the House of Representatives.

(R) Member of Congress (I), (II), or (III).—The term “Member of Congress (I), (II), or (III) of” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(S) Member of Congress (IV).—The term “Member of Congress (IV)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(T) Member of Congress (V).—The term “Member of Congress (V)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(U) Member of Congress (VI).—The term “Member of Congress (VI)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(V) Member of Congress (VII).—The term “Member of Congress (VII)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(W) Member of Congress (VIII).—The term “Member of Congress (VIII)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(X) Member of Congress (IX).—The term “Member of Congress (IX)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(Y) Member of Congress (X).—The term “Member of Congress (X)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

(Z) Member of Congress (XI).—The term “Member of Congress (XI)” means the act that is specified in subsection (A).

**SEC. 9303. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONLINE PORTAL FOR CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS.**—

(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH ONLINE PORTAL.—

(i) The Director shall establish and maintain an online portal accessible by the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports and that includes a means of accessing the report electronically.

(ii) The online portal shall be available at the same time that the report is filed with the Federal agency and shall remain available for a period of at least 2 years after the report is filed.

(b) Access to the online portal shall be free of charge, and the Director shall ensure that the online portal is available to the public at all times.

(c) Upgradable Capability.—The online portal shall be upgradable to include new features and functionalities that are required by the Director.

(d)Free Access.—The Director shall ensure that the online portal is available to the public at all times.

(e) Upgradable Capability.—The online portal shall be upgradable to include new features and functionalities that are required by the Director.

(f) The online portal shall be available at all times.

(g) The online portal shall be available at all times.

(h) The online portal shall be available at all times.

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(y) The online portal shall be available at all times.

(z) The online portal shall be available at all times.

**SEC. 9304. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**—

(a) SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES OF REPORTS.—Concurrently with the submission to Congress of each congressionally mandated report, the head of the Federal agency submitting the congressionally mandated report shall submit to the Director the information required by subparagraph (A) through (D) of section 9303(b)(4) with respect to the congressionally mandated report, Nothing in this subtitle shall release any Federal agency from any other responsibility to publish the congressionally mandated report on the online portal of the Federal agency or otherwise submit the congressionally mandated report to Congress or specific committees of Congress, or submitting or disseminating the report.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall provide such guidance to agencies on the implementation of this subtitle.

(c) STRUCTURE OF SUBMITTED REPORT DATA.—The head of each Federal agency shall ensure that each congressionally mandated report submitted to the Director complies with the
Sec. 9005. REMOVING AND ALTERING REPORTS. A report submitted to be published in the reports online portal may only be changed or removed after consultation with the Librarian of Congress concerning the changing or removal of the report.

Sec. 9006. RELATIONSHIP TO THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT. 

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to—

(1) require the disclosure of information or records that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code;

(2) impose any affirmative duty on the Director to review congressionally mandated reports submitted for publication to the reports online portal for the purpose of identifying and redacting such information or records;

(b) REDACTION OF INFORMATION.—The head of a Federal agency may redact information required to be disclosed under this subtitle if the information would be properly withheld from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and shall—

(1) (A) only redact information required to be disclosed under this subtitle if disclosure of such information is prohibited by law;

(2) redact information being withheld under this subsection prior to submitting the information to the Director;

(3) redact only such information properly withheld under this subsection from the submission of information or from any congressionally mandated report submitted under this subtitle;

(4) identify where any such redaction is made in the submission or report and;

(5) identify the redaction under which each such redaction is made.

Sec. 9007. IMPLEMENTATION. Except as provided in section 9004(b), this subtitle shall be implemented not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to congressionally mandated reports submitted to Congress on or after the date that is 1 year after such date of enactment.

Subtitle E—Reports on Outside Compensation Earned by Congressional Employees

Sec. 9401. REPORTS ON OUTSIDE COMPENSATION EARNED BY CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) REPORTS.—The supervisor of an individual who performs services for any Member, committee, or other office of the Senate or House of Representatives shall submit in accordance with section 9303(b)(1)(C) of this Act, and (b) of section 9303(b)(1)(C) for each report, (c) include the frequency of the report; (d) include a unique alphanumeric identifier for the report that is consistent across report editions; (e) include the date on which each report is required to be submitted; and (f) be updated and provided to the Director, as necessary.

Sec. 9501. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of any provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

TITLE X—PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 10001. Presidential and Vice Presidential tax transparency.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) The term “covered candidate” means a candidate for President or Vice President; and

(2) The term “major party” has the meaning given in section 9002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle shall require the disclosure of information or records that is so requested to officers and employees of the Federal Election Commission with official duties include disclosure or redaction of such return under this paragraph.

PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 10001. PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this title shall require the disclosure of information or records that is so requested to officers and employees of the Federal Election Commission with official duties include disclosure or redaction of such return under this paragraph.

(b) DISCLOSURE OF RETURNS OF PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS AND CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6103(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(23) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION OF PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS AND CERTAIN CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon written request by the chairman of the Federal Election Commission under section 6103(i)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section), an individual who is the President or Vice President on such date of enactment and who is the President or Vice President at the time that the request is received shall, after redaction under paragraph (2) of such section, provide a written request that the Secretary provide copies of any return which is so requested to officers and employees of the Federal Election Commission with official duties include disclosure or redaction of such return under this paragraph.

“(2) DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC.

“(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any return which is provided under subsection (A), the Secretary shall provide copies to the public of such return or, at the option of the President or Vice President, redact information under subsection (B) of any return which is provided under this paragraph.

“(ii) REDACTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Before making publicly available under clause (i) any return, the chairman of the Federal Election Commission shall provide such information as the Federal Election Commission and the Secretary jointly determine is necessary for protecting against identity theft, such as social security numbers.

“(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6103(p)(4) of such Code is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “or (22)” and inserting “(22), or (23);” and

(B) in subparagraph (F)(ii) by striking “(22) and inserting “(22), or (23);” and

Effective date.—This subsection shall apply to disclosures made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees. The gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROBINETTE) each shall control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).
Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1 into the Record.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. LOFGREN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act of 2021. Today, we can deliver this to the American people. We can deliver the gold standard of reform to protect the right of Americans to vote. We can take a huge step to fulfill that promise in our Constitution of a more perfect Union.

More voters cast a ballot in the 2020 election than in history, in an election that has been called the most secure in American history by election security experts.

The last election, conducted during a once-in-a-generation pandemic, saw changes that made it easier for many Americans to vote, with reforms like absentee voting and early voting. It also put into stark focus what many of us already knew: deep inequities persist in our democratic system.

Now comes the backlash to the increase in voter participation. That record-breaking voter turnout was met with no credible instances of election irregularity, stimulated hundreds of bills in State legislatures to make it harder for Americans to vote in the future.

We should protect access to the ballot, not restrict it. H.R. 1 gives voters choices for how to cast their ballot. They want and need that.

The bill has a minimum of 15 days of early voting, minimum standards for the number and location of ballot drop boxes, canvases the rational standard for no-excuse absentee voting. It improves access for voters with disabilities, addresses challenges faced by Native American voters living on Tribal lands, and improves access for uniformed and overseas voters.

H.R. 1 ends the practice of disenfranchising Americans with a prior felony conviction who are no longer incarcerated. It unirrigs the drawing of congressional district lines by requiring fair and impartial redistricting commissions, removing politics from the process and creating fairer maps.

H.R. 1 begins to remove the advantages of dark money and secret donors and lets our neighbors and communities regain their voice to fully participate in our political system.

H.R. 1 will amplify the voices of small donors with an alternative, voluntary matching system for financing campaigns by empowering small-dollar contributors, without any taxpayer funded PACs.

The bill will save money and bolster the integrity of election administration. It makes improvements to our election security and requires States to use individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots, a simple safeguard from cybersecurity threats that ensures an auditable paper trail.

H.R. 1 will also strengthen congressional and executive branch ethical standards.

Democracy is resilient, but the falsehoods spread in the lead-up to and following the 2020 election, as well as the shocking events right here on January 6, showed us all that democracy requires us to defend it.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1 and ensure all Americans have an equal voice in our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, last week, this House voted on a bill that was sold as the “For the People Act.” But of that bill was for public health funding to combat COVID–19, and $140 million of that bill is going to a failed rail project in Speaker PELOSI’s district.

This week, the Democrats have put forth a bill titled “For the People,” but the bill has already 80 provisions that take election decisions away from State and local officials and put them in the hands of the Federal Government. It attacks Americans’ First Amendment right to free speech, and it publicly funds Members of Congress’ campaigns using corporate dollars.

There is a pattern emerging. The Democrats are bringing bills to the floor under the guise of being for the people, but their bill actually benefits a few elites at the expense of the rest.

As I said, I have many issues with H.R. 1, including the mandates this bill puts on States and provisions that attack our First Amendment rights. But I want to focus on one particular provision in this bill right now, and that is how the Democrats’ number one priority is a bill that funds their own campaigns.

H.R. 1 would launder corporate dollars through the U.S. Treasury and use those dollars to publicly fund congressional campaigns. Based on 2020 fundraising numbers, that creates access to more than $7 million in laundered corporate dollar public funds to bolster my colleagues’ campaign coffers. This is the same kind of loophole the Democrats side with whenever they think the public will not notice.

I know when I speak with my constituents back home, establishing a program that helps me acquire more money for my campaign is not what they think the Federal Government should be working on.

At the Rules Committee, because this bill did not go through regular order and did not receive a markup in the House Administration Committee, we submitted amendments to not only strike this program altogether and prevent sitting Members of Congress from financially benefiting from this bill, but also requiring any increase in corporate fines to be used to help the pandemic relief.

I can think of a lot better ways to spend the $7 million that would be just for my district, like pandemic relief. We should maybe reopen our schools or rebuild a fund to help women’s shelters and rape crisis centers. Amazingly, Democrats wouldn’t even allow these amendments for a vote on the floor today.

This is disappointing because I had hoped that we could all agree that helping our country through this pandemic or just simply focusing on the American people is more important than lining our own campaign coffers. Clearly, this bill is not for the benefit of the people, but it is for the politicians’ campaign coffers.

I also want to note that this bill is opposed by 16 secretaries of state, nine former FEC Commissioners, the National Disability Rights Network, the Institute for Free Speech, and more than 130 other nonprofit organizations, but supported by Indivisible, a group whose sole purpose is to elect Democrats. I think this sums up as to why my friends on the other side of the aisle are rushing this bill through with little debate and next to no input from Republicans.

Despite what my friends on the other side of the aisle continue to tell Americans, this bill is not for the people. This bill is for the politicians. I urge a “no” vote on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which would provide the most significant reform to our democratic system in decades.

This landmark legislation will strengthen our democracy by expanding access to the ballot for the American people, reducing the corrupting influence of corporate money in political campaigns, and restoring ethics and integrity to government.

H.R. 1 will make it easier for millions of Americans to vote and significantly increase the number of voters in this country by implementing initiatives like automatic voter registration. It will also implement reforms that will hold elected officials to a higher ethical standard, such as requiring Presidential candidates to disclose their tax returns.

These are issues that I have introduced legislation on in the previous Congress, and I am proud that they are included in H.R. 1.

Finally, H.R. 1 will include the DISCLOSE Act, which I introduced to shine a light on unlimited spending that has overrun our elections. Without fixing our broken system and taking money from the pockets of special interests and returning it to the people of this country, it will be almost impossible to make progress on the issues
Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX), a new member of our House, to introduce me.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman LOFGREN for yielding.

After an election with record-breaking turnout in November, the Georgia General Assembly was deaf to the people’s cry for integrity. The legislature in Georgia that just passed H.R. 1 and ensuring our Federal elections must be heard and every vote must be counted.

I would like to highlight my amendment, cosponsored by a number of my Georgia colleagues. It would directly counter the threats posed by partisan voter suppression efforts across the country by ensuring that drop boxes are easily accessible to all Americans, no matter where they live.

It would safeguard access to absentee ballots and promote voter registration efforts rather than trying to limit voter turnout, as the House of Representatives did today in opposition to H.R. 1, to protect the sacred right to vote.

H.R. 1 would also end partisan gerrymandering, place people over special interests, and end free and fair elections. I resolutely urge my colleagues to support the adoption of H.R. 1.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise 1 1⁄2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY), the newest member of this Congress.

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are touting this sweeping legislation as a win for transparency and election integrity. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This bill is an attempt to destroy democracy by federalizing aspects of U.S. elections as the heart of our democracy by federalizing aspects of U.S. elections as the heart of our democracy. It would safeguard access to absentee ballots and promote voter registration efforts rather than trying to limit voter turnout, as the House of Representatives did today in opposition to H.R. 1, to protect the sacred right to vote.

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elections run without transparency and oversight. I was sworn into office over 30 days late, after an exhaustive 100-day postelection count in the race for New York’s 22nd Congressional District. In the run-up to the 2020 election, New York City Comptroller Andrew Cuomo rushed through a series of executive orders that mirrored many of the policies the Democrats are now proposing in H.R. 1. The result was one of the most poorly run elections in the entire Nation. It was a disgrace to our system of government.

If H.R. 1 had become law, I can confidently say it would have been virtually impossible to conduct a fair and transparent election. New York’s election debacle reveals H.R. 1’s real-world consequences.

If this legislation had been adopted, the errors exposed in my race wouldn’t be the exception. It would have been bureaucratic chaos and that would have been the norm.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired. I yield the gentleman from Texas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DOGGETT. Today’s bill favors turning out the votes, not throwing them out. Let’s protect American democracy which worships, above all, the voice of the people expressed through free and fair elections; not bowing before the golden idol of one who has betrayed our country.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), a refreshing sight to see back on the floor.

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1, the For the People Act. This piece of legislation undermines State authority over voter registration and election procedures while federally mandating practices we have seen fail in California during the 2018 and 2020 election cycles.

California’s motor voter law automatically registers people to vote when registering their car or applying for a license with the DMV. This program was found to have thousands of registration errors, including registering at least 1,500 residents who were not eligible to vote.

Senator Padilla, while serving as California’s secretary of state at that time, stated these mistakes “threatened to undermine public confidence in the program.”

H.R. 1 exposes our elections to voter fraud and is especially dangerous at a time when so many Americans are questioning the validity of election results. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting “no” on H.R. 1.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, our democracy is in grave danger. We are seeing unrelenting efforts across the country to suppress voters and limit access to the ballot box, particularly in communities of color. We are seeing record-breaking waves of dark money backing candidates and campaigns with no transparency or accountability, and we are seeing efforts to increase partisan gerrymandering that allows politicians to pick and choose who they represent.

It is wrong and it is undemocratic. We need to make it easier to vote for those who are legally eligible otherwise to vote, not harder to do so. We need more transparency in our campaigns, not fewer. We need to strengthen our ethics rules, not weaken them, and we need to pass the For the People Act.

This bill will transform our democracy and return power to the people, where it belongs. It will ensure that every American eligible to vote can do so easily and securely. It will crack down on the culture of corruption that has defined Washington for far too long. It will finally end the era of dark money in our politics that has plagued this House for years.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defend our democracy and to support this legislation.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), a very good friend.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN), a very good friend.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

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Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), a very good friend.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1.
States' rights, and drastically limits freedom of speech.

Arizona requires voter ID and prohibits ballot harvesting. H.R. 1 will undo Arizona laws.

This bill also puts people’s privacy and security at risk by requiring the disclosure of personal information for political advertisers. The bill is solely designed to benefit politicians from one particular political party.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 19 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Illinois has 18 minutes remaining.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 1 1⁄2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES), who is a new Member from New York and an expert in election law.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, today, we legislate for the people.

Our passage of H.R. 1 is deeply personal to me. Unlike many of the people we are used to seeing in our politics, I don’t come from money or from a political family. I was raised by a young single mother who worked multiple jobs to make ends meet, and we still needed Section 8 housing and food stamps to get by.

Of course, my family struggles could be traced to one common cause, and that is our broken democracy. At the root of why housing, higher education, and healthcare are out of reach for so many millions of Americans is the fact that our democracy does not reflect the will of the American people. Independent redistricting commissions would change that.

When I ran for Congress, the first question political insiders asked me wasn’t what I would be campaigning on or how much support I had in my community, but, rather, how much money could I raise?

Public campaign financing would change that.

Many people were surprised that I defeated a billionaire who tried to purchase this congressional seat. But my election should not be the exception to the rule; rather, it should be the norm. Once we pass H.R. 1, it will be.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1⁄2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), my good friend.

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member for the opportunity to provide additional information for the record.

Madam Speaker, you don’t need to identify as a Republican or a Democrat to want free and fair elections. Frankly, ask any American and I am pretty sure they will agree that the cornerstone to any legitimate democracy is the ability to freely choose their leaders.

I am also pretty sure that they will agree that money has a way of corrupting just about anything—including elections; which is why I shake my head at the language in this bill that provides a 6-to-1 match for donations up to $200. Last Congress, they tried to do it with taxpayer money. That didn’t go over so well, so now they try again; this time using the scheme of money shell games to accomplish the same result.

I also believe that most Americans will agree that the right to vote is among the most precious we have. It is more important than getting on an airline, buying a new refrigerator, or buying an adult beverage. It is more important than cashing a paycheck at your local bank.

Why we would weaken our ability to prove certain the identities of people voting in our elections is a mystery to me.

Trying to convince us that H.R. 1 is for the people is like saying. You are with the Federal Government and you are here to help us.

No, thank you.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ). It is an honor to recognize her as a member of the Committee on House Administration and one of the newest Members in the House, but an accomplished attorney.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, increased voter participation should be the goal of every legislator. A Republican dyed in the wool minder is a betrayal of our democratic ideal.

Madam Speaker, 4 million more Latino voters cast a ballot in 2020 than in 2016. Native Americans defied the devastation of COVID to come out and vote in higher numbers. And now, States across our country are trying to turn away these citizens.

H.R. 1 is necessary, now more than ever, to protect the rights of every citizen to register, to vote absentee, or by mail if you live on a reservation or just work on Tuesdays.

We brought New Mexico’s experience to this bill to improve voting access for Native Americans, respect Tribal land boundaries during redistricting, and reduce wait times at the polls.

Our democracy is the very foundation on which we rest every American ideal. We love it, and we must protect it for the people.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1⁄2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my good friend.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for yielding, and I thank John SARBAES, my colleague from Maryland, for all the work that he has done and the extraordinary leadership that Zoe LOFGREN has done in bringing this bill to the floor last year and bringing it back this year. It was passed with unanimous support on our side of the aisle. My colleagues know that Americans are frustrated, and they feel somewhat shut out from their democracy. This is a bill for the people.

I thank all of those who have worked for so long on making sure that Americans have access to the ballot.

Madam Speaker, last year, we lost an extraordinary giant in our country. His
name was John Lewis, an acolyte of Martin Luther King Jr. and a servant for the people.

This is a very, very important bill. One could say that everything else we do depends on this bill because, in our democracy, government only works if those who belong to it, with faith that it is truly a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Madam Speaker, of course, it was Abraham Lincoln who spoke those words, meaning those who gave their lives in the great struggle to preserve our Union as it faced the evils of slavery, sedition, and secession.

That war was a war to not only give freedom to other human beings, but it was also a war, at its heart, which tried to live out the creed that all men are created equal; endowed by their creator—not by this Congress, not by the majority, not by the Constitution, not by the President, or any of us, but by their creator—with certain unalienable rights. In a democracy, they are voting, knowing who you are voting for, knowing who you are supporting, who you are voting for are critical.

Even in that dark moment of the Civil War, when so many were losing hope, and the success of our great American experiment in democracy and constitutional government, President Lincoln encouraged us to renew our faith as Americans in that project.

Now, in 2021, though the crises we face have changed since 1863, our Nation is clearly facing grave challenges. January 6 taught us that. January 6 took us by the scruff of the neck and shook us and said, "Beware, lest you lose your democracy."

A pandemic has led to the deaths of more than half a million Americans. Its subsequent economic crisis has put more than 10 million out of work and millions of families and small businesses are struggling to get by.

Deeply political, divisions threaten to tear our country apart with misinformation and mistrust as dangerous to our Republic as any virus or recession.

Madam Speaker, the American people must have faith that their government is truly theirs; their collective expression and will is heard; and that it can deliver results that improve their lives and offer them hope for a better future. That is what H.R. 1 does, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act: Reassure the American people that their government will always work for them.

First, it will protect the sacred right to vote—protect the sacred right to vote—by ensuring that every American can participate equally and without undue burden to casting their ballots. No counting of jelly beans in a jar; no reciting verbatim the Constitution and Declaration of Independence; no poll tax; no effort to make it more difficult for people to register, more difficult to vote.

Bloody Sunday, a stark example of how committed some people were and some people still are, to not permitting people who they think will vote against them to vote.

H.R. 1 would be the most consequential piece of voting rights legislation enacted since we passed the Help America Vote Act, which I was proud to sponsor.

Second, this bill roots out corruption in government by increasing ethical standards and limiting the corrosive effects of dark money in our political campaigns.

My mother used to say: "Consider the source." Consider who is talking to you. And if you don't know who is contributing, if you don't know who is paying for those ads for Citizens for a Better America, who is against that. But you don't know who it is. You don't know what interest they have that they are paying out millions of dollars to promote.

By forcing super-PACs to disclose their donors, H.R. 1 will ensure that American voters know exactly who is paying for campaign ads they see. In a democracy, voting, knowing who you are voting for, knowing who you are supporting, who you are voting for are critical.

And what I would ask is: Why don't we have a debate here? Why don't we have a debate here? That is one example, and there are bunch. Why do we not have a debate robustly here on the floor for the American people to see, if we are talking about transparency?

And I ask the question respectfully of the gentleman from Maryland.
Mr. ROYCE of Illinois. Madam Speaker, just for the viewers on C-Span who wondered why time stopped here in the House for that minute the majority leader spoke, I want to remind them all that is what we call the majority leader's magic minute.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PLUMMER), my good friend and one of the great ones.

Mr. PLUMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1, a twisted conglomerate of partisan policies meant to consolidate powers here in Washington, D.C., to fully cement the system.

This bill bans voter ID requirements nationwide. It permanently expands mail-in voting and legalizes ballot harvesting.

Madam Speaker, I am particularly disturbed by the fact that, if this bill passes, taxpayer dollars will be directly funneled to congressional candidates and campaigns. The folks in my district, the 11th District of Texas, absolutely do not approve of these hard-earned dollars paying for TV attack ads of any candidate, much less a candidate they don't support.

Madam Speaker, we need real, commonsense reforms to strengthen our election system. H.R. 1 does just the opposite. I urge my colleagues to have this debate, to have a transparent debate, to talk about these issues, and to come to the table for a reasonable, thoughtful debate so that we can get to the real issues that the American people deserve.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, this is an important and good bill. It is a comprehensive bill that takes in a lot of issues that are important to giving people the opportunity to vote and the opportunity to elect their leaders in fair manners. The most important, I think, as Leader HOYER addressed all fair manners. The most important, I believe, is redistricting, to have a bipartisan, transparent system.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, the majority leader just said: Everything we do depends on this bill.

I guess he is right because the Democrats are trying to tip the scales of elections to their party. Besides giving the party in power in Madison more power, funding politics with taxpayer dollars, and preventing the use of voter identification laws, Democrats will prevent ballot harvesting and mandate nationwide mail-in balloting, which Jimmy Carter himself said is a recipe for fraud.

Madam Speaker, Democrats are so enamored of power, it appears that they want to legalize cheating in elections. If that isn't enough for you, they want 18-year-olds to be able to register to vote, as well as felons and illegal aliens to be able to vote. What could possibly go wrong?

Madam Speaker, while most in the country have some doubt as to the integrity of our elections across both parties, they across the aisle want to ensure we never have an honest election again.

This bill is a dubious path on which to embark. If we do not stop it again, it will become increasingly difficult to depart to a future that actually restores trust in America.

Madam Speaker, when I hear the argument of voter suppression, I say we had more voters in the last election for President than ever—more than ever. This bill is just the opposite. It is wasteful. It is unnecessary. I urge people to vote "no."

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAhan).

Mrs. TRAhan. Madam Speaker, in spite of my hesitancy, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this bill, H.R. 1.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I just received word that the legendary civil rights leader Vernon Jordan has passed. In addition to our beloved John Lewis, I feel we are considering this bill in his memory and also to honor those who came before us who worked so hard to preserve our American democracy.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) in her beautiful acknowledgment of the passing of Vernon Jordan.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I also commend her for her great leadership in honoring...
Madam Speaker, another aspect of this that distorts our democracy is the partisan gerrymandering. That is why I salute the distinguished chairwoman for her leadership for a long time now in putting forth redistricting by way of commission.

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The people should choose their politicians. Politicians should not be choosing their political gerrymandering. This legislation does that.

Part of voter suppression that people don’t always recognize is the suffocation of the airways of big, dark, special interest money.

And one aspect of this bill that has such popular appeal is the fact that people will realize if we reduce the role of big, dark money in politics, we increase the voices of the people. We will have a better chance to preserve our planet if big, dark money, special interest money is not weighing in.

We have a better chance of protecting our children from gun violence with background check legislation if big, dark money, in terms of our gun lobbies, is not weighing in. We have a chance of improving our health care. We have the chance to increase paychecks. The list goes on and on.

Big, dark money has been an obstacle to progress for America’s working families, suppressing the ability of people to bargain collectively, suppressing the rights of workers in our country. So, again, this is, as Mr. SARBANES says, this caffeinates all the other issues because it gives people confidence that it really can happen, that we really can pass legislation that is not dominated, and the debate of it is not suffocated. The airways suffocated big, dark money.

Of course, we have to look at what is happening in terms of misinformation in the social media and the rest. And what we want to do is to clear the air; clear the air of that big, dark money; clear the air of political gerrymandering; and clear the air of the voter suppression that is out there.

Just last night, the Georgia House passed a draconian new voter restriction bill, which would end weekend voting, slash the number of mail ballot drop boxes, impose restrictive voter ID for mail ballots, among other actions. They know that their issues are losing the public, their employees, their customers, their clients to know how much big money they were spending to suppress the vote and the discussion in our country.

So the Republicans supported low disclosure. The money flowed and continues to flow. It must be stopped.

Now, it would take a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, and I think we should strive for that. However, in the meantime, it would take an act of Congress to say: You are proud of who you are supporting in a big, dark money way?

Disclose it. Let’s have disclosure. The public has a right to know, your employees have a right to know, your customers, your clients. The public has a right to know how you are weighing in against their interests, against clean air for their children, clean safety in
Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, no matter how many times Speaker PELOSI and the Democrats continue to say that there is not a publicly funded program to put money directly into Members' congressional campaigns, it doesn't make her statement true.

In this bill, it is the first-ever corporate money since 1907 that is laundered through the Federal Government, through the Department of the Treasury, and goes right into our own congressional campaigns, up to $7 million, using 2020 numbers.

Madam Speaker, I am angry that the Speaker continues to talk about States, like Georgia, following the law to make sure that their voter rolls are complete and accurate when, in her own home State of California, the corrupt secretary of state would not even commit to removing over 400,000 deceased or move from the voter rolls, and many of them, if not all of them, got live ballots.

This bill would place the corruption that we see in California and export it nationwide. Let me tell you, that corrupt secretary of state, huh, what a deal, we now call him a U.S. Senator.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I would point out that the Speaker of the House came to the floor and used her magic microphone, but doesn't stay on the floor and debate. There is no debate on this floor.

And then the Speaker said that there were amendments, 56 amendments. Forty-nine of them are Democratic amendments, hand-selected by a small group in the Rules Committee. Forty-nine are Democratic amendments.

So don't buy into the Kabuki theater that you are seeing on the floor of the House of Representatives.

You know, I can't ask to take down the words of disappointment that there are 9 amendments, 9 are Democratic amendments. Many of these are Democratic amendments.

So what is the difference between the American people not being able to vote and the American people being unable to vote?

Because they use fancy words like "voter suppression" to say that we are wanting to tamp down people's access to polls.

Nothing can be further from the truth. Heaven forbid we want to use voter identification. Heaven forbid we want to honor the will of the people through their legislature in the States passing rules to make sure that our system is not actuated by working using voter identification that the American people use to fly, that the American people use to do everything else. If I demand that, I am a bigot.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a number of letters, the first from more than 150 groups urging support for the For the People Act, including the American Friends Service Committee, the Center for Disability Rights, Common Cause, Franciscan Action Network, the National Council of Churches, the NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice and the Sierra Club.

DECLARATION FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, February 15, 2021. Re More than one hundred and fifty Groups urge support for the For the People Act (H.R. 1/S. 1).

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: On behalf of the below organizations representing tens of millions of Americans, we write in strong support of H.R. 1/S. 1, the For the People Act. This transformational democracy reform package would help return power to everyday American families and amplify the voices of communities that have historically been marginalized in our democracy.

For far too long, special interests, wealthy donors, and vote suppressors have dominated our politics and attempted to silence the voices of everyday Americans, especially in Black and Brown communities. The For the People Act would help shift power away from bad actors and transfer it to "we the people.

The 2020 election has underscored the urgent need for transformational democracy reform. Across the nation, Americans experienced unprecedented voter suppression, historic levels of dark money spent to drown out the voices of everyday Americans, and rampant ethical abuses. One bill, the For the People Act, addresses many of these problems.

Therefore, we urge Congress to make this pro-voter, anti-corruption legislation a first priority in the 117th Congress.

Common-sense reforms in the For the People Act, most of which are deeply popular across the political spectrum and have passed in many states and localities, aim to accomplish three overarching goals: (1) protecting and strengthening the sacred right to vote, (2) ending the dominance of big money in politics, and (3) implementing anti-corruption, pro-ethics measures to clean up government.

Many of the critical issues that our nation faces—ensuring quality, affordable health care, fighting climate change, and achieving racial justice—require a broad political recommitment to the basic need for transformational democracy reform. We therefore urge you to support the For the People Act, early in the 117th Congress to help put the people back in charge of our democracy.

I urge support.

Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD), African American Ministers In Action, American Federation of Teachers (AFT), American Friends Service Committee, American Promise, Americans for Financial Reform, Americans for Tax Fairness, Bend the Arc, Brady United Against Gun Violence, Brennan Center for Justice, Center for American Progress, Center for Disability Rights, Center for Media and Democracy, Center for Popular Democracy, CREW, Democracy Forward, Environmental Working Group, Fair Fight Action, Fair Schools Action, Fight for Common Cause, Communications Workers of America, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good
Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I will include in the RECORD more letters in support of this legislation, H.R. 1. I also include letters from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and a letter from attorneys general around the United States: the attorneys general of Maryland, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington. The attorneys general of all of these States have written in support of H.R. 1.


Support H.R. 1, the For the People Act, January 19, 2021.

Dear Representative: On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition of more than 220 national organizations committed to promoting and protecting the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 82 undersigned organizations, we write in strong support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act. We are pleased that the incoming Senate leadership has today announced it intends to introduce this critical bill as S. 1.

The For the People Act represents a transformational vision for American democracy. It would create a democracy that welcomes every eligible voter’s chance to participate in civic life and a democracy that demands integrity, fairness, and transparency in our nation’s elections. For far too long, voter suppression has been a shameful reality in our country—undercutting the power and representation of Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, people with disabilities, Arab Americans, and other communities historically denied political process. The ability to meaningfully participate in our democracy is a racial justice issue. It is a civil rights issue. And the need for legislative action is urgent. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the For the People Act in March 2019, and we are encouraged that Speaker Pelosi is committed to making this bill a top priority in the new Congress.

The recent and deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol by far-right extremists attempting to overturn the free, fair, and secure 2020 presidential election was a catastrophic reminder of the fragility of our democracy. This violent insurrection did not happen in a vacuum. It was paired with numerous hurdles that voters faced during the pandemic-plagued 2020 election exacerbated by the relentless efforts by President Trump to undermine election integrity, impose barriers to the ballot box, and discount the votes of communities of color. These experiences reinforce the urgent need to repair our democratic system. The historic voter turnout in the November election despite these challenges demonstrated the determination and resilience of the American people.

Not every flaw in our democracy can be easily rectified, but there are strong and ready solutions to many of the most significant voting rights problems. H.R. 1 would enhance and ensure democracy in America by establishing many critical reforms in federal elections, including:

Ensuring early voting and polling place notice: H.R. 1 would require at least 15 consecutive days of in-person early voting including weekends, for a minimum of 10 hours each day, and ensure that early voting polling places are accessible by public transportation. The bill would also require that voters be given a minimum of seven days’ notice if their polling place location is changed.

Reforming voter registration: Nearly 20 percent of people who are eligible but do not vote cite registration hurdles as the main reason for not voting. H.R. 1 would modernize America’s voter registration system and improve access to the ballot box by requiring states to establish automatic voter registration (“AVR”), same day registration (“SDR”), and online voter registration for voters across the country, and by ensuring that all voter registration systems are inclusive and accessible for people with disabilities. A YR alone could add an estimated 50 million people to the voter rolls, and SDR increases voter turnout rates by 10 percent.

Ensuring reasonable wait times to vote: Voters in some states last year were forced to stand in line for more than 10 hours to vote in the recent election. H.R. 1 would require that states allow registered voters in states with a photo ID requirement to sign a sworn affidavit to vote if they lack an acceptable ID. Requiring access to drop boxes: During the 2020 election cycle, some states politicized and limited the use of drop boxes. H.R. 1 would remove restrictions on state laws that would allow drop boxes as an option for voters casting absentee ballots.
Restoring voting rights for formerly incarcerated people: H.R. 1 would restore voting rights for people with felony convictions who have finished their sentence, a necessary re-pudiation of our nation’s discriminatory and racially violent past. This would re-enfranchise approximately 4.7 million voters nationwide. Reforming felony disenfranchisement laws would increase participation and strengthen federal elections oversight; establish more robust conflict of interest requirements for government officials; prohibit states from requiring felons to pay back taxes or other debts before they are allowed to vote; and ensure that our government works for all people, not just a powerful few.

Congress must pass laws that address the myriad ethical problems that plague all three branches of the federal government. The reforms in the For the People Act are necessary to advance good government and to prevent racial justice and ensure that our government works for all people, not just a powerful few.

Congress must also pass two other essential racial justice and democracy reform bills: the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which revives a critical provision of the Voting Rights Act gutted by the Supreme Court’s infamous 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision—and the For the People Act, which would grant long overdue statehood status to the nation’s capital.

For the People Act builds on the momentum of the landmark VRA and updating its preclearance provision, which is crucial to prevent racial discrimination in the voting process. VRA restoration is being pursued as a separate legislative track that could involve investigatory and evidentiary hearings, thus enabling Congress to update the preclearance coverage formula and develop a full reauthorization package to counteract problems with racial discrimination in voting. In 2006, the VRA was reauthorized on a unanimous vote in the Senate and a near-unanimous vote in the House. We need the same type of broad and bipartisan support for restoring the VRA today.

H.R. 1 would also make significant advances in the area of campaign finance and ethics reform. It would correct the rampant corruption flowing from the corrosive power of money in our elections. It would replace the current campaign finance system that empowers the super-rich and big corporations with one that relies on small donors and public matching funds. It would end secret political fundraising, force disclosure of all election-related spending. And it would call for a constitutional amendment to over-turn the disturbing Citizens United decision that made it impossible to restrict outside spending by corporations or billionaires. In addition, H.R. 1 addresses our government’s other ethical failings by requiring the development of a code of conduct for Supreme Court Justices to enhance accountability on ethics and recusal issues; establishing a rules advisory committee to strengthen federal ethics oversight; establishing more robust conflict of interest requirements for government officials; prohibiting states from requiring felons to pay back taxes or other debts before they are allowed to vote; and ensuring that our government works for all people, not just a powerful few.

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introduced to restrict voting access—four times the number of similar bills introduced last year. This new push for voter suppression follows the 2020 election, where a record number of Americans exercised their right to vote. Offering Americans new and convenient methods of voting, including expanded absentee and mail-in voting options, had the dual benefit of protecting the public health during the COVID-19 pandemic and enabling greater turnout.

Described by former Attorney General Barr and others that there was no evidence of widespread fraud or irregularity in the 2020 election, state legislatures have seized the moment to rein in their perceived voter fraud. The threat of severe consequences for states that fail to look into fraudulent voting, which, when coupled with the pandemic, has dismantled their convenience and ease of voting.

The Act includes several measures that would neutralize these cynical efforts at voter suppression by improving access to the ballot. Voters in many states face the frustrations of antiquated, error-ridden voter registration processes that, in many states, require voters to update or correct outdated voter information. The Act would modernize voter registration by requiring states to implement online registration, establish automatic voter registration, and prohibit unnecessarily high fees for registration.

The Act also addresses discriminatory voter identification laws by requiring states to permit voters in federal elections to submit a sworn statement to meet ID requirements. Early voting, which allows voters to cast their ballots before election day, is critical to ensuring that all voters can participate in the electoral process. The Act would expand access to early voting by providing for at least 15 days of early voting at accessible locations, making it easier for voters to cast their ballots.

Critically, the Act would also confront the problem of partisan gerrymandering by putting in place independent commissions. The threat of future gerrymandering in the post-2020 redistricting process is especially acute given the Supreme Court’s decision in Shelby County v. Holder, which effectively eliminated the preclearance protections contained in Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (“VRA”). Without the preclearance restraints of the VRA and the corresponding oversight from the Department of Justice, there is a substantial risk that states with a history of racial discrimination will seek to minimize the political power of minority voters by drawing aggressive congressional district lines. By divesting redistricting power from politicians in the process to elect candidates, the Act will ensure that voters choose their representatives, not the other way around.

As the chief law enforcement officers of our respective states, we are well-acquainted with schemes to discourage, impede, and prevent our citizens from voting. In the lead up to November, disinformation campaigns conspired to depress voter turnout was endemic, spread by bad actors through social media, robocalls, and texts. Thankfully, the fear of widespread disinformation at polling places did not materialize last year. That possibility, however, looms in future elections—especially once election day turnout is no longer democratized.

The Act also contains important changes to campaign finance law designed to address the concerning rise of dark money in federal elections. Since the Supreme Court’s ruling in Citizens United v. FEC, dark money has flooded federal elections at unprecedented levels. As a result, billionaires, corporations, and special interest groups—groups that already had outsized voices in our political process—can now spend even more money on campaigns without fear of问责 their donors.

However, the Act heightens disclosure requirements applicable to the president, requires the holder of the Office of the President to divest from financial interests that pose a conflict of interest, and ensures accountability by providing the Office of Government Ethics with enhanced enforcement power. The Supreme Court’s decision in the ethics laws affecting non-presidential public servants would also be closed. For instance, the Act would require Congress to prohibit voting from serving on the board of directors of for-profit entities during their terms in office and, for the first time, require the Judicial Conference to develop a code of ethics applicable to Supreme Court Justices.

Collectively, the ethics reforms contained in the Act would ensure that our public servants are working on behalf of America’s best interests, not just their own.

American democracy needs repairing. The problems we face today are election infrastructure, unjustified barriers to voting, extreme gerrymandering, the polluting influence of dark money, and insufficient ethical constraints that pose a conflict of interest. We believe that the Act represents an important step toward addressing these problems and urge its swift passage.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Frosh, Maryland Attorney General; Philip J. Weiser, Colorado Attorney General; Karl Racine, District of Columbia Attorney General; Tom Miller, Iowa Attorney General; Mauree Healey, Massachusetts Attorney General; Keith Ellison, Minnesota Attorney General; Tim Saffle, New Jersey Attorney General; Letitia James, New York Attorney General; Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General; Kathleen Jennings, Delaware Attorney General; Kwame Raoul, Illinois Attorney General; Aaron M. Frey, Maine Attorney General; Dana Nessel, Michigan Attorney General; Aaron D. Ford, Nevada Attorney General; Hector Balderas, New Mexico Attorney General; Ellen F. Rosenblum, Oregon Attorney General; Andrew G. Puzon, Rhode Island Attorney General; Thomas J. Donovan, Jr., Vermont Attorney General; Bob Ferguson, Washington Attorney General; Mark P. Herring, Virginia Attorney General; KeyboardInterrupt

Ms. LOFGREN, Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), who is the author of H.R. 1.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I thank madam chair, Zoe LOFGREN, for her incredible work on this bill.

Speaker LOFGREN. In support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, a bill that was designed to respond to the deep cynicism so many Americans feel when they look at their democracy and wonder if their voice still matters in it.

We heard many grievances from Americans across the country over the last few years, but they fall into three basic categories. The first was, they kept saying to us: We want to get to the voting booth and to the ballot box. That is all we are trying to do. That is not controversial, and that is not partisan out in the country. Maybe here it is, but not out in the country.

The second thing they said to us is: When you get to Washington, behave yourself, act right, act ethically, be transparent, and be accountable. So we have a whole set of reforms in here that are designed to do that.

The third thing they have been pleading with us about is: Don’t get tangled up in the money. Remember where you came from and remember who you are. We are just trying to create some baseline, uniform standards and best practices so people can get to the ballot box. When they get up in the morning and they have decided that is the day they are going to go vote, it shouldn’t be a trial to get to the voting booth to get to the ballot box. That is all we are trying to do. That is not controversial, and that is not partisan out in the country. Maybe here it is, but not out in the country.

By the way, let me thank the Republican voters across the country who, in the last election, used automatic voter registration where it existed, used early voting options that were affordable, and used a no-excuse absentee ballot to cast their ballot in the midst of a pandemic. To Republican voters, Independent voters, and Democratic voters this is not controversial. We are just trying to create some baseline, uniform standards and best practices so people can get to the ballot box. When they get up in the morning and they have decided that is the day they are going to go vote, it shouldn’t be a trial to get to the voting booth to get to the ballot box. That is all we are trying to do. That is not controversial, and that is not partisan out in the country. Maybe here it is, but not out in the country.

We are trying to address that in H.R. 1. None of these things is controversial. The deep-pocketed donors, the insider political donor class, the big money, the PACs, the super-PACs, and the lobbyists. Work for us, the people.

So we are trying to address that in H.R. 1. None of these things is controversial.

The only question is: How is it that we have allowed it to take us this long to address these grievances that people feel across the country. H.R. 1, the For the People Act, is our opportunity to do that.

Mr. ZOE LOFGREN. Well, we are going to take this piece and take that piece. It is because the people told us—they were smart enough to know—if you fix one thing and you don’t fix the other thing, our voice still doesn’t matter. THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.
Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, if you get fair elections in place but, when the Representatives get to Wash-
ington they get taken hostage by the special interests and still get influ-
enced by the big money, then you haven’t solved our problem as the American people who want our voice to be heard. So we have to do the whole package.

Let’s close with this. John Lewis, who is not with us anymore, fought for voting rights. He knew the vote was sac-
cred. He told us to keep our eyes on the prize. Today we do that.

Elijah Cummings, whom I served with in Baltimore for many, many years, often told the story that on his mother’s deathbed she beckoned him close, and the last thing she said to him was: Don’t let them take the vote. We are not going to let them take the vote.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1. I have always found it interesting that elections are the one thing my colleagues on the other side don’t want to strictly regulate.

You see, Madam Speaker, there is this mythology amongst Democrats that commonsense rules in an election are synonymous with voter suppres-
sion. They make it sound as if you have to go through an obstacle course to go vote. This isn’t true. It is non-
sense, and everybody knows it.

The truth is that four out of five Americans support voter ID laws, and countless Americans have expressed concern because they received mail-in ballots for other people addressed to their own names. They want this fixed, and they don’t want the problem to get worse. But this bill makes elections less trustworthy, not more.

Trust is everything. When people can see the faults in the process, whether it is ballots at the wrong house or care-
less verification processes, they believe people are cheating. You can’t just dis-
miss that, Madam Speaker. We have to fix it. But instead this bill makes per-
manent the problematic election prac-
tices that are already in place.

For example, Madam Speaker, ballot harvesting creates serious chain of custo-
dy issues, and universal mail-in vot-
ing without safeguards creates the kind of chaos where your ballot ends up in someone else’s hands, as does forcing States to disregard their own voter ID laws and use sworn state-
ments instead of an ID.

The integrity of our elections must be self-evident, wherein the mere possi-
bility of fraud is improbable because the process itself is airtight and secure. Many States today do not meet that standard. We should be working to-
gether to make elections more secure, not less. If that is indeed our mutual goal, and I pray that it is, then I im-
prove my colleagues to work with us.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentle-
woman from California (Ms. SCANLON), who is a member of the House Judiciary Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, over the last 30 years I have been a poll worker, an election judge, an election protection lawyer, and a civics educa-
tor working to protect the right to vote.

I have seen firsthand the flaws in our system that prevent Americans from participating in our democracy. Voter suppression tactics, the influence of dark money, gerrymandering, and other anti-democratic practices have all disenfranchised voters.

In my home State of Pennsylvania, voters have been victim of such tactics for years. But many Americans have made clear that we want a government for the people and by the people, and House Democrats are answering that call.

I am particularly proud that my bills to increase access for voters with dis-
babilities, bring transparency to inaugu-
ral funds, and increase the avail-
ability of ballot drop boxes have all been included in this legislation. I am also hopeful that my amendment to in-
crease access to early voting for col-
lege students will also be included.

H.R. 1 will strengthen our democracy and ensure that the power in our gov-
ernment rests with the people.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I do also have a stack of letters in opposition. I will include them in the Record. I won’t go through each of them.

FRANK LAROSE,
OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE,
Columbus OH,

For Immediate Release:
Thursday, February 25, 2021.

LAROSE CALLS ON CONGRESS TO REJECT FEDERAL TAKEOVER OF ELECTIONS

House Resolution 1 would bring sweeping, unworkable, unfunded change across the nation’s 50 unique election systems, causing chaos and harming voter confidence.

COLUMBUS—Today, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose called on the United States Congress to vote against House Resolution 1, a bill that would effectively take over control of how states conduct elections.

HR 1, proposed by Rep. John Yarmuth and Sen. Abram Smith, would ignore both the United States Constitution and the unique election systems across the 50 states in an effort to standardize how states conduct elections.

“Ohio’s November 2020 election was the most successful on record, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer want to wipe it all away with a massive power grab,” said LaRose. “Remember, each state election system is unique—shaped by time and trusted by their respec-
tive voters. Forcing uniform standards, pro-
cedures, and expectations into state election systems, some far different than others and not built for those requirements, is like forc-
ing a square peg into a round hole. It won’t work.”

Article 1, Section 4 of the Constitution states that “[t]he Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Rep-
resentatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof,” but that “the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators.” In Federalist Paper No. 59, Alexander Hamilton contended that such regulation was only necessary “whenever extraordinary circumstances might render that interposition necessary to its safety.”

Moreover, state-level elections and the election of the president have remained outside of the purview of congress.

However, the question of whether it’s even within the power of congress to take over how states run elections isn’t even the most important question. Instead, the better ques-
tion is “should they?” In the 59 presidential elections since 1788, each has resulted in the successful election of a President. Voting laws have evolved across the 50 states, pro-
viding more and more access, security, and accuracy. Over time, each of those same 50 states have created their own unique elec-
tion systems. From who administers the elections, to how votes are cast, to how a vote is protected—each system was born of federalism.

Like human beings, no voting system is perfect. Improvements and changes happen as the people, working through their respec-
tive state legislatures, see fit. In Ohio, a state whose elections have long been under the national spotlight, we’ve developed a system which has ensured voters have confi-

ence in the outcome of elections. As a re-

sult, voter turnout is at an all-time high, voter fraud and voter suppression are exceed-

ingly rare, and our efforts to strengthen the security of our elections have become a na-
tional model. Even as we faced enormous challenges last year we in Ohio ran the most successful election in our state’s history. It’s no surprise that other states are now coming to us to learn our best election practices so they can mirror them back home.

That’s how it’s supposed to work. One of the great motivations of federalism is the state role as a laboratory for democracy, with each state innovating to become a bet-

ter version of itself, and sharing those les-
sions with other states. That experiment has allowed our nation to become the best in the world. We need to keep that experiment going and encourage Ohio’s congressional delegation to vote against House Resolution 1.

Secretary LaRose will soon be sending a letter to congressional leadership and Ohio’s congressional delegation requesting a no vote on HR 1.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Washington, DC.
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee,
Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Washington, DC.
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Hon. JORDAN, AND RANKING MEMBER FEINSTEIN: On MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN NADLER, Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee,
JORDAN, AND RANKING MEMBER FEINSTEIN: On MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN NADLER, Hon. JERROLD NADLER,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Washington, DC.
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee,
Hon. JIM JORDAN,
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.
Hon. DIANA SCOTT,
Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee,
Washington, DC.
DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI, MAJORITY LEADER MCCORMICK, MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, CHAIRMAN JORDAN, RANKING MEMBER FEINSTEIN: On behalf of the undersigned state Attorneys General, we write to respectfully urge Congress to address the ongoing, declining balance of the Victims Fund (also known as the Crime Victims Fund or “VOCA Fund”). The Fund provides critical support and services to victims of crime across the country. As state Attorneys General, we are often the administrators of grant funding through our state compensation programs or otherwise, financed directly from the Fund. In order to ensure the predictability and sustainability of grants to support essential victim compensation programs, the Fund’s balance must be adequate to support our states’ ability to effectively serve victims and survivors of crime for years to come.

The Fund, established by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 ("VOCA"), is the primary funding source for victim services in all 50 states and six U.S. territories. Deposits to the Fund originate from criminal fines, forfeited bail bonds, penalties and special assessments collected by U.S. Attorneys’ offices, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Funding is derived from offenders convicted of federal crimes, and not from taxpayers.

Since its creation, the Fund has covered the expenses of essential direct services and support for victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, including medical care, mental health counseling, lost wages, court advocacy and temporary housing. The Fund also provides support for initiatives that benefit victims of crime, including federal, state and tribal victim service programs, crime victim compensation, discretionary grant awards, victim specialists in U.S. Attorneys’ offices, and the federal victim notification system. Additional grants through the Fund are the only federal funding source available for services to all victims of crime.

The balance and financial health of the Fund is in jeopardy. As deposits have sharply decreased in recent years due to a decline in the fines and penalties recouped from federal criminal cases, withdrawals have increased at a rapid pace. In 2015, Congress increased the annual cap on distributions from the Fund, leading to a significant growth in funding available for distribution across the country. Nearly 2,500 new organizations received VOCA funding since 2015. In addition, more than 1,900,000 new victims funded through VOCA assistance formula grants from 2015 to 2019.

In order to stabilize and maintain the Fund for use in the future, we respectfully request Congress amend VOCA in the following three areas:

1. Deposit all monetary penalties from deferred and non-prosecution agreements into the Crime Victims Fund.

Over the last decade, the Department of Justice has increasingly utilized deferred and non-prosecution agreements to resolve cases of corporate misconduct. These agreements bypass a traditional prosecution process and shift fines and penalties into the general victim notification system. Additional deposits will go to the Crime Victims Fund, which will allow for better predictability of state awards.

2. Increase the portion states are federally reimbursed for victim compensation programs to 75 percent.

The Fund supports state compensation programs, which reimburse states for the direct expenses of essential victim compensation programs or other expenses caused by violent crime. In order to supplant efforts to financially assist crime victims for crime-related out-of-pocket expenses, the Fund reimburses states 60 percent of spending in a fiscal year. Most states’ compensation programs are funded through fines and fees paid by offenders prosecuted in state courts. Recently, due to criminal justice reform initiatives along with court closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, states are facing a significant decline in collections of these fines and fees, limiting their ability to support essential victim compensation eligible expenses. An increase in the reimbursement rate from the Fund to at least 75 percent would provide more money accessible to serve victims and survivors with much needed financial support.

3. Allow for additional years of spending or pre-funding.

Most states’ compensation programs are funded through fines and fees paid by offenders prosecuted in state courts. Currently, due to criminal justice reform initiatives along with court closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, states are facing a significant decline in collections of these fines and fees, limiting their ability to support essential victim compensation eligible expenses. An increase in the reimbursement rate from the Fund to at least 75 percent would provide more money accessible to serve victims and survivors with much needed financial support.

Current statutory limitations require that recipients spend annual grants in a four-year period. To reduce reversions and provide better forecasting for programming, the statute should allow for longer periods to spend down grants and allow the Office for Victims of Crime to permit no-cost extensions to states. A longer award period allows administrators to better plan and predict funding awards and long-term services. In times of economic uncertainty, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, this is especially true for the states and other funding sources are significantly impacted. Additional time also allows for redefinition of grants for emergency assistance without the threat of compromising traditional services.

Your support of the Crime Victims Fund is paramount to our responsibility as Attorneys General to protect and support victims. As such, we defer to you on the best vehicle to introduce the above changes. We do ask, however, that Congress make them a top priority as they consider the omnibus appropriations bill for FY 2022.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS NETWORK, February 25, 2021.
Re Committee on House Administration
Hearing: Strengthening American Democracy
Chair Zoe Lofgren,
Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
Ranking Member ROYDIE DAVIS,
Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
DEAR CHAIR LOFGRON AND RANKING MEMBER DAVIS: On behalf of the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) and the nationwide network of Protection & Advocacy (P&A) systems, we commend the Committee for examining the state of voting rights in America and for laying a foundation to strengthen our democracy. We wish to submit this letter for the record in connection with the Committee’s hearing, “Strengthening American Democracy,” scheduled to take place on February 23, 2021.

As the non-profit membership organization for the federally mandated P&A systems for individuals with disabilities, the...
P&As were established by the United States Congress to protect the rights of people with disabilities and their families through legal support, advocacy, referral, and education. P&As are in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US territories (American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands), and there is also a Hispanic region of the Southwest. Collectively, the P&As are the largest provider of legally based advocacy services to people with disabilities in the United States.

Through the Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (P&A) program, created by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the P&As have a federal mandate to ensure the full participation of individuals with disabilities in the entire electoral process, including registering to vote, casting a ballot, and accessing polling places. PAVA advocates are on the ground in communities and states, providing advice, technical assistance, and training to election officials about voting accessibility for a wide array of disabilities. They also provide outreach, training, and direct representation to individuals with disabilities, as well as the agencies and organizations that serve them.

Voters with disabilities remain a large voting bloc in America’s elections. The United States has reported that 17.7 million people with disabilities live in the community, totaling approximately 19 percent of the non-institutionalized US population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Pew Research Center believe that number is closer to 25 percent, or one in four Americans. Further, the School of Public Policy and Labor Studies at Rutgers University projected that there were 38.3 million people with disabilities eligible to vote in the US, one-sixth of the total American electorate, during the 2020 elections.

The disability community is diverse and people with disabilities are a part of every community. People who identify as LGBTQIA+ are more likely to have a disability. A quarter or more of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Black adults have a disability. Data from the disability community shows disproportionately low income, and are unemployed, underemployed, or not participating in the workforce at a rate of approximately three times higher than the general population under the age of 65 living in the community.

Despite the size and diversity of the disability community, America’s electoral system remains largely inaccessible and has a long history of excluding people with disabilities. Inaccessible polling places, voting stations and vote by mail systems are only some of the barriers voters with disabilities face when voting. The struggle is evident in voting data from America every election cycle. In February 2021, the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and Rutgers University released their report, “Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Elections”, which summarized their survey results from last year’s election cycle. The results found that “one in nine voters with disabilities encountered difficulties voting in 2020,” twice the rate of people without disabilities. The report also found that 18 percent of people with disabilities who voted in person last year had difficulty voting compared to 10 percent of people without disabilities, while five percent of voters with disabilities had difficulties using a mail ballot, compared to two percent of voters without disabilities.

Despite the fact that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law now almost 31 years ago, requiring America’s polling places be accessible to voters with disabilities, the majority of polling places remain inaccessible. The US Government Accountability Office (GAO)’s polling place accessibility span 20 years. In 2000, GAO data indicated that only 16 percent of polling places had an accessible path of travel from the parking area to the voting booth. This percentage slowly increased to 27 percent in 2008 and to 40 percent in 2016. To be clear, 40 percent is an all-time high in architectural access, meaning that voters with disabilities can easily use accessible voting equipment. This measure passed federal law during the 2016 presidential election.

Worse, GAO began to investigate the accessibility of polling places within polling places starting with the 2008 study, during which only 54 percent of voting booths were determined to be accessible in 2016, the prevalence of accessible voting stations actually fell to a dismal 35 percent—a drop of 19 percent points in just 2 presidential election cycles. GAO found that voting booths were less likely to be set up to ensure voter privacy, such as, surprise accuracy, have headphones readily available for audio ballots, or even be turned on for voters to use. In their 2016 findings, GAO combined architectural access data with data for the first time and reported an astonishing 17 percent of polling places are compliant with federal law and fully accessible for voters with disabilities—fewer than 1 in 5.

Along with inaccessible polling places and inaccessible voting stations, vote by mail systems are not, and have never been, accessible to all voters with disabilities. People who are blind or low vision, have print disabilities, limited literacy, limited manual dexterity, and other disabilities cannot privately, independently verify and cast a hand marked paper mail-in ballot. Federal law is clear that any option made available to voters must be accessible for people with disabilities, including vote by mail.

As Congress continues to explore voting legislation to strengthen American democracy, we urge you to protect the rights of voters with disabilities. The American with disabilities Act is currently being considered in the 117th Congress, such as H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which includes several provisions that will make voting more accessible. Congress must invest in research that protects the rights of all voters, including voters with disabilities. Congress must continue to examine and pass legislation that protects the rights of all voters, including voters with disabilities. People with disabilities away from the entire pool of voters by making them the only group of people that use a particular type of voting machine. Federally mandated segregation is problematic alone, but in practice, it also increases the likelihood that poll workers will not be properly trained on the machine, the machines will not be properly maintained or set up for use, and if the only available BMD is not functioning, there is no alternative option for voters who need it. Limits on BMD use will also saddle poll workers with determining who is “disabled enough” to use the BMD, a decision for which they have no qualifications or legal right. Finally, if the paper ballot mandate is not contained in the technical requirement to the hand marked ballot or the BMD ballot cannot be scanned and stored with hand marked ballots, the voter’s right to cast a paper ballot is violated.

To be clear, no paper ballot voting system today, ready for widespread use, is fully accessible. Even BMDs require voters with disabilities to verify and cast a paper-based ballot, which does not ensure a private and independent vote. A fully accessible voting system is required by Federal law. If the law is not followed, the ballot is presumed inaccessible to voters with disabilities away from the entire pool of voters by making them the only group of people that use a particular type of voting machine. Congress must invest in research and development and pilot projects, as well as funding to states for the purchase of new accessible voting equipment. Congress may also consider expanding the role of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to address accessible remote voting in its creation of voting system guidelines and by adding full time staff and additional seats on its advisory boards for experts in elections accessibility with a focus on voters with disabilities. Rather than overly prescriptive, blanket mandates that create barriers for eligible voters, our focus must be on fostering innovative solutions that make our elections more accessible and more secure through responsible use of technology.

NDRN thanks Congress for prioritizing strengthening access to our elections. We look forward to working with you to ensure every voice, including the voice of the disability community, is heard on Election Day.

Sincerely,
Curtis L. Decker, Executive Director.
As a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council, a membership organization of state legislators dedicated to principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. In 2013, activists launched a campaign to reveal, harass and shame, the ALEC donor base. Their goal was simple: Harassing ALEC donors and corporate members would chill their participation with and support for the organization, ultimately cutting off a funding source for ALEC.

Worse, public elected officials used their platform to threaten threat of donor disclosure in order to further intimidate ALEC supporters. In 2013, every company tangentially associated with ALEC received an official letter from US Senator Richard Durbin, demanding to know whether it had “served as a member of ALEC or provided any funding to ALEC,” with the intent of intimidating them. Durbin wrote that he would read their responses into the official Congressional record, forever memorializing their support and creating a public target list for any non-profit opposed to the organization.

Even the Chicago Tribune, the Senator’s hometown newspaper that had endorsed his candidacy, rebuked Durbin’s attempt at creating an “enemies list” by using “his high federal office as a cudgel against his enemies.”

H.R. 1/S. 1 would institutionalize this harassment and intimidation and extend it to all nonprofits, regardless of their issue area or political persuasion. Whatever issues you support or oppose, this should be of serious concern to you. If this legislation is enacted, passionate activists on both sides of the aisle would have access to a government-run database of donors who give to every organization from ALEC and the Family Research Council to the ACLU and Planned Parenthood. Does anyone doubt that the blunt instrument of donor disclosure in H.R. 1/S. 1 would put millions of Americans’ peace and livelihoods at risk of significant, material harm?

These tactics are flimsy bureaucratic structures designed to harass nonprofits and chill speech, violate constitutional violations of the First Amendment. In keeping with today’s “cancel culture,” H.R. 1/S. 1 is a government-sanctioned attempt to chill speech and participation. “Good governance” watchdogs argue this measure increases “transparency.” Transparency is good when applied to government, but when it strips away Constitutionally protected privacy for individuals, it is exceedingly dangerous. For the federal government to expose our constituents as supporters of any nonprofit’s cause would be an enormous overreach of centralized power.

If passed, the donor disclosure provisions in H.R. 1/S. 1 would bludgeon our democratic institutions and threaten the safety and peace of our everyday constituents. It would further normalize the legislation of “cancel culture” and intimidation through overregulation in American society. Therefore, we call on you to oppose H.R./S. 1.

Sincerely,

Representative SCOTT WIGGAM
District 1, Ohio House of Representatives, Ohio ALEC State Chair,

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SCOTT WIGGAM, STATE REPRESENTATIVE,

February 25, 2021.

To: Ohio Federal Delegation
From: Ohio Representative Scott Wiggam

District 1, Ohio House of Representatives

To THE OHIO FEDERAL DELEGATION: As a state legislator elected to be a voice for the people of Ohio, I write to express my opposition to H.R. 1/S. 1, an unconstitutional overreach of citizens’ right to free speech and association.

As elected officials, we both have a duty to represent our constituents best interests and a responsibility to defend the United States Constitution. Our Bill of Rights, written in the aftermath of the Civil War, is our obligation to urge you to oppose the deceptively named “For the People Act.” The legislation is ill-considered and deeply unconstitutional, and I have seen firsthand the chilling effects of the donor disclosure provisions that it would enact.

Throughout the country, attorneys general are fighting senior fraud and abuse. In 2019, several state attorneys general partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice and
other federal partners to conduct the largest-ever nationwide elder fraud sweep against perpetrators who had repeatedly targeted seniors, resulting in losses of over $750 million. In this initiative, the bipartisan structure of the agency ensures that the legislation is effective and inclusive.

The FPA also makes startling changes in the structure of the Commission. It reduces the bipartisan, six-member body to a five-member body subject to an independent, non-partisan witch hunt. The FEC's bipartisan makeup is a direct response to this claim and is fundamental to public confidence in the Commission.

Further, a neutral examination of the relatively few “deadlocks” that do occur reveals that a substantial portion of these concerns differences of opinion over the reach of the statutes the FEC enforces. One bloc of three commissioners has often reflected the views of campaign activist organizations, while another bloc of three commissioners has often reflected the views of campaign finance activists.

Title VI goes further. It allows the FEC, which is appointed on a bipartisan basis by the President to hire and fire the FEC's General Counsel, a statutory position, to make the decision. Further, it places sole authority to hire or fire the Commission's Staff Director, also a statutory position, with the support of just two commissioners.

Thus, this crucial enforcement position can be filled with no bipartisan agreement, as the Chair, the other commissioner from that party, and an “independent” member appointed by a President of the same party, could make the decision. Further, it places sole authority to hire or fire.

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court. There, the matter will be reviewed de novo, with no deference to the Commission’s findings of law or fact. If, however, the Commission finds that the respondent did violate the law, any respondent seeks to contest those findings in court, the Commission’s rulings will be afforded the traditional deference given to administrative agencies by courts. However, while the judicial system has traditionally erred in favor of the accused, so as to protect the innocent and unjustly convicted, the FPA turns the formula on its head, explicitly favoring the accused, so as to protect the interests of an ad's funding.

Furthermore, Section 6004 allows for the appointed General Council to launch investigations and even determine matters of guilt or innocence without any majority vote of the Commission. It does this by sharply limiting the time the commissioners have to consider a matter, and then substituting the General Council’s verdict for a vote of the Commission.

Other changes in Title VI to the Commission’s current enforcement regime are similarly ill-conceived. In addition to our concerns about Title VI, the FPA also includes a number of troubling subtitles and provisions related to campaign finance law. Most notably, we reiterate the concerns previously expressed in 2010 by many of the signatories below regarding the “DISCLOSE Act.”

Subtitle E of Title IV, Subtitle D would make the FPA a permanent, nearly 800-page legislation, with special members of Congress in both chambers to determine the law. Most notably, we reiterate the concerns previously expressed in 2010 by many of the signatories below regarding the “DISCLOSE Act.”

DISCLOSE Act is unnecessary, burdensome, and increases the complexity of a regulatory process that already lacks clarity. Inviting other non-expert agencies to campaign finance enforcement operations. Inviting other non-expert agencies to campaign finance enforcement operations.

Similarly, the “Stand by Every Ad Act” included in Title IV, Subtitle D would make disclaimer regulation more complex, have a chilling effect on speech, and provide little or no information that is not already available to the public under the Federal Election Campaign Act (“FECA”) and existing Commission regulations. Indeed, in many instances, it would mislead the public as to the sources of an ad’s funding.

Subtitles F and G of Title VI aim to affirmatively clear the way for the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) and the Securities and Exchange Commission to become involved in campaign finance regulation. This is contrary to the design of the FECA, which gives the FPC primary civil enforcement responsibilities and exclusive authority for administering individual political expenditures, including coordination, and funding under the Act.

The FPC and other agencies do not have expertise in campaign finance law. Attempting to use the IRS for campaign enforcement led to the scandal that tarnished that agency’s reputation and public confidence in its operations. Inviting other non-expert agencies into campaign finance enforcement would create a likelihood of inconsistent interpretations and applications of the laws and increase the complexity of a regulatory system already famous for its intricacy.

Basic decades of experience at the FPC, we believe that these, and several other provisions of Titles IV and VI not specifically addressed herein, would complicate the law and hinder grassroots political speech and activism, with little or no benefit to public accountability, transparency, understanding of public policy, or reduction in corruption.

Given these concerns, we are disturbed by recent reports that House Leadership plans to bring H.R. 1 directly to the floor, bypassing committee consideration. We urge members of Congress in both chambers to deliberately consider this complex, nearly 800-page legislation, with special attention paid to the bill’s harmful impact on First Amendment speech and association rights.

Most importantly, we believe that ‘Title VI, by shifting the Commission from a bipartisan, six-member body to a five-member body subject to partisan control, would be highly detrimental to the agency’s credibility. It would lead to more partisanship in enforcement and in regulatory matters, and would shatter public confidence in the decisions of the FEC. The Commission depends on bipartisan support and universal regard for the fairness of its investigations. To achieve these goals with likely ruinous effect on our political system.


December 1, 2020

CRISIS FOR THE VOCA CRIME VICTIMS FUND

THE BASICS

Fact: The Victim of Crime Act’s (VOCA) Crime Victims Fund (CVF) is a non-taxpayer source of funding that supports thousands of victim services providers serving millions of victims, and is funded by monetary penalties associated with federal criminal convictions.

Fact: The CVF is a victim compensation fund. Statutorily, this money funds specific DOJ programs and state victim assistance grants and supplements state victim compensation funds.

Fact: It is important to have money in the CVF to provide a buffer for lean years. Unfortunately, if there are too many lean years in a row the CVF will not be able to provide that buffer. That is the situation we are currently facing.

LOWER DEPOSITS LEAD TO CUTS IN GRANTS

Fact: Deposits into the CVF are historically low. Deposits the last three years have been $445 million, $495 million and $503 million respectively—deposits have not been this low since 2003. This decrease is caused in part by an increase in the use of deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements, the monetary penalties associated with which are deposited into the General Treasury rather than the Crime Victims Fund.

Fact: Lower deposits lead to lower releases. Appropriators are justly cautious about releasing CVF funds before the Department of Justice successfully prosecutes. Statutorily, the Department of Justice must successfully prosecute and non-prosecution agreements, the monetary penalties associated with which are deposited into the General Treasury rather than the Crime Victims Fund.

Fact: The amount coming off the top for non-victim service grants is somewhat stagnant at $7 million, and victim assistance grants to the states could be cut to as little as approximately $250 million annually, only 10% of what went cut in the last 10 years.

THE IMPACT

Fact: States are experiencing enormous cuts to their awards. See table below.

Fact: Every state is at a different place in their grant cycles. Some subgrantees have already seen cuts (ex. Ohio), and some will see them in the next few years.

Fact: CACs receive between $150 and $200 million in VOCA dollars annually, which is the largest single source of funding for these programs. The cost of serving the more than 120,000 children who helped last year was $614 million. If programs lose 70% of their funding, this would leave a $410 million deficit, equating to about 8,450 children, untold victims of violence, and violent offenders in the last 10 years in 2020. Rape crisis programs specifically lost over $7.5 million, with individual programs losing between 32% and 57% (as well as three 100% cuts) of VOCA funds. This will essentially cut services in half, reducing survivor access to pre-COVID levels.

THE SOLUTION

Increase deposits into the Crime Victims Fund by depositing monetary penalties associated with deferred prosecution and non-prosecution agreements into the CVF as well as the monetary penalties associated with convictions.

For more information about the problem and the solution, see this letter to Congress, signed by over 1,480 national, state, tribal, and local organizations and government agencies. The 56 State and Territorial Attorneys General also sent a letter to Congress, addressing some of these concerns.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY). Hopefully, he will soon be the majority leader or actually the Speaker of the House. He is not part of the California corruption I mentioned earlier.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, this week Democrats are pushing partisan legislation that would change how we conduct elections and how we talk about government corruption. This legislation is the Democrats’ most pressing priority. Every single Democrat is a cosponsor.

Democrats made this bill H.R. 1, which is reserved for the bills the majority thinks are the very most important.

Madam Speaker, you know—and those who are watching and those across the country should understand—that the Democratic majority in Congress has vowed to pass this bill. If you reserve the first 10 numbers for whatever you want them to be. So this could have been H.R. 2, H.R. 3, H.R. 4, H.R. 5, H.R. 6, all the way up to 10 or go on to any other number.

When I went out to talk to my constituents in the world of COVID who are out of work and out of school, not one of them would think H.R. 1 would be something for politicians to protect themselves to get reelected. But every single Democrat believes that is the case.

It wouldn’t just be in my district, but I would say that if you talk to any American, they would say: Back to work, back to school, and back to health.

Madam Speaker, the priorities here are wrong. But it is not just because the Speaker thinks it so, because every single Democrat cosponsored this bill. It was bad when the Democrats introduced it before COVID, and it is bad that they prioritize this over the children going back to school, or people going back to work, or making sure every American who wants a vaccine
gets one. No. It shows the truth about what people think is the worst about people in Congress. They prioritize themselves over everything else.

Let’s understand this bill. After a year of our country suffering through a pandemic, the Democrats’ first piece of legislation does not help the millions of students still out of school, and it does not help the 10 million Americans who are still unemployed. No. Democrat legislation only helps themselves. Democrat legislation is to use their razor-thin majority, not to pass bills to earn voters’ trust, but to ensure they don’t lose more seats in the next election.

Madam Speaker, I know the leadership on the other side predicted that they would win 20 seats. They only lost. I know that this is the most razor-thin majority the Democrats have seen in the last 100 years, so I guess that is why it is the top priority for every single Democrat.

Now, there are problems with this bill, so let’s understand it.

First, H.R. 1 sends public dollars to fund political campaigns. Yes. Can you believe that, Madam Speaker? Madam Speaker, it is the number one priority you got elected to Congress to do. Forget everything else, I want to make sure I get more taxpayer money to fund my campaign. I have to make sure I get reelected—not that the kids go back to school and not to distribute vaccines—to create a slush fund so that politicians can run for reelection.

Let me explain it to you, Madam Speaker. It is in the fine print. Let’s say someone donates $200 to a preferred candidate. Under H.R. 1, taxpayers now must chip in not $200, but $1,200. Where in the world can you get that type of return on your investment? That is amazing.

You talk somebody into giving you $200 for your campaign, Madam Speaker, so the taxpayers now have to give you $1,200. I guess you made it the most important bill because it only focuses on you.

Democrats want to raise this money through new fines on corporations which the government will use to pay for campaigns and political consultants. I guess Democrats don’t actually believe corporate money is bad in politics.

Today, corporations can’t give. I guess they found a loophole to help them.

Second, H.R. 1 weakens the security of our elections by making it harder to protect against voter fraud. This bill automatically registers voters from the EIV and other government databases such as food stamps. In most cases it would prevent officials from removing ineligible voters from the rolls and make it harder to verify the accuracy of voter information. Currently, an estimated 24 million voter records across 15 states, and the country appear to be inaccurate or invalid, and as we saw during the pandemic, this created chaos and confusion.

It doesn’t matter if you are a Democrat, Republican, or Independent. Everyone has a personal story of a friend, their family, or their neighbor receiving a ballot they shouldn’t have. Every one of those stories erodes trust in election integrity. Yet, under H.R. 1, you can fly in, buy a group of illegal immigrants or maybe even registered two to three times. I guess Democrats just don’t care, as long as they get reelected.

Third, H.R. 1 rewrites election laws and imposes one-size-fits-all partisan rules from Washington.

Under the Constitution, we generally defer to States and counties to run elections. Democrats want to change that. First, they outlaw Dr. Seuss, and now they want to tell us what to say.

They want to remove reasonable debates about early voting, registration, and no-excuse mail-in balloting from the States and counties and resolve them with a single Federal solution decided by the whims of Washington. It is not unusual, because I know the committee is also looking at, even though someone didn’t win an election, appointing somebody different in Congress.

They want to stop States from listening to their residents on the very best way to protect ballot integrity, whether it is based on laws or using basic safeguards like checking their voter rolls against the Post Office change-of-address system.

They want to mandate no-excuse mail-in balloting and 15 days of early voting as the post-pandemic norm.

Madam Speaker, in the last election, at least twice a week somebody would send me a picture of the ballots that were mailed to their home of people who had died or of people who had lived there in 8 years. This would guarantee that continues.

Fourth, H.R. 1 politicizes the Federal Election Commission by turning it from an evenly divided commission into a partisan one but they are also going to create a speech czar.

Can you imagine? The Federal Election Commission has an even number of Republicans and an even number of Democrats. You have the smallest majority you have had in more than 100 years, so your number one priority is to make sure you keep the bi-partisan. Let’s put our thumb on the scale and make sure we get one more Democrat than Republican. Then we can create a speech czar and tell people what to say and what they can’t say.

So they can’t tell us in a bill we just passed that there is $140 million for a subway just outside the Speaker’s office. That would be wrong. But we also could get $200, but get $1,200 from the taxpayer. Who wouldn’t want this bill?

Every single Democrat does. H.R. 1 can you imagine that—by allowing the IRS to consider an organization’s political views before granting tax exemptions, now, they are going to pick and choose. You know, I thought this was unbelievable until I read this document.

If you live in China and you want to fly on an airline, you can walk up to the airline, you can pay money, but that doesn’t determine whether you get a ticket. You know what determines whether you get a ticket? Your score; what you have said. And if you said something that the government doesn’t like, you can’t fly on that plane. Unbelievable. That could never happen in America.

Well, now we have a speech czar, we have made sure the Federal Election Commission is where they are, and now we weaponize the IRS to do exactly that.

Remember, under President Obama’s IRS, this power was abused by Lois Lerner and other bureaucrats to target conservative nonprofits during the 2012 election. It was a massive scandal, a clear and intolerable violation of public trust, and a crime, which is why singling out groups for political views is banned.

One hundred thirty nonprofits wrote to Congress to strongly object to H.R. 1. Why would nonprofits object to this? They said America should be able to ‘support causes we believe in without the fear of harassment or intimidation.’ Well, I guess they are right, because if this majority makes the number one issue—end of pandemic, unemployment, and kids out of school—the protection of themselves, I would be afraid, too.

If you are serious about restoring public trust in government, the ban must remain in place.

Madam Speaker, Democrats call H.R. 1 the For the People Act, but it really should be called the for the politicians act. It is not designed to protect Americans’ vote. It is designed to put a thumb on the scale in every election in America so that Democrats can turn a temporary majority into permanent control. It is an unparalleled political grab. I urge all my colleagues to oppose it.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), my good friend and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Madam Speaker, which is it? For 3 months, the Democrats told us the 2020 election was fine. There was no need for an investigation. It was flawless. But, today, they tell us we need to change election law with an 800-page bill. Think about it. We need all of this? 800 pages to fix a flawless election? Maybe something else is going on here.

Last year, COVID was the pretext for making changes to election law. Partisan courts and partisan secretaries of State went around State legislatures in an unconstitutional fashion and changed election law in some States,

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and now they want to make sure those unconstitutional changes in a few States become the law in all States. That is what this is about.

This isn't the first time Democrats have tried to have it both ways, talked out of both sides of their mouth. Remember what they said.

Democrats said: Republicans tried to overturn the will of the people on January 6, 2021, when we objected to six States.

But on January 6, 2017, they objected to ten states. The Democrat chair of the Rules Committee objected to Alabama, a State President Trump won by 30 points. The lead impeachment manager objected to Florida, and the chairwoman of the Financial Services Committee objected to Wyoming. For goodness sake, a State that President Trump won by 40 points. They tried to overturn the will of the people in Wyoming.

We know what this is about. This is about raw politics, and we should all vote “no.”

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. PALMER), the chair of the Republican Policy Committee and my good friend.

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, if my Democrat colleagues were serious about making elections fair and honest, they could do so by enforcing a law they passed, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

That law requires that every State and every county maintain accurate voter files. Yet, the Pew Research Center reported that there are 24 million people improperly registered. 1.8 million of them are dead. 2.7 million are registered in more than one State. The State of Michigan is 105 percent registered to vote, with 16 counties that are below 100 percent registered. Pennsylvania has over 800,000 inactive voters still on the State’s voter registration files, and Los Angeles County has 1.6 million more people registered to vote than live in the county who are qualified to vote.

There are 17 Democrat Members still serving in this Congress who voted for that law, including the Speaker and the majority leader. If you were serious about cleaning up our elections, you would have enforced the law.

As if the Federal takeover of elections isn’t enough, this bill would also force taxpayers to foot the bill for campaigns.

Just a few weeks ago, the majority stripped my colleagues, MARGORIE TAYLOR GREENE, of her committee assignments. This week, though, they seem to believe that even though she isn’t allowed to serve on any standing committees, she should receive taxpayer-financed campaign contributions.

But, dear colleagues, in this bill and what Representative GREENE has raised already, this bill would give her over $7 million. Every Democrat who voted to strip her of her committee assignments has cosponsored the bill that will send over $7 million of taxpayer money to fund her reelection.

If this bill passes, it will create a ruling class and tremendously undermine America’s system of self-government. In fact, this bill should be called for the permanent ruling class act.

No one who truly wants fair and honest elections, no one who wants people to have faith that their vote counts, will support this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, you can tell we have got some dedicated Members of Congress here to debate this bill. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO), my great friend and one of the newest Members of Congress.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, we are facing a growing public mistrust of our elections processes. In my district alone, over 800 ballots in Nassau County were sent out in the wrong names and wrong addresses. In the school board election this year, I received three ballots at my house, one for me and two for the people who moved out 10 years ago.

On election day, all over my district, in Ronkonkoma, Seafood, and Babylon, machines went down. Voters had to hand in their ballots, and then they were misplaced.

I think all of us can agree that legislative fixes are needed. But today, we are debating a bill, a partisan bill, whose sole aim is to secure a Democratic majority.

This bill doubles down on problems that we saw during the 2020 election. Expanding mail-in voting—part of the problem. Legalizing ballot harvesting—part of the problem. Eliminating State ID—now you are just asking for a problem. Expanding voter fraud—I can think of a million things that can be done before we fund elections.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL), my good friend and another freshman Member of our historic freshman class.

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of free speech. I rise today to protect our constituents’ taxpayer dollars.

This bill we are debating, H.R. 1, would federally mandate a 6-to-1 government match of contributions in congressional or presidential campaigns. That means for every $200 donated to the campaign, the Federal Government would match $1,200. That is $1,200 of our constituents’ hard-earned tax dollars sent to a campaign or candidate that they may not even agree with or believe in.

In the upcoming 2022 election cycle, that means up to $7.2 million of public funds, per candidate, would be given to the candidates. This is not how our government should be spending our taxpayers’ money.

H.R. 1 would also allow the IRS to investigate the political and policy background of organizations before granting tax-exempt status.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mrs. STEEL).

Mrs. STEEL. Madam Speaker, this is a slippery slope towards discrimination against organizations. I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, vote “no” on this disastrous piece of legislation. Obviously, the timekeeper didn’t keep the time right; I should have more.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, there have been a number of statements made on the floor today that were hair-on-fire inaccurate. Based on the formula in this bill and the voucher program, people have object to our tax dollars being spent. Well, here is the good news: There are no tax dollars being spent in this program. It is a pilot project that allows for matching grants to see whether small donors can actually empower more diversity and empower the voices of ordinary Americans as compared to the big interests.
could be used for anything else in the government. It is an additional penalty to corporations that have done wrong and are fined. There will be an additional fine to fund this pilot project.

I have heard that somehow H.R. 1 would allow us to go around them, pretending to be a social welfare group, whatever their ideology. It never made sense to preclude the IRS from doing this job. That would be like prohibiting the FEC from administering the Federal elections code.

Voter ID: Members act as if that is just a piece of cake. Well, 11 percent of eligible voters in the United States don’t have an ID, and they can’t get it because they don’t have the money to pay the $25 fee. Some of us recognize that that would be necessary to get that ID. And those 11 percent are disproportionately senior citizens, young people, people with disabilities, low-income voters. So what is the alternative? They sign under penalty of perjury. They can be prosecuted for a felony if they are lying.

Ballot harvesting: There is no such thing as harvesting ballots. It is about getting someone you trust to turn in your ballot for you if you can’t do it yourself. We have had that in California for many years. I will note that Republican candidates used that extensively in California this year. There was no evidence of fraud when they did it, and there was no evidence of fraud when Democrats did it. You give your ballot to your neighbor, if you wish. The neighbor has to sign, and they turn it in for you. That is not fraud, and it is not a problem.

I just want to address the issue of so-called Federal overreach. The Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 4 says this: “The times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the legislature thereof.” But here is the important next section, “but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations.” And that is what we are doing in H.R. 1.

I think it is interesting that earlier this year the Republican Study Committee endorsed the Save Democracy Act. That legislation would establish national standards for prohibiting automatic voter registration, to make it hard to cast a ballot, to impose restrictive rules on vote tabulation, do I guess that overreach only matters to my colleagues if it empowers voters, not if it restricts voters.

For too long, this Chamber has been silent, and this silence has harmed the people we need to stop that silence and vote ‘yes’ on H.R. 1.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to H.R. 1 and my great disappointment that the Majority refused to allow my commonsense amendments to be offered to this bill. This bill was written behind closed doors and through Members of Congress have no votes to improve this bill only 56 were allowed to be offered on the House floor. That is a travesty for Congress and the American people who want and deserve honest and transparent elections.

While serving in the Florida Senate I was tasked with reviewing election laws following the 2000 election and chaos that ensued. Having tackled election reform in the aftermath of an uncertain election, I know firsthand how important it is to restore confidence and eliminate existing grey areas that may lead to the confusion situations about fairness.

Events surrounding the 2020 election raised questions from my constituents about the operation and certification of voting machines used throughout our state and the nation. Chief among those concerns was whether our voting machines, tied to the internet, were subject to counting using foreign equipment and vulnerable to manipulation through hacking. To answer these and other questions I contacted the U.S. Election Assistance Commission which certifies voting hardware and software for users.

In her letter to me, the Inspector General of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission addressed this topic stating that the “EAC believes Michigan may use modern transmission features in at least some of its Dominion voting systems.” This is in direct conflict with assertions by the maker of the Dominion Voting System who stated, “there is no such thing as ballot harvesting. This is a design feature meant to be used as closed systems that are not networked meaning they are not connected to the Internet.”

To end the confusion on this issue and restore confidence in our system, I filed an amendment that would prohibit voting systems from being connected to the Internet; specifically, stating that no system or device upon which ballots are programmed or votes are cast or tabulated shall be connected to the Internet at any time. That would ensure the integrity of voting machines. Unfortunately, that amendment was not allowed to be debated and voted on.

My second amendment would ensure that election machines are fully auditable—no longer would election officials and election equipment providers deny full audits of elections due to proprietary software or hardware. The American people have a right to a full audit of any election to ensure the full integrity of elections. There is no good reason to oppose this amendment but, again, it was not allowed to be debated and voted on.

And, my third amendment would have prohibited the systems produced by a foreign entity. It would also require all components of the voting systems be manufactured and maintained in the United States. Why should the votes of the American people be subject to counting using foreign equipment when that equipment is not connected to the Internet? My amendments would ban all three of these things.

By denying elected Members of Congress a vote on these amendments, Speaker PELOSI decided against providing full transparency and accountability in our federal elections. This partisan bill should be rejected.

Mr. PALMER. Madam Speaker, if my Democratic colleagues were serious about making elections fair and honest they would start by enforcing a law they passed—The National Voter Registration Act of 1993. That law requires that every state and every county maintain accurate voter files. Yet the Pew Research Center reported that there are 24 million people improperly registered. . . . 1.8 million, 2.7 million who voted in more than one state. The state of Michigan is 105 percent registered to vote with sixteen counties with voter registration between 110–119 percent.

The University of Pennsylvania has over 800,000 inactive voters still on the state’s voter registration files and Los Angeles County had 1.6 million more people registered to vote than people living in the county who are qualified to vote. The failure to maintain accurate voter files is an invitation for election fraud. If my Democratic colleagues are serious about restoring confidence in our elections they should be pushing states to comply with the law. There are 17 Democrat members still serving in this Congress who voted for the National Voter Registration Act including the Speaker and the Majority Leader. Why aren’t they pushing for cleaning up our voter registration files in every state?

As if the federal takeover of elections wasn’t enough, this bill would also force taxpayers to foot the bill for campaigns. Just a few weeks ago Majority stripped Rep. MARJORE TAYLOR GREENE of her committee assignments. This week they seem to believe that though she isn’t allowed to serve on any standing committees she should receive taxpayer funded campaign contributions. Based on the formula in the bill, Rep. GREENE has raised already this bill would give her over $7 million. Every Democrat who voted to strip Rep. GREENE of her committees has also co-sponsored the bill that would send over 7 million dollars to fund her re-election.

If this bill passes it will create a ruling class and tremendously undermine Americans’ right to self-government. In fact, this bill should be called the For The Permanent Ruling Class Act. No one who truly wants fair and honest elections, No one who wants the American people to trust our election system, No one who believes that these vote counts, will vote for this bill.

Ms. ESHOO. H.R. 1, For the People Act, is one of the most important bills Congress can consider because it strengthens and reforms our democracy at a time in history when it is especially fragile. This sweeping legislation is divided into three sections: voting, campaign finance, and ethics. Its numerous provisions expand voting rights, diminish the corrosive influence of money in politics, and bolster ethics and transparency to ensure government works for the people.

Voting is a fundamental right in a democracy, and H.R. 1 will expand voter rolls by requiring every state to adopt automatic and same-day voter registration, just as California has. The bill ends partisan gerrymandering by requiring states to adopt independent redistricting commissions and makes it easier to vote by expanding early voting and allowing every American to vote by mail, just as millions did last November during the pandemic. H.R. 1 reforms our campaign finance system to address the disastrous Citizens United decision that opened the floodgates to unlimited contributions from anonymous donors. The legislation establishes a public Fair Elections Fund to match small dollar donations,
It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on House Administration or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of House Report 117–9, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their respective designees. Each amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA
Ms. LOFGREN, Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 179, I offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendments Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 21, printed in part B of House Report 117–9, offered by Ms. LOFGREN of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. SCALONI OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 169, insert after line 14 the following: "(3) COLLEGE CAMPUSES.—The State shall ensure that polling places which allow voting during an early voting period under subsection (a) will be located on campuses of institutions of higher education in the State.".

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 222, line 22, insert "(a) including initiatives to facilitate the enfranchisement of groups of individuals that have historically faced barriers to voting" before the period.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 94, after line 21, insert the following: (2) a description of how the agency will prioritize access to such initiatives for schools that serve—

(A) the highest numbers or percentages of students counted under section 1121c(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.);

(B) the highest percentages of students who are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) (which, in the case of a high school, may be calculated using comparable data from the schools that feed into the high school), as compared to other public schools in the jurisdiction of the agency;

Page 94, line 22, strike "(a)" and insert "(b)".

Page 94, line 24, strike "(a)" and insert "(b)".

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. ADAMS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 223, line 13, insert "of the funds appropriated, the Secretary shall ensure that 25 percent is reserved for Minority Institutions described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067(a)).".

Page 119, beginning line 15, strike "based on the race" and insert "based on the age, race".

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. BOURDEAUX OF GEORGIA

Page 184, insert after line 6 the following and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly:

(a) Prohibiting Certain Restrictions on Access to Voting Materials—

(1) DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS BY THIRD PARTIES.—A State may not prohibit any person from providing an application for an absentee ballot in the election to any individual who is eligible to vote in the election.

(2) UNSOLICITED PROVISION OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS BY ELECTION OFFICIALS.—A State may not prohibit an election official from providing an unsolicited application to register to vote in an election for Federal office to any individual who is eligible to register to vote in the election.

Page 251, insert after line 18 the following:

(3) The State shall ensure that the number of drop boxes provided is sufficient to provide a reasonable opportunity for voters to submit their voted ballots in a timely manner.

Page 252, line 9, strike "and".

Page 253, line 13, strike the period and insert "."

Page 253, insert after line 13 the following:

(6) geographically distributed to provide a reasonable opportunity for voters to submit their voted ballot in a timely manner.

Page 253, insert after line 13 the following and redesignate the succeeding provision accordingly:

(i) REMOTE SURVEILLANCE PERMITTED.—The State may provide for the security of drop boxes through remote or electronic surveillance.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. BRENDAN F. BOYLE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 88, after line 8, insert the following:

SEC. 1055. PERMISSION TO PLACE EXHIBITS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall implement procedures to allow the chief election officer of a State to provide information about voter registration, including through a display or exhibit, after the conclusion of an administrative naturalization ceremony in that State.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

Page 45, insert after line 13 the following and redesignate the succeeding provision accordingly:

SEC. 1006. PERMITTING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION FORM TO SERVE AS APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Section 5(c)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of subparagraph (D);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting "; "; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:
“(F) at the option of the applicant, shall serve as an application to vote by absentee ballot in the next election for Federal office held in the State and in each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State.”

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. RUSH OF MISSOURI
Page 250, line 9, strike ‘‘and’’.
Page 250, line 11, strike the period and insert ‘‘; and’’.
Page 250, insert after line 11 the following: ‘‘(C) by homeless individuals (as defined in section 103 of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 11302)) of the State.’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. CASE OF HAWAII
At the end of subtitle I of title I, insert the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 1264. STUDY AND REPORT ON VOTE-BY-MAIL PROCEDURES.

(a) Study.—The Election Assistance Commission shall conduct a study on the 2020 elections and compile a list of recommendations to—

(1) help States transitioning to vote-by-mail procedures;

(2) improve their current vote-by-mail systems.

(b) Report.—Not later than January 1, 2022, the Election Assistance Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Page 681, line 2, strike ‘‘or’’.
Page 681, line 7, strike the period and insert ‘‘;’’.
Page 681, insert after line 7 the following: ‘‘(C) in the case of an individual who becomes an agent of a foreign principal that would require registration under section 2 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612), before the date on which such individual becomes such an agent of a foreign principal.’’.

Page 681, line 14, strike ‘‘1995’’ and insert the following: ‘‘1995, or, in the case of an individual described in subparagraph (C) of such paragraph, the date on which the individual becomes a registered agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended’’.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. CARPENETI OF NEW JERSEY

After subtitle H of title III, insert the following (and redesignate the succeeding subtitle accordingly):

Subtitle I—Study and Report on Bots

SEC. 3801. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Bots Research Act”.

SEC. 3802. TASK FORCE.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission, in consultation with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, shall establish a task force to carry out the study and report required under section 3803.

(b) NUMER AND APPOINTMENT.—The task force shall be comprised of the following:

(1) At least 1 expert representing the Government;

(2) At least 1 expert representing academia;

(3) At least 1 expert representing non-profit organizations;

(4) At least 1 expert representing the social media industry;

(5) At least 1 election official.

(6) Any other expert that the Commission determines appropriate.

(c) REGISTRATION.—The Commission shall select task force members to serve by virtue of their expertise in automation technology.

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall appoint the members of the task force.

(e) COMPENSATION.—Members of the task force shall serve without pay and shall not receive travel expenses.

(f) TASK FORCE SUPPORT.—The Commission shall ensure appropriate staff and officials of the Commission are available to support any task force-related work.

SEC. 3803. STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The task force established in this subtitle shall conduct a study of the impact of automated accounts on social media, public discourse, and elections. Such study shall include an assessment of—

(1) what qualifies as a bot or automated account;

(2) the extent to which automated accounts are used;

(3) how the automated accounts are used;

(4) how to most effectively combat any use of automated accounts that negatively effects social media, public discourse, and elections while continuing to promote the protection of the First Amendment on the Internet.

(b) TASK FORCE CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the requirements of this section, the task force shall, at a minimum—

(1) the promotion of technological innovation;

(2) the protection of First Amendment and other constitutional rights of social media users;

(3) the need to improve cybersecurity to ensure the integrity of elections; and

(4) the importance of continuously reviewing relevant regulations to ensure that such regulations respond effectively to changes in technology.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the task force, the task force shall develop and submit to Congress and relevant Federal agencies the results and conclusions of the study conducted under subsection (a).

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

Page 397, insert after line 7 the following:

SEC. 3306. EXEMPTION OF CYBERSECURITY ASSISTANCE FROM LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF COORDINATED POLITICAL PARTY EXPENDITURES.

(a) Exemption.—Section 315(d)(5) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking ‘‘(5)’’ and inserting ‘‘(5)(A);’’;

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting ‘‘, or to expenditures (whether provided as funds or provided as in-kind services) to provide information communications technology or for a cybersecurity product or service for any other product or service which assists in responding to threats or harassment online, or for a cybersecurity product or service which assists in responding to threats or harassment online, or for any other product or service which assists in responding to threats or harassment online’’;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

‘‘(B) In subparagraph (A)—

(i) the term ‘secure information communications technology’ means a commercial-off-the-shelf computing device which has been configured to restrict unauthorized access and uses publicly-available baseline configurations; and

(ii) the term ‘cybersecurity product or service’ means a product or service which helps an organization to achieve the set of standards, guidelines, best practices, methodologies, procedures, and processes to cost-effectively identify, detect, protect, respond to, and recover from cyber risks as developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology pursuant to subsections (c)(15) and (e) of section 2 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272).’’.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to expenditures made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROYDNE DAVIS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bloc of amendments provides important additions to H.R. 1 that strengthen the bill and enhance voter access.

This bloc includes, for example, an amendment from the gentleman from Pennsylvania that requires States to ensure that there are polling places during the early voting period on college campuses. This will help young people to engage and will likely help boost youth turnout.

It also includes an amendment from the gentleman from North Carolina that will help ensure the timely delivery of absentee ballots by the Postal Service. It calls for the Postal Service to perform same-day processing of ballots when they are received at a postal facility.

Also included is an amendment from the gentleman from Georgia that supports access to the franchise. It implements voter protections by ensuring that States cannot prohibit access to voting materials provided by third parties, such as get-out-the-vote organizations.

There is also an amendment from the gentleman from Pennsylvania that allows for voter education information at naturalization ceremonies for newly sworn-in citizens. That will help educate and inform new citizens about the opportunities to register to vote.

Finally, there is an amendment from the gentleman from Texas that exempts cybersecurity assistance, including assistance in responding to threats or harassment online, from limits on coordinated political party expenditures.

Madam Speaker, I support these amendments. I urge their adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARVER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, you have sold me on our side to this bill. I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my good friend, since we ran out of debate time on general debate.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this bloc of amendments relaxes ethics requirements with a change in administration. It forces taxpayers to subsidize elections and election outreach. It compromises...
States’ rights and leaves Washington as the arbiter of managing elections, which runs against the Constitution. It would limit free speech and weaken the First Amendment protections that everyone here holds in such high regard.

This legislation compromises State voter laws, an area that historically has been seen by both parties to roll back the important work that has been done in this space. It alters the Federal Election Commission’s makeup and effectively limits any bipartisan consensus or work that can be done.

This partisan bill intended to unite the country and mend concerns about elections. No, this is another partisan package that was rushed to the floor and, subsequently, could have serious consequences for our constituents and our Nation.

This bill will weaken what many States are doing to improve election security and establishes a dangerous precedent for the involvement of Federal agencies in election issues.

For example, requiring Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the underlying bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS), a new Class A Representative whose state has two amendments encompassed in this en bloc amendment.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act, to restore integrity and ethics in our electoral process.

To strengthen the bill, I have offered two amendments to empower younger generations to work together to tackle the challenges that will define our lifetimes. Climate change, gun violence, and reproductive rights energize and galvanize younger Americans. The right to vote is how they are heard and how they make change. My amendments will expand and protect this right for young people.

The For the People Act must live up to its name, and I am proud to offer these amendments that reinforce the importance of a democracy that brings all Americans, regardless of age, race, gender identity, or income, to the ballot box to cast their votes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GONZALES), my good friend, who, in spite of once being an Ohio State Buckeye and an Indian, it took him coming to Congress to finally win a football championship.

Mr. GONZALES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this en bloc amendment and H.R. 1, the so-called For the People Act. It is absurd to know exactly where to begin when considering how misguided this bill truly is. If this bill becomes law, we will have nationwide universal mail-in ballotting, ballot harvesting, and taxpayer-funded elections where for every dollar of contribution from an individual, the Federal Government will kick in $6. Additionally, this bill eliminates the voter ID laws in all 50 States and effectively eliminates signature matching.

The sad truth is that there are things that we could be doing on a bipartisan basis to improve our election process. In the last Congress, many of my Democratic colleagues supported auditing and election results. I do not believe we could find genuine compromise on that important point.

It is for all these reasons and many, many more that I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1.

Madam Speaker, I would like to remind my friend from Illinois that if it weren’t for my participation, I don’t know that we would have won that game.

Mrs. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. The gentleman is right. We really did enjoy having him on that bipartisan congressional football championship team.

Madam Speaker, 1 1/4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE), another star member of this freshman class.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this act–package of amendments. These amendments continue to go down a path that is partisan and unnecessary.

I also strongly oppose the underlying bill, H.R. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1 would retract the hard work that States such as Oklahoma have done to improve our election laws.

When I served in the Oklahoma State Legislature, we implemented requirements to ensure the security of our elections in our State. However, H.R. 1 includes a Federal mandate that would take away the ability of States to oversee and manage their own elections.

Madam Speaker, I include in the Record the letter from Ziriax, the secretary of the Oklahoma State Election Board, in which he raises serious concerns that H.R. 1 would supersede most of Oklahoma’s election laws.


To the Honorable Members of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation: As Oklahoma’s chief election official, I am writing to make you aware of my concerns regarding H.R. 1, as introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, and its U.S. Senate companion, S. 1.

H.R. 1’s election administration component would result in an unnecessary federal takeover of election administration policy across the nation’s 50 States. It is the Administration goal of this legislation is to “overcome rampant voter suppression”—yet I have seen no evidence of such rampant “suppression” here in our state.

H.R. 1 would supersede most of Oklahoma’s election administration and election integrity laws, making our secure, more complicated to administer, and much more expensive to conduct. Although H.R. 1 claims to only apply to “federal” elections, this legislation also applies to State and county elections because Oklahoma’s state and county elections are held on the same dates as federal elections.

Although the concerns with H.R. 1 are too numerous to provide an exhaustive list in this letter, there are some fairly amazing levels of micromanagement of elections in this legislation: from requiring “self-sealing” return envelopes, to setting the number of days of “early” voting, to mandating that new state voting systems be capable of “ranked choice” elections, to dictating how close voting locations must be to public transportation stops.

H.R. 1 is incompatible with many of Oklahoma’s existing state laws. For example, Oklahoma law requires that federal elections must be certified one week after the date of the election. But H.R. 1 disregards such deadlines, requiring states to do it in 45 days. Oklahoma’s State and county elections might take years—yet H.R. 1 demands that dozens of major new election administration changes be implemented even a few of its major provisions might take years—yet H.R. 1 demands that dozens of major new election administration policies and technologies be put in place in a short amount of time for the 2022 election. This is setting up election officials for failure, and I fear that many experienced election administrators in our state may quit or retire rather than attempting the near-impossible task of implementing the provisions of H.R. 1 should it become law. There are legitimate disagreements about election policies. In fact, most states have very different election procedures. This is by design. Under the Constitution and our federal system of government, it is the responsibility of State Legislatures to determine the time, manner and place of elections. Congress should not attempt to implement a one-size-fits-all set of rules for the States. For this reason, it seems likely that the enactment of H.R. 1 would almost certainly lead to costly and lengthy litigation. The process would likely delay the general election.

If you or your staff would like to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Ziriax, Secretary, Oklahoma State Election Board.

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the Constitution is clear that...
States prescribe the time, places, and manner of holding elections.

While the majority claims that this is a bill to reform our political system, the reality is that the changes in this bill would likely lead to a greater incidence of voter fraud and would deprive States of the authority to oversee the administration of their own elections.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. It is interesting that during this same debate 2 years ago, we had many in the majority come talk about this bill. I would say they must feel a little bit different this time.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1⁄2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), another mediocre—I mean, a star freshman of our historic class and my good friend.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, I rise in objection to H.R. 1, the so-called For the People Act.

Contrary to the title, the bill puts politicians ahead of the American people and codifies nationwide election changes made last year that shook the faith of Americans in the integrity of our elections.

When Americans vote, they put faith in the idea that our system of government gives them a voice in our democracy. If this faith is betrayed and Americans become skeptical of their vote, the trust our system is built upon will collapse, and they do not want it to collapse.

The bill would take us down this very path of losing trust by taking constitutionally granted authority out of the hands of the States and local officials and destroying the safeguards of election integrity.

For example, not only would this bill do nothing to address ballot harvesting, but it would take the practice nationwide. We have seen the irregularities created by this practice and how ballot harvesting allows manipulation and intimidation in several elections across this country.

In the 2020 election, this happened in Wisconsin, where ballot harvesting is not supposed to be permitted. In those instances, voter registration and absentee ballots were completed and collected in unsecured outdoor areas prior to the date allowed under State law.

I am also proud to have implemented strong voter ID laws during my time in the Wisconsin Legislature. Unfortunately, over the past year, I saw those protections steamrolled under the guise of the pandemic, allowing over 200,000 voters to submit a ballot without showing an ID.

This bill would permanently open the floodgates by forcing States to allow individuals to vote without an ID simply by signing a statement, effectively banning State voter ID laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD), another mediocre—I mean, a star freshman of our historic class and my good friend.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam Speaker, as elected officials, we have a duty to maintain the faith of our voters in the integrity of our electoral system.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, I urge a "no" vote on this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, here we are again with more Federal election mandates that the majority would impose on our States and localities. Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution gives States the primary authority to set the "times, places, and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives."

Congress‘ role in this space is purely secondary and only for correcting highly significant and substantial deficiencies. We saw nothing in 2020 that would rise to the level of a complete and total nationalization of our election system.

To give you some sense of the level of control the majority feels it should exert over our elections, amendments in this en bloc would mandate even the positioning of ballot drop boxes and polling locations. It would also mandate voters‘ requests for absentee ballots and the methods used for recruiting poll workers.

The underlying bill would require States to provide 15 days of early voting at 10 hours a day, even in States that conduct their elections completely by mail.

The underlying bill would regulate the amount of time a voter could wait in line to vote. Here is the deal: No one wants any voter to wait in a long line to vote, but setting aside the constitutional issues, I do really think this body can make a one-size-fits-all decision that works for the unique people who live in each of our diverse 50 States?

This provision, coupled with the bill‘s private right of action, would simply set up a stopwatch stakeout at polling locations for ambulance-chasing trial attorneys.

States run elections in this country. I urge each of my colleagues to speak for our local officials and local election officials. Learn from the people who actually administer elections. State and local election administrators know best the needs of their voting populations.

I speak with secretaries of state from across the country regularly to keep up to date on election issues. Just last week, at the only hearing held in this Congress on the underlying bill, the minority called the only witness who actually administer elections to testify.

So I know many of my colleagues could benefit from learning more about their State‘s election processes.

For these reasons, I urge a "no" vote on these amendments and the underlying bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 1⁄2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH), a new Member of Congress and a member of the House Judiciary Committee, who I serve with.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, St. Louis and I rise today in support of the en bloc amendment to H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

Our country‘s unhoused community members are criminalized, disregarded, and demonized. I have been unhoused and, in those bleak days, I felt as though my own government had forsaken me.

My amendment to expand voting access to our unhoused community is rooted in love, a love that says you do not need an address for your vote to matter.

We must ensure our unhoused community members and our neighbors are protected from States that want to suppress their votes.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I see we have a new clock watcher. How much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri has 1 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we can‘t say much more about how bad this bill is. Just the distortions, the mistruths, and just obvious malicious errors coming from the majority about what this bill does is frustrating.

Last Congress, when this bill was introduced, this bill started funding Members of Congress‘ campaigns with taxpayer dollars. And back then, under the 2018 calculations, every Member of Congress was only eligible to get about $4 million added to their campaign accounts.

Now, if you look at the top 20, 11 Democrats make up the top 20, and 9 Republicans, in disbursements over the 2020 cycle. Every single Member of this body is eligible through the 6-to-1 matching program to get $7.2 million.

No matter what Speaker PELOSI says, no matter what the majority says—they can tell you it is not true—read the bill. It is in the bill.

They are going to say, well, it is not taxpayer dollars. Let me go through the process. It is corporate money, corporate dollars that we cannot get in our campaigns right now that is then taken from corporations who, in their name, are bad actors.

Remember, Congress sets the level of funding. And a lot of these fines already go to good causes, like crime victim funds, rape crisis centers. They are going to get shortchanged because that
money is taken from corporate fines that are corporate dollars laundered through the Federal Government. This money comes out as public money, taxpayer dollars, and then it is given directly to Members of Congress’ campaign.

Madam Speaker, a vote for this bill is a vote for you, yourself, $7.2 million in your own campaign.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Just a few points. As I am sure the gentlewoman from California knows, we had a markup last year on H.R. 1, and one of the issues raised was the propriety of having taxpayer dollars fund the pilot program, the matching program. And we agreed—we agreed with that observation. So we changed it. We made an amendment to address that concern.

It is not an additional—an existing fund. If a corporation does wrong and is assessed a fine, there is an additional fine that that bad-doing corporation that would fund the pilot project. And if there aren’t enough bad-doers to actually fully fund the program, the program is scaled back. There is no taxpayer money in this program.

Those are some of the things in this bill that address things that are important. And let me just reference the letter from the attorneys general that I included in the RECORD earlier. We are talking about what is happening right now, and this is what they state:

"...State legislators have seized upon former President Trump’s baseless voter fraud allegations to curtail mail-in voting options, impose stringent voter ID requirements, limit voter registration opportunities, and allow even more aggressive purging of voter rolls. In the wake of a safe and secure election, which enabled greater levels of voter participation than in over a century, we should be building on this progress, not dismantling it."

And that is what this act would do. They go on to say:

"The act includes several measures that would neutralize these cynical efforts at voter suppression."

Madam Speaker, I think we should recognize that what is going on in State legislatures around the United States right now is, in fact, what the attorneys general have said, a cynical effort to limit voter access, because we have the greatest voter turnout in American history with the new tools that the pandemic actually led us to: a broader opportunity to cast your vote by absentee, a broader opportunity to vote early.

We had great turnout. And I don’t know in the end which party will benefit when more Americans vote.

Could it be the Republicans? Could it be the Democrats?

I don’t know. But I do know this: Who will win is America. America wins when all Americans have a chance to cast their vote.

So, once again, I would like to thank the attorneys general of Maryland, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, and Washington for standing up for the rule of law, for pointing out that H.R. 1 lead to clean elections, and that American democracy needs repairing, and this bill will repair it.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the en bloc amendments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Lofgren).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced the results of the vote on the amendments en bloc.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(a) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. Lofgren. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 179, I rise to offer amendments en bloc No. 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments in this bill that address things that are important. And let me just reference the letter from the attorneys general that I included in the RECORD earlier. We are talking about what is happening right now, and this is what they stated:

"...State legislators have seized upon former President Trump’s baseless voter fraud allegations to curtail mail-in voting options, impose stringent voter ID requirements, limit voter registration opportunities, and allow even more aggressive purging of voter rolls. In the wake of a safe and secure election, which enabled greater levels of voter participation than in over a century, we should be building on this progress, not dismantling it."

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We had great turnout. And I don’t know in the end which party will benefit when more Americans vote.

Could it be the Republicans? Could it be the Democrats?

I don’t know. But I do know this: Who will win is America. America wins when all Americans have a chance to cast their vote.

SEC. 1006. REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on local, state, and Federal online voter registration systems, the cybersecurity resources necessary to defend such systems from online attacks, and the impact of a potential data breach of local, state, or Federal voter online registration systems.

AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY MR. COMER OF KENTUCKY

Strike section 8022 and insert the following:

SEC. 8022. PROCEDURE FOR WAIVERS AND AUTHORIZATIONS RELATING TO ETHICS REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after an officer or employee issues or approves a waiver or authorization pursuant to section 3 of Executive Order No. 13770 (82 Fed. Reg. 9333), or any subsequent similar order, such officer or employee shall—

(1) transmit a written copy of such waiver or authorization to the Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and

(2) make a written copy of such waiver or authorization available to the public on the website of the employing agency of the covered employee.

AMENDMENT TO BE OFFERED BY MR. ARMSTRONG OF NORTH DAKOTA

Page 266, after line 7, insert the following:

SEC. 1934. CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTION FOR STATES WITHOUT VOTER REGISTRATION.

To the extent that any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title imposes a requirement on a State relating to registering individuals to vote in elections for Federal office, such provision shall not apply in the case of any State in which, under law that is in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, there is no voter registration requirement for any voter in the State with respect to an election for Federal office.

AMENDMENT TO NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. ARMSTRONG OF NORTH DAKOTA

Page 268, after line 7, insert the following (and redesignate subsequent sections appropriately):

SEC. 1707. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT ON VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT.

Not later than 1 year of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the impact of widespread mail-in voting on the ability of active duty military servicemembers to vote, how quickly their votes are counted, and whether higher volumes of mail-in votes makes it harder for such individuals to vote in federal elections.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. BURGESS OF TEXAS

Page 45, after line 13, insert the following (and redesignate subsequent sections accordingly):

SEC. 8052. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ETHICS PROGRAM.

The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—

(1) in section 3(f), by adding at the end the following:

"(3) Not later than 10 days after submitting an application for a security clearance for any individual, and not later than 10 days after such individual is granted a security clearance (including an interim clearance), each eligible candidate (as that term
is described in subsection (b)(4)(A) or the President-elect (as the case may be) shall submit a report containing the name of such individual to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

"(2) in section 6(b)—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by striking "and" at the end;
(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
and
(iii) by adding at the end the following:
"(C) a list of all positions each transition team member has held outside the Federal Government for the previous 12-month period, including paid and unpaid positions."

"(D) sources of compensation for each transition team member exceeding $5,000 a year for the previous 12-month period;

"(E) a description of the role of each transition team member, including a list of any policy issues that the member expects to work on, and a list of agencies the member expects to interact with, while serving on the transition team;

"(F) a list of any issues from which each transition team member will be recused while serving as a member of the transition team and the intended data breach of local, State, or Federal online voter registration systems."

Additionally, there is an amendment directing the Election Assistance Commission to study the use of blockchain technology to enhance election security. I hope that study will include the use of electricity in the creation of blockchain technology.

Much of H.R. 1’s provisions are aimed at restoring the American public’s faith in the government by improving ethics standards imposed on public officials.

An amendment included in this en bloc would require ethics waivers granted by Congress to the executive branch officials to be disclosed, and require members of the Presidential transition team to disclose nongovernmental positions they have held in the year prior to starting their service on the transition team.

I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for putting forward these amendments, and I believe it will gather bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), my colleague.

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members, on a bipartisan basis, to support this amendment.

When reviewing H.R. 1 as introduced this Congress, I noticed it was missing several ethics provisions that were included in the bill last Congress when Donald Trump was President. But now that Joe Biden is President, those ethics provisions conveniently disappeared.

What was missing from this updated version of H.R. 1 were the following provisions:

- Requirements that Presidential transition teams disclose sources of compensation for each transition team member exceeding $5,000 a year for the previous 12-month period, including paid and unpaid positions.

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well, now we are in 2021, and the only State in the country that doesn’t have voter registration is the State of North Dakota. So as this process has been going on and the different flights that exists, which I agree with my colleagues on this side of the aisle on a lot of these issues, I find ourselves in a fairly unique position in that the intent of what people are trying to do with this bill would have actually made it more difficult in a lot of cases in North Dakota for how we do things.

We have a quirky history of elections system. I will just tell you, when I served in the State legislature, I was the chair of the State Senate Judiciary Committee, which was in charge of election law. And North Dakotans are very proud of it. I also served as the State party chair for 3 years, so I was very frustrated by the fact that we didn’t have voter registration. So even in my own background, I had conflicting views on this.

Madam Speaker, I just appreciate the ability of everybody working together because this is really important to my State, and it would fundamentally alter things, and not in a good way.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my colleague.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the recognition.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 1, Burgess amendment No. 12, which would require the Attorney General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on the impact of widespread mail-in voting on the ability of Active Duty military servicemembers to vote, how quickly their votes could be counted, and whether the higher volumes of mail-in votes makes it harder for those individuals to vote in national elections.

America’s servicemembers put their lives on the line to protect our country and everything it stands for. We must ensure their voices are heard in our elections. If the majority has their way, with the underlying bill in permanently expanding mail-in voting, Congress must first know that such policies won’t negatively impact those we rely on to ensure that our voices are heard in the first place.

A second amendment, Burgess amendment No. 13, would require a report on voter data collection efforts at local, State, and Federal levels, and make the resources necessary to defend such efforts from cyberattacks and the impact of potential data breaches of local, State, or Federal online voter registration systems.

H.R. 1, the underlying bill, includes the Voter Registration Modernization Act, which requires that all Americans have access to online voter registration, a significant expansion of this service in many parts of the country. Online voter registration can be quick, easy, and convenient. It also poses significant risks for those same citizens by increasing the cyber-infrastructure requirements at all levels of government and introduces cybersecurity challenges in areas that have not previously had online registration.

We are all familiar with the concept, if it goes on a network, it can be hacked. Data breaches pose a real threat to Americans’ privacy, to their financial security. We have seen time and again how poor digital hygiene, or insufficient cybersecurity, have created new vulnerabilities to Americans’ personally identifiable information.

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve to know how this mandate in the underlying bill will impact their local voting systems and their personal privacy. Many areas of the United States have successfully implemented online voter registration, and that could be great for those voters. However, many election jurisdictions, and even some States, do not have adequate infrastructure or resources to ensure proper protection of the personally identifiable information that is required to be collected to register to vote.

This amendment would provide our constituents information to either provide a sense of security that their voter data will be properly protected or will serve as a warning as to how this could impact their voting system.

Madam Speaker, I urge an “aye” on both votes.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, although I do not support the underlying bill, H.R. 1, these five amendments brought before us improve what is otherwise a bad bill. I think these studies would be helpful, in particular, to our servicemembers.

And we recognize the unique position the State of North Dakota has in our system.

Madam Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on the en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, as I said in my opening remarks, we believe these amendments are reasonable ones. I support them, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORgren).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. BUSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 117-9.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 141, line 19, strike “unless such individual is serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution or facility at the time of the election”;

Page 143, line 9 and all that follows through page 144, line 2 and insert the following:

(2) DATE OF NOTIFICATION.—The notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which the individual is sentenced for the offense involved.

Page 145, strike lines 1 through 8 and insert the following:

(1) in the case of any individual committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, on the date in which the individual is sentenced.

Page 146, strike lines 17 through 24 (and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, Mr. STEIL of Missouri, and I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 1, the For the People Act, which would restore the right to vote to our community members serving sentences for felony convictions.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Congressman Jones for this partnership.

Madam Speaker, America does not love all of its people, and we see that. Right now, more than 5 million people are legally barred from participating in our elections as a result of criminal laws. That is, 1 in 44 Americans, 500,000 Latinx Americans, 1.2 million women, and 1 in 6 Black folks.

Madam Speaker, this cannot continue. Disenfranchising our own citizens, it is not justice.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN).

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUS) for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I would just like to note that the underlying bill provides that once individuals are re-enfranchised, they may vote. And H.R. 1 also ends the practice of so-called prison gerrymandering, where persons who are incarcerated are counted where they are incarcerated not in their home districts, even though they cannot vote there.

Now, I know different people have different viewpoints on this amendment. The committee Democrats have no official position, but speaking just personally, I feel there is merit to this amendment. If you’re going to count the individuals for redistricting purposes in their prisons, then I think they have to be allowed to vote there, or else that entire scheme is completely wrong.

Madam Speaker, further, it occurs to me that those who oppose it think that denying a vote would somehow be a deterrent to criminal conduct. In fact,
empowering people to be full citizens encourages rehabilitation.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), my colleague and good friend.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, may I have an additional 30 seconds?

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. Murphy), who is my colleague and good friend.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, there isn’t enough time to talk about all of the crazy things in this bill, so I am going to focus on the one provision I think takes the cake and something that should have been put in this bill.

The bill before us today, when I am calling the politician enrichment act, will force American taxpayers to fund partisan political ads.

You heard that right. Mr. and Mrs. America. All those negative, mud-slinging campaign ads you see on TV every election cycle—the ones you can’t stand—well, now you have to pay for them, too. In fact, you get to chip in $6 of your money for every $1 the politicians raise.

How is that for the swamp taking care of its own?

But, wait, there is more: This new taxpayer-funded gravy train will expand a loophole in campaign finance law that is already big enough to drive a fully-loaded Brinks truck through.

Madam Speaker, thanks to a generous carve-out in Federal law, Members of Congress are able to funnel campaign ads to the public—without their personal bank accounts by simply hiring their spouses as campaign consultants.

In fact, one high profile Member of the body—this body—exploited this loophole to the tune of $2.8 million in the last election cycle.

You think it is bad now, Joe and Jane Taxpayer? Just wait until you see how bad it gets when you are paying for them. Too, in fact, you get to chip in $6 of your money for every $1 the politicians raise.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I filed an amendment with the Committee on Rules to close this loophole, one based on a bipartisan proposal introduced by Mr. SCHIFF and supported by Mr. HOYER, Mr. CLYBURN, and Speaker PELOSI in the 110th Congress. But the Committee on Rules chose not to allow us to vote on that amendment today.

I wonder why?

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 1/2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I rise to vindicate the right to vote as precisely that, a constitutional right, not a privilege, a right.

It is a travesty that our Nation’s laws do not fully protect the right to vote. The reason, of course, is white supremacy. Over 150 years ago, during Reconstruction, we tried to build a multiracial democracy in this country. For the first time, Black people won seats in this very Chamber, but white supremacists will not let it be. So, unlike today’s Republican Party, they devised ways to deny Black people the right to vote.

Madam Speaker, thanks to the 15th Amendment, they could not expressly bar Black people from voting, so they barred prisoners from voting. Then they invented excuses to put Black people in those prisons. It took 70 years for a Black candidate to win a seat in this Congress from the South again.

These Jim Crow laws remain on the books. They are why over 5 million incarcerated people are barred from voting. These people look like me. They are parents. They are children. They fall in love. They make mistakes just like we do. They are citizens of the United States of America just like we are, and they deserve the right to vote.

Ms. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. Murphy), who is my colleague and good friend.

Ms. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in ardent opposition to H.R. 1, the alleged For the People Act.

Before I do that, I want to speak to the recent amendment submitted that would allow criminals, convicted felons, in this country to vote. I have traveled around the world. I don’t know any country in this world that allows criminals, convicted felons, to vote. That is not keeping them from committing their crime. It is called punishment. It is punishment for their crime. It is unconscionable to me we would allow criminals, convicted felons, to vote. The reason, of course, is to be clear.

Madam Speaker, our Founders purposefully decentralized our election process to give States the authority to conduct a smooth and open election day. Get the Federal Government out of State and local affairs. Not every State is the same. California; Portland, Oregon; or Manhattan.

Madam Speaker, furthermore, many of these changes were made without the input of State and local leaders who have the best on-the-ground knowledge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, several organizations oppose this bill. I urge my colleagues on both sides to oppose H.R. 1 and support the Republican alternative, the Save Democracy Act.

This is about our elections. This is what makes the United States different from everywhere. If we allow fraud in our electoral process, this Nation is lost.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise because voting is a right that must be extended to all people, and, yes, that includes currently and formerly incarcerated individuals.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in ardent opposition to H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

Before I do that, I want to speak to the recent amendment submitted that would allow criminals, convicted felons, in this country to vote. I have traveled around the world. I don’t know any country in this world that allows criminals, convicted felons, to vote. That is not keeping them from committing their crime. It is called punishment. It is punishment for their crime. It is unconscionable to me we would allow criminals, convicted felons, to vote. The reason, of course, is to be clear.

Madam Speaker, the last election showed the Democrats’ true goals for reform, a way to permanently federalize the States’ elections away from Republicans.

If someone would read the Constitution, it is a beautiful document. It talks about States making their own election law. This bill, if anything, would be referred to as the for the politicians Act.

Madam Speaker, let’s just look at the process before I lambast the policy.

There were 183 amendments submitted, but only 56 were made in order. Of those 56, only 12 were allowed by Republican Members.

Thanks to the McGovern rule, Democrats are continually able to submit rule bills on the floor without a committee markup—It is called the democratic process—without a markup or a hearing.

Madam Speaker, policywise, things look even worse. This massive bill provides taxpayer money to finance incumbents’ campaigns. It curbs free speech, significantly increases Federal bureaucracy and red tape, and creates a one-size-fits-all Federal election system.

Madam Speaker, our Founders purposefully decentralized our election process to give States the authority to conduct a smooth and open election day. Get the Federal Government out of State and local affairs. Not every State is the same. Eastern North Carolina is not the same, thank God, as California; Portland, Oregon; or Manhattan.

Madam Speaker, furthermore, many of these changes were made without the input of State and local leaders who have the best on-the-ground knowledge.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JONES).

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, we need to look at the process before I lambast the policy. There are countries that allow formerly incarcerated people to vote.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, our friends, our neighbors, and our family
Many states have already begun to recognize the right to vote for those serving time. Vermont and Maine are the only U.S. states, in addition to Puerto Rico, that allow all people with felony convictions, including those incarcerated, to vote.

Alabama, Mississippi, and Alaska allow some people who are incarcerated to vote, depending on their felony convictions. Additionally, Washington D.C. passed a measure last year which allowed those incarcerated to vote in the November 2020 election.

This amendment is supported by a host of civil rights, racial justice, and criminal legal reform organizations, including the Leadership Conference, Demos, the Sentencing Project, the National Immigration Project, the National Council of Churches, and more.

Madam Speaker, we must not allow our democracy to slide back into the worst elements of this country’s past, to stand idly by as our treasured values of democracy, progress, and equality are poisoned and dismantled.

I urge all members to join me in supporting the Bush-Jones Amendment to H.R. 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CHASTEN). Pursuant to H.R. 1, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH).

The question is on the amendment. The question was taken; and the ayes appear to have it.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bush-Jones Amendment to H.R. 1, a critical amendment which clarifies that felony convictions do not bar any eligible individual from voting in federal elections, including individuals who are currently incarcerated.

This amendment seeks to reverse discriminatory voter restrictions that disproportionately affect the African American voting population, which stands to be the target of mass incarceration, police profiling, and a biased criminal justice system.

Voting is a right of citizenship, not a privilege of any of us, and should not be connected to punishment.

Felony disenfranchisement laws were crafted with the intent to disenfranchise as many African Americans as possible after the Civil War, and today, one in every 16 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised, a rate 3.7 times greater than that of non-African Americans.

According to PEW Research, over 10 percent of the adult population in Texas was a felon as of 2010.

Nearly 5.2 million Americans are disenfranchised while serving time behind bars.

These Americans are full members of our civic life, and they have ties to their families and communities, engage in robust civic life, and many of them have been or will be re-engaged into their communities.

The white supremacists who championed such measures were very clear on their reasons.

Disenfranchising a specific group of people undermines democracy, and it does so with a particular impact on people of color.

In many states, state disenfranchisement laws have explicitly racist origins, and it’s time to put this ghost of Jim Crow behind us.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yea 73, nays 328, not voting 6, as follows:

[Table of votes]

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

Mrs. WAGNER and Mr. JACOBS of New York changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." So the amendment was rejected.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment as above recorded.

So the result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MESSRS. CRENSHAW, PASCRELL, KILDEE, MRS. DINGELL, and MR. MCEACHIN changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." So the amendment was rejected.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment as above recorded.

The Speaker pro tempore, Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 14, printed in part B of House Report 117-9, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment. The Clerk redesignated the amendment.
Mr. Speaker, finally, this amendment is another example of this bill not being updated from last year. We have made huge efforts on cyber issues and successfully had an election year this year with no foreign interference. This is in large part due to the efforts of DHS and the Election Assistance Commission. I even took part this summer in a tabletop exercise to prepare for cyberattacks.

Mr. Speaker, if we had considered this bill in committee, we could have talked about our success in this area during the last election. This is another example of the Democrats not knowing what is in their legislation and rolling out their standard bill without a thoughtful review.

Absolutely no one wants foreign interference in our elections.

Mr. Speaker, absolutely no one wants foreign interference in our elections, but the last thing we need to do is create another layer of bureaucracy when we have programs in place that have been successful for our local election officials. It is because of some great work by CISA that we should be recognized.

Mr. Speaker, finally, this amendment would violate separation of powers and attempt to control the judicial branch, threatening our independent courts. It is disappointing that this is the only amendment of mine and the other Republican members of the committee that the majority Democrats allowed through.

We submitted 25 amendments to restore the ability to run our elections to the States and localities that this bill takes away; eliminate the fund to publicly finance campaigns using corporate dollars and instead use that money for pandemic relief for the American people; prevent sitting Members of Congress' campaigns from benefiting; when we had bipartisan work that our officials have said that the 2020 election was the most secure in history, we know it is not because our foreign adversaries are no longer attempting to interfere in our elections. They will continue their efforts, and we must take steps to ensure our elections continue to be secure.

This provision in H.R. 1 is important to that endeavor. The national strategy will provide guidance on how to protect against cyberattacks, influence operations, disinformation campaigns, and other activities that could undermine the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions. The purpose of the national commission to protect the United States democratic institutions is to counter threats.

Mr. Speaker, we must stay vigilant. Our enemies are not resting, and neither are we. This provision is an important part of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the amendment from the gentleman from Illinois. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. May I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There are 3 minutes remaining on each side. Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, one of the big problems that we see in this election arena is a bill that 2 years ago was written with the assistance of special interests before we were even sworn in to the 116th Congress. It was announced and put forward with every member of the majority signing on as cosponsors the day we were all sworn in.

That is not the process that the Democratic majority promised the American people when they gave my colleagues the privilege to serve in this majority.

Mr. Speaker, here we go again. It is like Groundhog Day. Instead of introducing the same bill, they made some changes, which is great. Still, this is a problem of the nationalization of our elections. Also, it limits free speech.

There was no negotiation with us, no markup in our committee, no ability for us to have a voice.

Mr. Speaker, to top it off, none of us in the minority want any campaign dollars coming from corporations that are then laundered and then made into public funds through the Federal Government and then put in their own campaigns. We don’t want one dollar, let alone the limit now of $7.2 million that each and every person in this institution would be allowed to get into our own campaigns. That is not campaign finance reform. That is not what my constituents want. That is the furthest thing from what the minority wants.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I will just note that I oppose this amendment. I will wait until the next amendment to go into the underlying bill. I think much of what has been said this morning and this afternoon is simply incorrect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment. It is a commonsense amendment that is going to protect the bipartisan work that our officials have done to protect Americans’ elections and address cybersecurity issues and foreign interference.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

The question is on the amendment.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appear to have it.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.
Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. LOPGREN OF CALIFORNIA

Ms. LOFGREN. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, I rise to offer amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 3 consisting of amendment Nos. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37, and printed in part B of House Report 117–9, offered by Ms. LOFGREN of California:

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. GALLEGO OF ARIZONA

Page 264, after line 39, insert the following new section (and redesignate the succeeding section accordingly):

SEC. 1933. AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS TO VOTING ACCESSIBILITY PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS SERVING THE AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.

(a) RECIPIENTS DEFINED.—Section 291 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21061) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “by” and inserting “and the security of election infrastructure by”;

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraph (a), redesignating paragraphs (b) through (j), and inserting the following: “...and the development, maintenance and dissemination of cybersecurity guidelines to identify vulnerabilities that could lead to, protect against, detect, respond to and recover from cybersecurity incidents.”;

Page 364, insert after line 24 the following:

“(g) SENIOR CYBER POLICY ADVISOR.—The Comptroller General of the United States, or the Comptroller General of the United States through the Office of Inspector General of the Federal Election Commission, shall be appointed by the Committee and who shall serve under the Executive Director, and who shall be the primary policy advisor to the Commission on matters of cybersecurity for Federal elections.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE OF MICHIGAN

Page 192, line 26, delete “materials” and insert “materials; restrictions on operational changes prior to elections”.

Page 192, insert after line 15 the following (and redesignate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

“(b) During the 120-day period which ends on the date of an election for Federal office, the Commission shall not adopt any new operational change that would restrict the prompt and reliable delivery of voting materials with respect to the election, including changes to facilitate relevant informational materials; absentee ballot applications, and absentee ballots.

This paragraph applies to operational changes which include removing or eliminating any mail collection box, without immediately replacing it, and removing, de-commissioning, or any other form of stopping the operation of mail sorting machines, other than for routine maintenance.”

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MRS. LEVIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 192, after line 15, insert the following (and redesignate subsection (b) as subsection (c)):

“(c) The Postal Service shall appoint an Election Mail Coordinator in every Postal Area and District of Delivery to notify individuals who are eligible to vote and have had the most difficulty in providing a fair and equitable waiting time at polling places to all voters, and to communities of color in particular.

PART 5—VOTER NOTICE

SEC. 1941. SHORT TITLE.

This part may be cited as the “Voter Notification of Timely Information about Changes in Elections Act” or the “Voter Notice Act”.

SEC. 1942. PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS IN EVENT OF CHANGES IN ELECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT CAMPAIGNS.—Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082), as amended by section 1601(a) and section 1601(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS IN EVENT OF CHANGES IN ELECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—If the administration of an election for Federal office, including the methods of voting or registering to vote in the election, is changed in response to an emergency affecting public health and safety, the appropriate State or local election official shall conduct a public education campaign through at least one direct mailing to each individual who is registered to vote in the election, and through additional direct mailings, newspaper advertisements, broadcast media, including radio, satellite, and the Internet, and social media, to notify individuals who are eligible to vote or to register to vote in the election of the changes.

“(2) FREQUENCY AND METHODS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION.—The election official shall carry out the public education campaign under this subsection at such frequency, and using such methods, as will have the greatest likelihood of providing timely knowledge of the change in the administration of the election to those individuals who will be most adversely affected by the change.

“(3) LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.—In the case of a State or political subdivision that is a covered State or political subdivision under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 19703), the appropriate election official shall ensure that information is disseminated under a public education campaign conducted under this subsection is provided in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language, as required by section 203 of such Act.

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020 and each succeeding election for Federal office.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MS. MANNING OF VIRGINIA

Page 745, on line 9 strike “and”, and after line 15, insert the following:

“(v) a chief of mission (as defined in section 102(a)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980); and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. PHILLIPS OF MINNESOTA

Page 266, insert after line 5 the following (and redesignate the succeeding provision accordingly):

H1004 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE March 2, 2021

(a) DUTIES OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “by” and inserting “and the security of election infrastructure by”;

(2) by striking the semicolon at the end of paragraph (a), redesignating paragraphs (b) through (j), and inserting the following: “...and the development, maintenance and dissemination of cybersecurity guidelines to identify vulnerabilities that could lead to, protect against, detect, respond to and recover from cybersecurity incidents.”;

Page 364, insert after line 24 the following:

“(g) SENIOR CYBER POLICY ADVISOR.—The Comptroller General of the United States, or the Comptroller General of the United States through the Office of Inspector General of the Federal Election Commission, shall be appointed by the Committee and who shall serve under the Executive Director, and who shall be the primary policy advisor to the Commission on matters of cybersecurity for Federal elections.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. PHILLIPS OF MINNESOTA

Page 266, insert after line 5 the following (and redesignate the succeeding provision accordingly):

PART 5—VOTER NOTICE

SEC. 1941. SHORT TITLE.

This part may be cited as the “Voter Notification of Timely Information about Changes in Elections Act” or the “Voter Notice Act”.

SEC. 1942. PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS IN EVENT OF CHANGES IN ELECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT CAMPAIGNS.—Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082), as amended by section 1601(a) and section 1601(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS IN EVENT OF CHANGES IN ELECTIONS IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—If the administration of an election for Federal office, including the methods of voting or registering to vote in the election, is changed in response to an emergency affecting public health and safety, the appropriate State or local election official shall conduct a public education campaign through at least one direct mailing to each individual who is registered to vote in the election, and through additional direct mailings, newspaper advertisements, broadcast media, including radio, satellite, and the Internet, and social media, to notify individuals who are eligible to vote or to register to vote in the election of the changes.

“(2) FREQUENCY AND METHODS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION.—The election official shall carry out the public education campaign under this subsection at such frequency, and using such methods, as will have the greatest likelihood of providing timely knowledge of the change in the administration of the election to those individuals who will be most adversely affected by the change.

“(3) LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.—In the case of a State or political subdivision that is a covered State or political subdivision under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 19703), the appropriate election official shall ensure that information is disseminated under a public education campaign conducted under this subsection is provided in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language, as required by section 203 of such Act.

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020 and each succeeding election for Federal office.”.
SEC. 313. REQUIREMENTS FOR WEBSITES OF ELECTION OFFICIALS.

(a) Accessibility.—Each State and local election official shall ensure that the official public website of the official is accessible for individuals with disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation as the website provides for other individuals.

(b) Continuing Operation in Case of Emergency.—

"(1) Establishment of Best Practices.—

"(A) In General.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish and update best practices for ensuring the continuing operation of the official public website of State and local election officials during emergencies affecting public health and safety.

"(B) Deadline.—The Director shall first establish the best practices required under this paragraph as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this section, but in no case later than August 15, 2021.

"(2) Requiring Websites to Meet Best Practices.—Each State and local election official shall ensure that the official public website of the official is in compliance with the best practices established by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology under paragraph (2).

(c) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Adoption of Voluntary Guidance by Election Officials.—Section 101(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as redesignated and amended by section 1101(a) and section 1621(b), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (a) through (f) as paragraphs (a) through (g), respectively;

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (g) and substituting a semicolon therefor; and

(3) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (g) and substituting a semicolon therefor.

SEC. 314. PAYMENTS BY ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLIANCE.

(b) Availability of Payments.—Title IX of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 907. PAYMENTS BY ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE.

"(a) Payments.—

"(1) Availability and Use of Payments.—The Commission shall make a payment to each eligible State to cover the costs the State incurs or expects to incur in meeting the requirements of section 302(g) (relating to public education in event of changes in elections in response to emergencies) and section 313 (relating to requirements for the websites of election officials)."

"(b) Schedule of Payments.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this section, and not less frequently than once each calendar year thereafter, the Commission shall make payments under this section.

"(c) Administration of Payments.—The chief State election official of the State shall submit an application under this section, and may use the payment for the purposes set forth in this section without intervening action by the legislature of the State.

"(d) Amount of Payment.—

"(1) In General.—The amount of a payment made under this section shall be determined by the Commission on the basis of the information provided by the State in its application under subsection (c).

"(2) Continuing Availability of Funds After Appropriation.—A payment made to an eligible State under this section shall be available without fiscal year limitation.

"(e) Requirements for Eligibility.—

"(1) Application.—Each State that desires to receive a payment under this section for a fiscal year shall submit an application for the payment to the Commission at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Commission shall require.

"(2) Contests of Application.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought; and

"(B) provide an estimate of the costs the State has incurred or expects to incur in carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), together with such additional information and certifications as the Commission determines to be essential to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

"(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for payments under this section such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2025.

"(g) Reports by Recipients.—Not later than 6 months after the end of each fiscal year for which an eligible State received a payment under this section, the State shall submit a report to the Commission on the activities conducted with the funds provided during the year.

"(h) Reports by Commission to Committees.—With respect to each fiscal year for which the Commission makes payments under this section, the Commission shall submit a report to each Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(c) CLECMICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IX the following:

"Sec. 907. Payments for costs of compliance with certain requirements relating to public notification.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

Page 264, insert before line 21 the following (and redesignate the succeeding provision accordingly):

SEC. 923. APPLICATION OF FEDERAL VOTER PROTECTION LAWS TO TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) Intimidation of Voters.—Section 594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner," and inserting "Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress."

(b) Interference by Government Employes.—Section 595 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner," and inserting "Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress."

(c) Voting by Noncitizens.—Section 611(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner," and inserting "Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress."

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

Page 264, insert before line 21 the following (and redesignate the succeeding provision accordingly):

SEC. 923. PLACEMENT OF STATUSES OF CITIZENS OF TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES IN STATUTORY HALL.

(a) In General.—Section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the States of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "For purposes of this section, the term 'State' includes American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands, and the term citizen includes a national of the United States as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22))."

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Procedures for Replacement of Statutes.—Section 311 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 2132) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(f) For purposes of this section, the term 'State' includes American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands."

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. PLASKETT OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

Page 77, line 18, strike "States and the District of Columbia" and insert "States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."
PART 4—DISCLOSE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL COMMITTEES IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ELECTION

SEC. 4311. DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLITICAL COMMITTEES IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO ELECTION.

(a) DISCLOSURE.—Section 304(a)(6) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 434(a)(6)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagrapghs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

"(D)(i) A political committee, including a super PAC, shall notify the Commission of any contribution or donation of more than $5,000 from an individual made to the committee during the period beginning on the 20th day before any election in connection with which the committee makes a contribution or expenditure and ending 48 hours before such an election.

(ii) The committee shall make the notification under clause (i) not later than 48 hours after the receipt of the contribution or donation involved, and shall include the name of the committee, the name of the person making the contribution or donation, and the date and amount of the contribution or donation.

(iii) For purposes of this subparagraph, a pledge, promise, understanding, or agreement to make a contribution or expenditure with respect to an election shall be treated as the making of a contribution or expenditure with respect to the election.

(iv) This subparagraph does not apply to an authorized committee or any committee of a political party.

(v) In this subparagraph, the term ‘super PAC’ means a political committee which accepts or makes contributions that do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of this Act, and complies with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of this Act, and

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections occurring during 2022 or any succeeding year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 179, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bloc of amendments provides important additions to the bill.

Among the amendments in the bloc is an amendment from the gentleman from Arizona that promotes language accessibility for voting and ensures that notices at polling locations take into consideration factors including the languages spoken in the jurisdiction.

An amendment from the gentleman from New Mexico improves voting access for individuals with disabilities in the Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah by making technical fixes to the Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access provision.

An amendment from the gentlemen from Rhode Island and Wisconsin implements a recommendation of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission to ensure the security of our elections and resilience of our democracy by creating the position of a senior cyber policy adviser at the Election Assistance Commission.

An amendment from the gentlewomen from Virginia and Florida prohibits taxpayer funds from being added into the freedom from influence fund.

During the 2020 election, Postmaster General DeJoy implemented sudden operational changes that disrupted timely mail services and the delivery of absentee ballots. An amendment in this bloc from the gentlewoman from Michigan ensures that can never happen again by prohibiting operational changes at the Postal Service for 120 days before a Federal election.

This bloc of amendments also includes an amendment from the gentleman and gentlewoman from Minnesota that requires State election officials to undertake accessible public education and information campaigns to inform voters of any changes to election processes made in response to public emergencies.

Finally, it includes four amendments from the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands. One of these amendments applies Federal voter protection laws to the territories, including protection against voter intimidation, interference, and voting by aliens in Federal elections in the territory; that would be noncitizens.

Another of these amendments permits each of the territories to provide and furnish statues in Statuary Hall. That is an important amendment that allows each of the territories representation among the statues in the Halls of Congress. These amendments represent long overdue recognition of important contributions of the territories.

Mr. Speaker, I support these amendments, and I urge their adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition at this point in time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON), another star of the historic diverse class of new freshmen.

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1.

The 2020 election and its aftermath was chaotic and harmful to our democracy. We should be working hard in this Chamber in a bipartisan way to restore faith in our electoral process.

I have heard my colleagues across the aisle say that this bill would help to transform our elections. They are certainly right about that. H.R. 1 is the largest expansion of the Federal Government’s role in our elections, ever.

It would take away States’ constitutional authority to run their own elections in connection with which the committee makes a contribution or expenditure and ending 48 hours before such an election.

This bill would take authority away from Iowans to run their own elections while Democrats here in Congress are also laying the groundwork to overturn the official election results in Iowa’s Second Congressional District, where the votes have been counted, recounted, and certified for Congresswoman MARIANETTE MILLER-MEeks.

Our Constitution is clear. States determine elections, not Congress.

H.R. 1 will harm and it will not protect the integrity of our elections. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in this body to vote “no” on this bill.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague in the Judiciary Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California, the chair of the Committee on House Administration, for the work that she has done.

It is interesting to hear a speech by the former President, following in his tradition of denial of democracy, but announcing that he believes that there should be only 1 day for an election to take place, denying essential workers, not recognizing the disaster of COVID–19, denying rural voters and minority voters the opportunity in some stressful time to be able to vote.

H.R. 1 considers all factors in ensuring the empowerment of all voters in this Nation. The United Methodist Church offered these words, ‘We hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections . . . the form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens.’

This legislation recognizes that and recognizes that the dark days of 4 years ago of voter suppression and opposition to minorities voting, the lack of empowerment, are over with in H.R. 1. I want to add amendments 22 and 23, to ensure that individuals with disabilities can vote.

I want to make sure that young people on college campuses are not discriminated against, as they have been in the community with polling places that they have had to stand in long lines.

I want to make sure that women are protected in privacy with making sure that they are provided one-size-fits-all policy and voting access that they will not be subjected to assault, sexual assault, and violation of privacy.

H.R. 1 provides an opportunity for justice and
The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 6½ minutes remaining and the gentlewoman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE), the subcommittee chair that has oversight of elections on the Oversight Committee.

Mr. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, listen, the American people expect and deserve free and fair elections. They deserve to have one legal vote cast and one legal vote counted, but H.R. 1 turns all of our election process upside down. It upends our entire election system.

Why are we doing this?

As my friend mentioned, on the Oversight Committee, the entire year last year in Oversight, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle tried to push H.R. 1 because of COVID, and we saw what that did in our elections this past year, it totally created chaos. But now we want to nationalize it.

The worst thing in the world that can happen to the federal government is to nationalize our election system. Part of what is in here is universal mail-in ballots to everyone on the voter registration files. What a disaster. We know those files are probably 10 percent. So we are going to have millions of illegal voters receive live ballots. Then there is zero voter ID associated with this.

Why in the world would we want no voter ID, unless this is some sort of scheme to give illegal voters the opportunity to vote without any proof of who they are, that they are legal?

This is an absolute disaster, and ballot harvesting is a part of this, restricting the right of States to run their own elections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my amendments, 26 and 27, to H.R. 1. The Postal Service has been an essential service for the American people for centuries, written into our Constitution. And as we take steps to expand voting by mail, we must ensure that the Postal Service is not weaponized to restrict its mission to promptly and effectively deliver mail.

My first amendment would require the Postal Service to appoint an election mail coordinator to assist election officials. My second amendment would prohibit the Postal Service from enacting any new operational change that would restrict the prompt delivery of mail materials 4 months before the election, specifically, targeting removal of the collection boxes and sorting boxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these amendments as part of this entire effort.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, can I inquire again how much time is remaining? We have a lot of folks who want to talk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 6½ minutes remaining and the gentlewoman from California has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), a member of this historic freshman class.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1 today.

Despite its name, this act is not for the people. It is for the politicians seeking power. East Tennesseans and Americans want election reform that increases the security and integrity of our election, and they are demanding it. Instead, this bill erodes the public confidence in our elections. This bill picks D.C. bureaucrats over State and local officials, and it uses hard-earned tax dollars to fund political campaigns by a 6-to-1 fund-matching provision. Now, let me repeat that. It is a 6-to-1 fund-matching provision.

These are the priorities we need to fund, not political power grabs and public financing of our own political campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose, and I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 1.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, Americans want to know that government officials don’t have conflicts of interest swaying their decisions. For example, did they fundraise from an industry that they will regulate? Might they take it easy on that industry as a result?

H.R. 1 authorizes high-level officials to disclose if they have solicited or made political contributions to PACs, political nonprofits, or industry trade associations. I thank Congressman Deutch for authoring this provision.

My amendment expands this piece to cover chiefs of mission to ensure that officials representing our country abroad, such as ambassadors, are free from conflicts of interest, too. We should feel confident that people entrusted to represent the United States are there not because of political donations, but because they are the best person for the job.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, the en bloc, and H.R. 1.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMIERT), I may live to regret it, but I will do it anyway, my good friend.

Mr. GOHMIERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member. This bill that is supposed to be for the people, one of the things it is really supposed to do, we have been told, you know, this is going to eliminate foreign interference with our bill. They have been preaching on it for years. There was the whole Russia hoax, all these other things. It turns out there hasn’t been foreign interference, but the friends across the aisle were not serious, and it is not serious with this bill about eliminating all foreign interference.

In fact, that is why I filed an amendment that would have addressed that. They got loopholes big enough to drive several trucks through. So we took it away. My amendment says, “Each State shall ensure that no foreign entity carries out any role in the administration of elections for Federal office in the State, including providing, maintaining, programming, operating, storing, or compiling any of the equipment, software, supplies, or information used in the administration of the election.

“A nonprofit organization may not carry out any activities related to voting or election provisions for Federal office in a State if the organization accepts any funds from a foreign entity.”

And then it defines foreign entity, where it covers everybody and everything that is not American.

So we have got this amendment that would completely plug the loopholes that the Democrats have so that foreigners can’t continue to influence the election.

And what do they do? They say:

Your amendment, we don’t want it. It is not in order. We are not even going to give you a vote on it.

They are not serious about eliminating foreign interference, and that is a shame.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Carolia (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of my amendment, which would bolster the mandate that no voter be forced to wait longer than 30 minutes to cast their ballot.

In my home State of North Carolina, it is not uncommon for voters to wait in line for hours on election day to vote. Long wait times come at a cost. For people who work or have family obligations, it is challenging to stand in line for hours to exercise their constitutional right to vote.

Sadly, North Carolina is not alone. In recent elections, we have witnessed lengthy wait times at polling locations across the country. Research shows that people who live in poor and more diverse neighborhoods are more likely to wait over an hour to vote.

Long wait times amount to voter suppression, plain and simple, by causing voters to leave before voting, by
discouraging people from voting in future elections, and by decreasing confidence in our democratic process.

Mr. Speaker, we must end this tactic of voter suppression, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), who was my fellow classmate in the 113th Congress.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, American voters deserve to have confidence in their election process. This is not it.

A few basic principles: voter ID so we know who is showing up and who is receiving ballots; a clean set of voting rolls so the people who are eligible—of all types, the people who are truly eligible in this country—are voting from their proper domicile; we know they are citizens; and we know they are the right age.

But somehow we find these things to be so peripheral that it is going to be suppressing votes—what, for people being eligible to vote being the actual voters that they live in the right State, that they are the right age, and that they are citizens?

It is ridiculous the lengths that the Democrats go to upset our election process and the confidence people have in it. It could be really quite simple. Have the election end on election night. In one place in my district, they found a box 30-something days after the election. They had to open back up the certified election to take care of a box that had dropped ballots in it.

We are making a farce out of our elections in this country. And this, by nationalizing them, will make it that much worse. In the Constitution, the Congress established the States will run their elections. We only need to have very narrow guidelines for how our Federal ones are conducted.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PHILLIPS).

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, Congress should be making it easier for Americans to vote, not harder. That is why I am pleased to support H.R. 1, especially in the face of reprehensible efforts all around the country to disenfranchise legal American voters.

I also believe that when a State changes its election procedures, they have the duty to ensure that voters are informed of those changes. That is why I wrote an amendment to H.R. 1 called the Voter NOTICE Act, which simply requires States to form public outreach to ensure that voters are proactively made aware of their voting rights.

As we are too well aware, Mr. Speaker, bad actors are all too eager to exploit uncertainty and spread disinformation to mislead Americans and divert the will of the people. The antidote is truth, and the Voter NOTICE Act will deliver it.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), who was my fellow classmate in the 113th Congress.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1. While we are talking about voter suppression and long lines, I would like to point out that there is real voter suppression right here in Congress. Many Members of Congress have to stand in long lines to enter the Chamber going through metal detectors, emptying our pockets, and being treated very disrespectfully. That is real voter suppression, and it is a shame that it happens right here on the House floor.

Standing in line to vote is not suppression. It is just part of the voting process, just like people stand in line to buy groceries in the grocery store.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Illinois has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Two minutes to solve the problems that this bill clearly does not?

Mr. Speaker, the amendments in this bloc continue the Democrats’ efforts to attack our constitutional system by nationalizing our elections and attacking the First Amendment. Even the Speaker herself said earlier on the floor that this body should consider altering the First Amendment. That is unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, as my friend, Mr. LOUDERMILK, highlighted earlier, any action by Congress in this space must be limited in scope, highly significant and substantial deficiencies.

I had teams out in the field working under our constitutional authority, as the House of Representatives, as official election observers from October through February, to investigate and observe the last election. We saw that there were certainly many bumbs in the road and policy changes that may States should consider to run better elections. That is without a doubt. But there was nothing in 2020 that did not rise to the level of nationalizing our election system. These are State issues, and Congress—this body—must not act unconstitutionally in this space.

Further, these amendments would also threaten free speech and punish those who work to comply with the law with even larger amounts of paperwork simply to provide information already required by law. I see absolutely no reason for duplication in the Federal Government. It is big enough as it is.

Mr. Speaker, I urge rejection of these amendments, which would continue the majority’s push to nationalize our elections and centralize their administration in Washington, D.C., and they will continue to be allowed to forward their full frontal attack on the First Amendment, just as the Speaker offered earlier today on this floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that this amendment is worth supporting. It will stop the removals from the underlying bill. I was really stunned to hear a comparison between Members of Congress going through metal detectors—because some Members have, in violation of the rules, carried weapons on to the House floor—and voters having to wait 8 hours to get to the polling booth, which actually happened last November.

It is important that American voters have access to the polls to cast their vote and have that lawfully cast vote counted as cast. That is what this is about.

I listened to my colleague and my friend, Mr. DAVIS, complain about the constitutional basis for H.R. 1. But he has also introduced bills like H.R. 6882, which states that they would all require States to do certain things with respect to how they conduct elections.

I might disagree with the policies in those bills, but they all cite Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution as the basis for their legitimacy. So to say that we cannot improve the elections in America under Article I, Section 4 simply is not correct.

So we will have more debate as these proceedings on H.R. 1 conclude, but I will close with this: Please do support the en bloc amendments. It improves the bill, and we will, hopefully, be passing H.R. 1 to make America an even greater place in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of En Bloc Amendment No. 3 to H.R. 1, which includes the Gallego Amendment, an important contribution to H.R. 1 that makes a long overdue technical fix to the Help American Voter Act to ensure and to protect the right to vote for Native Americans and others living with disabilities in the four corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.

Specifically, this amendment will extend funding under the Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access program to the Native American Disability Law Center to ensure people with disabilities in the region can fully participate in the electoral process.

Too often, voters in this region drive hours to reach their nearest polling place, only to find that the ballot is not accessible to them due to inadequate disability training, ADA accessibility, or other impediments to the constitutional right to vote.

Voting is a right, citizenship, and every polling place should be adequately equipped to serve those with disabilities.

Nearly 15 percent of those eligible to vote in Texas are persons with disabilities—almost 3
milion people—and lack of accessibility causes people with disabilities to vote at lower rates than the general population.

According to a study by the Government Accountability Office, nearly two-thirds of the 137 polling places inspected in 2016 had at least one impediment to people with disabilities.

These impediments included: the accessible voting machine not being set up and powered on, malfunctioning earphones, lack of wheelchair accessibility, and less privacy than standard voting stations. Many people with disabilities cannot mark paper ballots without assistance, so they rely on special voting machines, but untrained poll workers have discouraged the use of accessible voting machines, leaving voters with disabilities behind.

People with disabilities continue to report barriers including a lack of accessible election and registration materials prior to elections, lack of transportation to polling places, and problems securing specific forms of identification required by some states.

Mr. Speaker, it is long past time to keep our government up to date to further clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further to section 3(s) of House Resolution 179, pursuant to House Resolution 179, not voting 6, as follows:

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MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on the adoption of amendments en bloc No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 117–9, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question on the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H. R. 1 is postponed.

PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

REVISION TO THE AGGREGATES, ALLOCATIONS, AND OTHER BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021


MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (CBA) and the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 (S. Con. Res. 5 (117th Congress)), I hereby submit for printing in the Congressional Record a revision to the aggregates and allocations set forth in the Statement of Aggregates, Other Budgetary Levels for Fiscal Year 2021 published in the Congressional Record on February 25, 2021.

This adjustment responds to House consideration of the bill, the For the People of California Act of 2021 (H.R. 1), as provided for consideration in the House pursuant to H. Res. 179. This adjustment is allowable under sections 3002 and 3003 of title II and sections 401 and 404 of title IV of the CBA and the other budgetary enforcement provisions, the revised aggregates...
and allocation are to be considered as aggregates and allocations included in the budget resolution, pursuant to the Statement published in the Congressional Record on February 18, 2021.

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Wheelock or Raquel Spencer of the Budget Committee staff.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH, Chairman.
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-504. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0841; Product Identifier 2020-NM-087-AD; Amendment 39-21363; AD 2020-26-11] (RIN: 2120-AA62) received February 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-505. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31346; Amdt. No.: 3936] received February 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-506. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0702; Project Identifier 2018-SW-049-AD; Amendment 39-21368; AD 2020-26-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received February 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-507. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0468; Product Identifier 2018-SW-046-AD; Amendment 39-21363; AD 2020-26-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-508. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Helicopter [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0468; Product Identifier 2018-SW-046-AD; Amendment 39-21363; AD 2020-26-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-509. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Revocation of Class E Airspace: Newburghport, MA [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0924; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ANE-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. DEAN (for herself, Mr. LAN-GEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. SCALAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. BLU-MAUER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CARLTON, Ms. DOYLE, Ms. CARSTARFELT, Ms. LYNN LONG, Ms. LYNCH, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DEAN, Ms. GRIEVAUX, Mr. VALEMBOURG, Mr. VANDREW, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. VELA, Mr. TRONE, Mr. MIYAV, Mr. PELLMUTTER, Mrs. BEATTIE, Mr. COCHRANE, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1490. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection and prevention of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 1491. A bill to require Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to report information related to allegations of misconduct of law enforcement officers to the Attorney General and the President, for the purposes of conducting more secure democratic institutions exchanges on best election practices, cul-}
H.R. 1490. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital for small business purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. DEAN:

H.R. 1491. A bill to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MURCIECA, and Mrs. MILLER of California), and Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 1492. A bill to prevent methane waste and pollution from oil and gas operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.

By Ms. SCHUMER (for herself, Mr. BERNSTEIN, Mrs. BEYER, Mr. CEDILLO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONDELLA, and Ms. GOLDEN):

H.R. 1493. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to modify a provision relating to acquisition of beach fill; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. PITTS):

H.R. 1494. A bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MEEK:

H.R. 1495. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage under the Medicaid program for services for the treatment of psychiatric or substance use disorders furnished to certain individuals in an institution for mental diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BROOKS, Mr. RABIN, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. HUMMER, Mr. LAMMOUR, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HAGDRON, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 1496. A bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death of a serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 1497. A bill to amend the Expedited Funds Availability Act to require funds deposited by check from the Federal Government to be made available immediately; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GOMRIESS, Mrs. HARSHBAUGH, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 1498. A bill to require that local educational agencies disclose negotiations with teacher unions as a condition for bid by receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund of the Education Stabilization Fund of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BRUSSELS, and Mrs. LUCAS):

H.R. 1499. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. GEMZYNSKI, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. GREGG):

H.R. 1500. A bill to direct the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development of the United States to report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global basic education programs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL and Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 1501. A bill to reauthorize the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. GARRARINO, Ms. NEWMAN, and Mr. BURCHELL):

H.R. 1502. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to optimize the operations of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. LEVIN of California (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. NADER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 1503. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments in leasing on Federal lands for oil and gas drilling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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.

By Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (for himself, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 1504. A bill to provide for the provision of humanitarian assistance, including life-saving medical care, to the people of North Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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.

By Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1505. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments to the regulation of surface-disturbing activities and to protect taxpayers from unduly bearing the reclamation costs of oil and gas development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LEVIN of Massachusetts, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BARRAGAN, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1506. A bill to provide for the accurate reporting of fossil fuels extraction and emissions by entities with leases on public land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. GOLDEN):

H.R. 1507. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. GOLDEN):

H.R. 1508. A bill to require a guidance clarity statement on certain agency guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 1509. A bill to repeal portions of a regulation issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction that would require child care workers to have a degree, a certificate, or a minimum number of credit hours from an institution of higher education; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. TRONE, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 1510. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report concerning the use of cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 1511. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 1512. A bill to build a clean and prosperous future by addressing the climate crisis, protecting the health and welfare of all Americans, and putting the Nation on the path to a net-zero greenhouse gas economy by 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Reform, Education and Labor, Ways and Means, Natural Resources, Armed Services, Science, Space, and Technology, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Financial Services, 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.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 1513. A bill to require that all Special Drawing Rights allocations be authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1514. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to increase electric reliability for clean energy, reduce congestion, and increase grid resilience; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 1515. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 1516. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit congressional candidate and donation activity from being in connection with State or local ballot initiatives or referenda; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PORTER (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 1517. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments to the fiscal terms for fossil fuel development and to make other reforms to improve returns to taxpayers for the development of Federal energy resources for child care purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.
CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. DEAN:
H.R. 1477. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TAYLOR:
H.R. 1478. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 1479. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article II, Section 2, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. BERA:
H.R. 1480. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BEYER:
H.R. 1481. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 1483. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. BLOOM:
H.R. 1484. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:
H.R. 1485. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. RUDD:
H.R. 1486. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. BURCHETT:
H.R. 1487. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:
H.R. 1488. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 1489.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Amendment XIV, Section 1: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Amendment XIV, Section 5: The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 1490. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

"The Congress shall have Power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States..."

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 1492. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. DINGELL:

H.R. 1494. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 1495. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 1496. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 4 of the Constitution.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 1497. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 1498. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 1499. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1, clause 2 which provides Congress with the power to "dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States..." in this case, the sale of federal land for economic development.

By Ms. HOUHAN:

H.R. 1500. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 1501. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 1502. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LEVINS of California:

H.R. 1503. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LEVINS of Michigan:

H.R. 1504. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 1505. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 1506. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1507. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1508. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the Constitutional authority to regulate commerce among the States and with Indian Tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 1509. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17.

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Ports, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 1510. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1514. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

The Congress shall have the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 1515. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1518. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1519. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SERRILL:

H.R. 1521. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 1522. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, of the U.S. Constitution.

New States may be admitted by the Congress into this Union;... The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States.
By Ms. STEFANIK:  
H. R. 1523.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. TITUS:  
H. R. 1524.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. VAN DREW:  
H. R. 1526.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. WAGNER:  
H. R. 1527.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Ms. WATERS:  
H. R. 1528.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. BOST, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CINCINNATI, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BROWN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SCHWARTZ, Mr. RAHIOOD, Mr. STEWART, and Mr. POCAN:  
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

[H. R. 1411: Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. CHENY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BOST.

H. R. 1419: Mr. POCAN.

H. R. 1437: Mr. PALLONE.

H. R. 1438: Mr. PALLONE.

H. Res. 9: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Res. 47: Mr. Foster and Mr. GALLEGEO.

H. Res. 104: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Res. 114: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CASE, Mr. LANGOYIN, and Ms. PORTER.

H. Res. 124: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. PHILIPS.

H. Res. 151: Mr. SHEARER, Mr. BROWAN, Mr. CORHEA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PRESLEY, Mr. VARGA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. TAYLOR, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. KOYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. LAWRENCE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. AUCHINLOSS, Ms. SPEIDER, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 160: Mr. BIGGS.

H. Res. 174: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H. Res. 175: Mr. McGovern.

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Additional sponsors.

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

[Omitted from the Record of March 1, 2021]

H. R. 97: Mr. TAKANO.

H. R. 167: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H. R. 265: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. R. 302: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H. R. 322: Ms. Tenny, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. CARL, and Mr. LAMBON.

H. R. 423: Mr. JENSEN.

H. R. 461: Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. OWENS.

H. R. 465: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H. R. 471: Mr. McClintock.

H. R. 504: Mr. RAHM and Mr. CLOUD.

H. R. 522: Mr. NEIL.

H. R. 523: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. HASTINGS.

H. R. 545: Mr. BLUMENAUF.

H. R. 551: Mr. HICKS.

H. R. 571: Ms. BROWNLEY and Mr. KINZINGER.

H. R. 621: Mr. BACON.

H. R. 677: Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. BOST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. McKINLEY, Mr. PFLIEGER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WALORSKI, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. CHERRY, Mr. NEWMAN, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. OWENS.

H. R. 695: Mr. Golden and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.

H. R. 707: Ms. VAN DYNE.

H. R. 793: Ms. TENNEY and Ms. Velázquez.

H. R. 815: Ms. NEUSE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MEECHEN.

H. R. 841: Mr. Barc and Mr. PANETTA.

H. R. 842: Mr. Bourdeaux, Miss Rice of New York, and Mr. CLYBURN.

H. R. 852: Mrs. McBATH.

H. R. 868: Mr. VAN DREW.

H. R. 999: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H. R. 1001: Mr. Van DREW.

H. R. 1099: Mr. PANETTA.

H. R. 1103: Mr. COHEN and Mr. ROSENDALE.

H. R. 1105: Mr. FOXX.

H. R. 1108: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H. R. 1112: Mr. NORTON and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H. R. 1113: Mr. FORTEHENRITY.

H. R. 1168: Mr. TAYLOR.

H. R. 1193: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DUNN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. DEGHTTE, Mr. VAROAS, and Mr. GOTHHEIM.

H. R. 1200: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. GELIALVA.

H. R. 1210: Mr. STEFANFAN.

H. R. 1225: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. SUTHERLAND.

H. R. 1269: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. R. 1275: Mr. OWENS.

H. R. 1276: Mr. KAPUT.

H. R. 1280: Mr. GOTHHEIMER.

H. R. 1297: Mr. FOSTER.

H. R. 1307: Mr. NORTON, Ms. SOZZU, and Ms. SCHIAKOWSKY.

H. R. 1346: Mr. FERGUSON.

H. R. 1368: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. BELLONCHES.

H. R. 1378: Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. McEACHIN, and Mr. LAMB.

H. R. 1379: Mr. NADLER, Ms. PINGER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TITTUS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BLUMENAUF, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H. R. 1381: Mr. BAIRED and Mr. STIVER.

H. R. 1385: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. R. 1389: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. R. 1392: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITTUS, and Ms. OMAR.

H. R. 1399: Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUF, Ms. BUSSE, Mr. CARLSON, and Mr. COHEN.

H. R. 1400: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H. R. 1404: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia and Mr. POCAN.

H. R. 1411: Mr. FULCHER, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. CHENY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. COLE, and Mr. BOST.

H. R. 1419: Mr. POCAN.

H. R. 1437: Mr. PALLONE.

H. R. 1438: Mr. PALLONE.

H. Res. 9: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Res. 47: Mr. Foster and Mr. GALLEGEO.

H. Res. 104: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H. Res. 114: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CASE, Mr. LANGOYIN, and Ms. PORTER.

H. Res. 124: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. PHILIPS.

H. Res. 151: Mr. SHEARER, Mr. BROWAN, Mr. CORHEA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. PRESLEY, Mr. VARGA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. TAYLOR, Mr. KUSTER, Mr. KOYNE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. LAWRENCE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. AUCHINLOSS, Ms. SPEIDER, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. COSTA.

H. Res. 160: Mr. BIGGS.

H. Res. 174: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H. Res. 175: Mr. McGovern.

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H.R. 148: Ms. Foxx.
H.R. 1149: Ms. Foxx.
H.R. 1170: Mr. Nunes.
H.R. 1173: Mrs. Hinson.
H.R. 1177: Mr. Foster, Mr. García of Illinois, Mr. Higgins of New York, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Keating, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, and Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1180: Mr. Pocan.
H.R. 1183: Mr. Blumenauer.
H.R. 1193: Mr. McKinley, Mr. Fleischmann, Mr. Zeldin, Mr. Morelle, Mr. Butterfield, and Mr. Gallagher.
H.R. 1195: Mr. Vargas, Ms. Houlahan, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Pocan, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Cicilline, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Crist, Ms. Omar, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Vela, Mr. Crow, Ms. DeGette, Ms. Titus, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Deutch, Ms. Craig, Ms. Suozzi, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mrs. Rice of New York, Ms. Garica of Texas, Ms. Sanchez, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Carabajal, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Schiffer, Mr. Rush, Ms. DelBene, and Ms. Speier.
H.R. 1208: Mr. Malinowski.
H.R. 1216: Ms. Herrell, Mr. Cloud, Mr. Burchett, Mr. Perry, and Mr. Posey.
H.R. 1215: Mr. Bacon.
H.R. 1226: Mr. Craig.
H.R. 1247: Ms. Bass and Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1254: Mr. Bishop of North Carolina.
H.R. 1259: Mr. Kuster.
H.R. 1268: Mr. Carbone.
H.R. 1270: Ms. Omar.
H.R. 1275: Mr. Hudson.
H.R. 1276: Mr. Zeldin, Mrs. Luria, and Mr. Mijinsic.
H.R. 1280: Mr. Crist.
H.R. 1283: Mr. Carabajal.
H.R. 1284: Mr. McHenry and Mr. Westerman.
H.R. 1285: Mr. Fitzpatrick.
H.R. 1291: Mr. Newhouse, Mr. Guest, Mr. Balderson, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. McKinley.
H.R. 1297: Mr. Fallin and Mr. Hagedorn.
H.R. 1298: Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Rice of Oklahoma, and Mr. Cole.
H.R. 1313: Mr. Evans, Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Ms. Houlahan, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Rush, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, and Mr. Kuster.
H.R. 1322: Mr. Baird and Mr. LaHood.
H.R. 1323: Mr. Baird and Mr. LaHood.
H.R. 1348: Mr. Jones.
H.R. 1349: Mr. Balderson.
H.R. 1362: Mr. Gibbs.
H.R. 1368: Mr. Phillips, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Casten, Mrs. Fletcher, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Sires, Ms. Kuster, Mrs. Mcbath, and Mr. Malinowski.
H.R. 1394: Mr. Breyer, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Blumenauer, and Ms. Craig.
H.R. 1396: Mr. Breyer and Mr. Suozzi.
H.R. 1407: Mr. Khanna and Ms. Slotkin.
H.R. 1442: Mr. Katko, Mr. Cirst, and Mr. Horsford.
H.R. 1446: Mr. Breyer, Mr. Brownley, Mr. Cash, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mr. DeFazio, Ms. DeGette, Mr. Evans, Mr. Foster, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Himes, Mr. Horsford, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Pocan, Miss Rice of New York, Ms. Ross, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Sires, Mr. Suozzi, and Mr. Yarmuth.
H.R. 1451: Ms. Plakh.
H.R. 1458: Ms. Velázquez, Ms. Sherrill, Mr. Fmpe, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Ryan, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Ms. Trair, Mr. O’halloran, and Mr. Raskin.
H.R. 1465: Mrs. Hinson.
H.R. 1472: Mr. Gallagher.
H.R. 1476: Mr. Stivers.
H.J. Res. 3: Mr. Fculcher.
H.J. Res. 12: Ms. Tenney and Mr. Cloud.
H.Con. Res. 20: Mr. Moolenaar and Mr. Gibbs.
H.Res. 47: Ms. Foster and Mrs. Mcbath.
H.Res. 114: Mr. Cole, Mr. Smith of New Jersey, and Mr. Latta.
H.Res. 117: Mr. Baird.
H.Res. 118: Mr. Rice of South Carolina, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Fallon, Mr. Garbarino, Mrs. Axne, Mr. Williams of Texas, Ms. Salazar, Mr. Smith of Nebraska, Mr. Carl, Mr. Green of Texas, and Mr. Baird.
H.Res. 119: Mr. Thompson of California, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Nadler, and Mr. Bost.
H.Res. 131: Ms. Nortkon.
H.Res. 159: Mr. Cole and Mrs. Lesko.
H.Res. 160: Mr. Baird.
H.Res. 174: Ms. Chu.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. SCHIFF

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on March 1, 2021 in H.R. 1 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 or rule XXI.
The Senate met at 7:09 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5 and H.R. 1319
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by titles for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5) to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 1319) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon on Wednesday, March 3; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 12 noon.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR
The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5. An act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1319. An act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 5.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES
OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call vote No. 50 on agreeing to the Resolution (H. Res. 179) on H.R. 1 (For the People Act) and H.R. 1280 (George Floyd Justice in Policing Act). Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS RENEWAL ACT OF 2021

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER
OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Revitalizing Economies, Housing, and Businesses (REHAB) Act of 2021. This legislation incentivizes equitable transit-oriented development by providing a 15 percent tax credit for expenses related to the rehabilitation of buildings that are more than 50 years old, including adjacent development on the same block, provided that the project is within a half-mile of an existing or planned public transportation center. The legislation also provides a bonus credit of 25 percent for expenses associated with the provision of affordable housing and public infrastructure.

While existing community development incentives do an excellent job at targeting their segment of the market, there is a noticeable gap in equitable transit-oriented development. As more Americans move to urban areas, communities face difficult decisions in accommodating increased congestion and affordability concerns, all while seeking to keep their carbon footprint light. By focusing on the rehabilitation of existing assets that are near public transportation projects, are lighter on the land and residents can more easily access jobs and services via transit. Encouraging affordable housing investments in transit-rich areas will transform areas that are often some of the least affordable. Taken together, provisions in the REHAB Act encourage preservation, accessibility, and affordability, and will create more livable communities.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to include this legislation in an upcoming infrastructure investment package.

HONORING LORA MILES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman of God, Pastor Lora Miles. Pastor Miles has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to teach the word of God.

Recently, Pastor Miles was recognized by the Yazoo County Regional Facility Chaplaincy’s Department as its first African American female prison minister. Pastor Miles is a native of Elizabeth, Mississippi, and currently serves as the Pastor of the Everlasting Love Ministry in Leland, MS. She has been involved in ministry work for nearly 30 years. It was after the passing of her son in 2014 that she hit the ground running in prison ministry—a safe haven to encourage her heart. She started her prison ministry at the Washington County Correctional Facility of Greenville, where she gives messages of hope and faith to hundreds of female inmates.

In 2019, Pastor Miles decided to expand her prison ministry to Yazoo County, where she now serves as the first female to minister at the Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, an all-male state facility.

Through her services in Yazoo County, inmates continue to receive Christ and inspirations through her messages of love. On Friday nights, at the Yazoo County Regional Correctional Facility, there are not enough chairs to accommodate all the men who are eager to attend the church services led by Pastor Miles. She is making a significant impact at the facility, and the lives of many men are being transformed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Lora Miles for her dedication to serving others and giving back to her community.

IN RECOGNITION OF GREGORY J. WASHINGTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. STEVE SCALISE
OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Gregory J. Washington, a New Orleans native, on the occasion of his retirement this year.

Greg began his forty-year career in the energy sector as a “roughneck” in the fields of south Louisiana during his high school summer breaks. For those of us who know Greg, it seems obvious that he would find success in the industry that offered him his first job. After graduating from Southern Methodist University in 1978, Greg started with Texaco as a “landman” in New Orleans and went on to become the State Mineral Board Representative from 1986 to 1990. Greg was later promoted to be Texaco’s Senior Public and Government Affairs Representative for Louisiana and was eventually asked to transfer to Washington, D.C., for what he thought would be a short-term assignment. After many years with the Texaco and Chevron Washington offices, Greg has decided to hang up his hard hat for good and enter retirement.

Throughout his career, Greg has shown his strong Louisiana work ethic and his “come early, stay late” attitude. He has always been eager to share his love of Louisiana and our culture with everyone he meets. He has continued to approach his work with an enthusiastic and positive outlook. As a result, he is well known and well liked, and his decision to retire certainly leaves a void that will be hard to fill. I know all his friends and colleagues will miss him dearly.

Greg and Cassandra, his lovely wife of 40 years, are looking forward to spending more time together in their well-earned retirement. I expect that this will surely include more time in his hometown of New Orleans.

I wish Greg and Cassandra all the best.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

HON. RODNEY DAVIS
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize a great accomplishment—the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. In my role as ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, I’ve had the great opportunity to learn about the many services the Library of Congress provides—not only Congress, but to all Americans. One of its most notable and inspiring is the National Library Service, or NLS, an institution committed to serving readers with disabilities with the mission of ensuring “that all may read.”

The history of the NLS began in 1897, with the seventh Librarian of Congress, John Russell Young, established a reading room for the blind that included more than 500 books and music items in raised characters. By 1913, Congress began to require that one copy of each book be made in raised characters and available at the Library of Congress for educational use, but the collection had its limits, as it was only available to visit in-person.

In 1930, Representative Ruth Pratt of New York and Senator Reed Smoot of Utah led a movement to make the collection more accessible across the country, leading to the passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act, which, on March 3, 1931, created what we know today as the National Library Service. In the 90 years since then, the NLS has expanded its service to reach children and individuals with additional types of physical and reading disabilities through not only books, but the world’s largest accessible music materials collection.

But this 90th anniversary isn’t only a celebration of the NLS, it is a celebration of the
central role local libraries play in connecting constituents across our entire country to its collection. In my own state, NLS and the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service provide service to nearly 10,000 individuals and institutions in Illinois. This includes more than 1,000 individual patrons and institutions in my district.

Madam Speaker, the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled is one of those magical programs that exemplify the good our government can do for all Americans, especially our sisters and brothers with disabilities. Today, I give them my congratulations on their 90th anniversary, my appreciation of their commitment to access and literacy, and my thanks for all they do.

HONORING ADAM POLITZER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Adam Politzer upon his retirement from a distinguished 20 year career in service to the City of Sausalito.

Adam was born and raised in Sausalito, and he graduated from Tamalpais High School. His career in local government began in 1987 as a recreation manager in Palo Alto. He later joined the City of Sausalito in 2000 as a parks and recreation director and quickly moved up the ranks to become the City’s chief administrator. Upon his retirement Adam was the longest serving City Manager for Sausalito.

During his tenure with the City Adam produced substantial improvements to the quality of life for the City’s residents and visitors. Among his numerous achievements, Adam successfully led efforts to revitalize Robin Sweener Park, Dunphy Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and Southview Park; oversaw the consolidation of the Sausalito Fire Department with the Southern Marin Fire District; and managed development projects for new public safety buildings. Adam was also valued by the city council and staff for his skilled stewardship of taxpayer dollars and helping the City maintain financial stability throughout economic challenges including the COVID–19 pandemic.

Over the years Adam became a strong mentor for the next generation of municipal leaders, launching the Southern Marin Management Academy to help train aspiring public servants. Adam is well-known by Sausalito and Marin County residents, business owners, and colleagues for his thoughtful leadership and willingness to thoroughly explore and pursue the best solutions to complex problems.

Adam’s commitment to the community of Sausalito has been, and will continue to be, productive and enduring. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Adam for his extensive public service and extending to him congratulations on his retirement and best wishes on his next endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WORKPLACE SOLUTIONS WEEK

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of designating the week of March 28, 2021, through April 3, 2021, as National Small Business Workplace Solutions Week. While small businesses are always deserving of our support and recognition, this is particularly true during the current COVID–19 pandemic.

The workplace solutions industry is comprised of small businesses across all 50 states. During the COVID–19 pandemic, the Department of Homeland Security deemed workplace solutions businesses essential as they assisted hospitals, nursing homes, schools, law enforcement, and local governments. Additionally, the workplace solutions industry provided critical support to businesses which were forced to move from in-person office to home offices. The industry’s work with both the public and private sectors proved to be crucial.

Like other small businesses, the workplace solutions industry has struggled over the course of the pandemic. The industry is grateful for PPP loans and the other federal assistance it has received, but recovery is still slow. Many small businesses face the prospect of losing their doors for good unless the economic picture continues to improve. Times have been tough for small businesses, but we can finally see a bright future beginning to peak over the horizon. The Congressional Budget Office projects over 4 percent GDP growth this year. In other words, our economy is ready to come roaring back as soon as we beat the pandemic.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in support of the workplace solutions industry. The resolution to designate March 28, 2021, through April 3, 2021, as National Small Business Workplace Solutions Week is a signal of support for this recovering industry and small businesses across the United States. Finally, I want to thank America’s small businesses for their dedication and sacrifice during the COVID–19 pandemic, and I wish them God’s blessings as they continue to serve the American people.

REMEMBERING BONNIE L. PITTMAN

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bonnie L. Pittman, of Ravenna, Ohio, who passed away on February 16, 2021 at the age of 82.

Bonnie was born January 2, 1939, in Gassville, Arkansas, to parents Floyd and Florence (McFarran) Chambers. She married the love of her life, John, on February 15, 1958.

Mrs. Pittman managed Tucaway Lake Campground with John, where she touched many lives and hearts. Bonnie was a member of the First Christian Church and enjoyed traveling. Most of all, she was a people person who loved her family and friends.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, John, as well as her children Sue (Patrick) Pittman, Laurie J. Pittman, Jamie (Keith) Fletcher, John (Vicki) Pittman Jr., Roger (Gail) Pittman, her five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, her sisters Blanche Hart and Betty Bell, her sister-in-law Jill Chambers, along with many nieces, nephews, and countless friends who she considered family. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Floyd “Butch” Chambers, Jr.

I am proud to be friends with Bonnie’s daughter, Judge Laurie Pittman. My deepest condolences go out to Judge Pittman, Bonnie’s entire family, and to all whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING LINDA EIDINGER AND HER SERVICE TO THE FORT LAUDERDALE COMMUNITY

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Linda Eidinger for her years of dedicated service to the South Florida community. After twenty years as a union officer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Linda moved to South Florida where she has lived a life of community service and activism. Linda is a proud mother and grandmother, and her roots in union work inspired her to continue to fight on behalf of working families everywhere.

As president and an active member of many civic organizations, Linda engaged her community and brought people together to advance noble causes. As a leader in the American Association of University Women and the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, Linda was a strong believer in the power of education and worked to ensure that every child has access to an education to enable them to succeed in life.

Linda was also president of the Fort Lauderdale Democrats By The Sea Club where she fought for working families and other causes while making simple meetings enjoyable and memorable. Linda was an excellent moderator and brought a wide range of thoughtful speakers to various events and meetings. Environmental stewardship is also an important cause to Linda, who participated in and organized events such as recycling drives, beach cleanups, and other activities to protect the local environment.

Linda has been a selfless, dedicated, and positive member of her family and her community, fighting for important causes like education, environmental protection, and so many others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Linda Eidinger, and her service to Fort Lauderdale and Florida’s 22nd Congressional District.
Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on February 26, 2021. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 41; YEA on Roll Call No. 42; YEA on Roll Call No. 43; YEA on Roll Call No. 44; and NAY on Roll Call No. 45.

HONORING DENISHA GRAY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and ambitious woman, Ms. Denisha Gray. Denisha has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to educate Warren County youth.

Denisha, a resident of Vicksburg, Mississippi, earned her bachelor’s degree in general studies from Alcorn State in 2013. In 2018, she earned her master’s degree from Louisiana Tech University.

Denisha Gray, a second-grade teacher at Dana Road Elementary School, said it is important that, through her teaching, her students are connected to the world around them, and that the lessons they learn connect them to that world. Before joining the staff at Dana Road Elementary, Gray taught one year at Vicksburg Intermediate School, her first with the Vicksburg Warren School District. Prior to that, she spent one year as a fourth-grade teacher and four years as a third-grade teacher at Wright Elementary School in Tallulah.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Denisha Gray for her passion and dedication to serving Warren County and her desire to make a difference in the community.

SUPPORTING THE CBC’S LIVING HISTORY EVENT AND CONDEMNING THE CAPITOL INSURRECTION OF JANUARY 6, 2021

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss Black History Month and the insurrection against our Capitol Building on January 6, 2021.

Since 1926, America has celebrated Black History in some form. It started as a week and now it is a month to honor the achievements of Black Americans throughout our nation’s history. Schools and organizations conduct seminars and events to highlight the month. It is a positive way to acknowledge the power of diversity in the growth of our country.

But there are still those in America who disagree with diversity. They want to return to a time when only a small minority of Americans were allowed to have rights and the full protections of the U.S. Government. They believe that ‘white is right’ and everything else is wrong. Luckily, their numbers have been decreasing across the country during the last few decades.

Unfortunately, they are not going quietly. The forces of white supremacy were strengthened and emboldened by former President Trump. In the last few years, they have acted out in ways both public and private. They were the ones who attacked our nation’s Capitol Building on January 6th. They were the ones who wanted to “hang” former Vice President Mike Pence. They were the ones who brought a Confederate flag, one of the nation’s foremost symbols of hate and prejudice, into the Capitol Building. And they forced elected officials of both political parties, Republicans and Democrats, to flee for their lives on that fateful day.

We know that white nationalists have become empowered to commit acts of hate like this one nationwide because they had support in the White House. In 2019, the total number of hate crimes rose to 7,312 and marked the fourth increase in the past five years. We know that white supremacist and domestic terrorists pose a greater threat to our nation’s peace and security than foreign terrorists. And we know how to fight and defeat white nationalism. The question is when are we going to defeat it for good?

HONORING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALAMEDA CONTRA COSTA LINKS

HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links (ACCL) for their 36 years of service throughout California’s 13th Congressional District and the country.

Based in Oakland, California, the Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links supports local service agencies serving primarily low-income, inner-city youth and their families in Contra Costa and Alameda counties through volunteer and fundraising efforts.

The Links, Incorporated was originally founded in 1946 and national membership now consists of more than 15,000 professional women of color. These women are committed to serving as “volunteers to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.”

The Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links was founded in 1985. Its members and leaders have worked since its founding to help East Oakland and the youth who live there through community service programs.

In 1996 ACCL established the Community Service Program called “Respect Yourself.” This program’s aims are to “Respect Your Health, Respect Your Knowledge, Respect Your Family and Community, and Respect Your Creativity and Intuitiveness.” Through an oral health initiative targeting children, a cardiovascular health initiative with the American Heart Association targeting African American women, educational activities for young children focused on STEAM, financial literacy, English literacy, international affairs, anti-bullying, environmental stewardship, art, dance and music, the “Respect Yourself” program has bettered the health and education of many in our community.

Over the years, ACCL has been able to serve over 2,800 young Oakland students. On February 26th, 2021, ACCL will hold its 25th annual Respect Yourself Youth Symposium. The Symposium directly supports young students in Oakland and exposes the students to thought leaders and educational content in STEM and health studies.

On behalf of California’s 13th Congressional District, I want to extend my sincere congratulations on this important milestone of 25 years of the Respect Yourself Symposium and 36 years of service. I thank the Alameda Contra Costa Chapter of the Links for dedication to excellence and to our community. I wish them continued success in working to better the lives of the children and women of color of California’s 13th Congressional District.
HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED

HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 90th anniversary of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled ("NLS"). Established by a 1931 Act of Congress, the NLS administers a free national library program that provides braille and recorded materials to people who cannot see or handle traditional print materials through a national network of cooperating libraries. Since its establishment, the NLS has remained a leading force in the national effort to increase the access of those with low vision, blindness, or other print disabilities to reading materials and a shining example for similar programs around the world.

Initially established as a program to serve only blind adults, the NLS was expanded in 1952 to include children, in 1966 to include individuals with other physical disabilities that prevent reading traditional print materials, and in 2016 to permit NLS to provide refreshable braille displays. Under a special provision of the U.S. Copyright Law, and with the permission of authors and publishers of works not covered by that provision, NLS selects books and periodicals for full-length publication in braille, e-braille, and digital audio format. These materials (along with free playback equipment needed to ready audiobooks and magazines) are circulated to patrons within the United States and its territories and to American citizens living abroad. The program continues to expand in both its reach and capabilities, now allowing for instantly downloadable digital audio and e-braille materials via the NLS mobile applications and allowing patrons to request accessible materials in a wide range of languages from libraries around the world.

The banner atop the NLS webpage announces the service’s noble mission: “That All May Read.” Over the past 90 years, the NLS, which updated its name from the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in 2019, has been steadfast in its efforts to accomplish this mission, ensuring that no person be denied the joy of literature and reading because of blindness or disability. The impact of the NLS over the past 90 years has been vast and far-reaching and I look forward to witnessing what the NLS will accomplish with another 90 years. On behalf of all of us in this House, congratulations to the National Library Service and to those who work tirelessly to make the NLS’s outstanding mission a reality. Many thanks for all their good work.

BARBARA ANSELMO CHIFICI WHO PASSED AWAY ON JANUARY 23, 2021

HON. STEVE SCALISE
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of New Orleans restauranteur Barbara Anselmo Chifici who passed away on January 23, 2021. She is survived by her seven children, twelve grandchildren, and two brothers. Barbara reached national recognition throughout her successful career in the culinary industry. For 23 years before his retirement in 2018, Born in Waco, Texas, Father Jasso was one of several children born to the late Domingo and Leonor Jasso, who came to Texas from Mexico. Before entering the Franciscan order in 1957, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, earning the rank of sergeant first class.

After completing his seminary studies in Malorca, Spain, and Rome, Italy, he was ordained a Catholic priest in 1965. During his early years in the priesthood, he traveled to Peru where he spent four years as a missionary. His next assignment took Father Jasso to Mexico where he spent 24 years serving parishes.

In 1994, at 62 years old, he was named pastor of All Saints Catholic Church in Fort Worth in 1994, where he also served on many local boards and commissions, including the United Way board and the Task Force on Racism. During this lifetime, Father Jasso also served as a vigilant advocate for immigrants and the disenfranchised in our North Texas community.

Let us live up to Father Jasso’s legacy and ensure we spend every day living a selfless life devoted to those less fortunate.

HONORING MRS. PATRICIA JOHNSON LOVE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON
OF MISSISSIPPI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a businesswoman and community leader, Mrs. Patricia Johnson Love.

Patricia Dale Johnson Love graced the earth in September of 1969. She is the third youngest of many siblings. She was born to the late Lucious and Jessie Mae Johnson. On a gloomy day, while she was only 3 years old, in March of 1972, the youngest of the siblings was born. After her mother gave birth to her little sister, she hemorrhaged and transitioned. Ten years later, when she was only 13 years old, her father passed away. Although Love was too young to understand, life for her was about to be a challenge.

She spent her childhood in different homes. Not all of them were good, but she and her siblings made the best of them. She would often think about the mile walk to the well to carry water, with no shoes on, on a rock road. She and her siblings trusted God every step of the way.

Love graduated from Quitman County High School in 1987. She attended Northwest Community College and graduated with an associate degree in Basic Computer Programming. While at Northwest, she made her money by fixing young ladies’ hair in the dormitory. After a year of employment, she decided to save her money and attend Cosmetology school.

Love began her career as a licensed cosmetologist in 1993 at Lewis Beauty Salon in Marks, Mississippi. In 2002, she stepped out on faith and opened her own salon. She wanted to give new stylists a place to start their careers. Her favorite clients were the elderly. She would pick up those who needed a ride and take them home. She never gave it a thought because their children would be at work. Sometimes, she would even have to take them to the grocery store or the post office before driving them home.

In 1994 during the ice storm, God gave her a gift. She named her gift, Altrevia Rashun...
Jackson. Love became a single parent when her child was only four years old. During this time, she became ill. For three years, she suffered with Crohn’s disease. She kept the faith and prayed that God will let her raise her child. After surgery in 1999, she was healed.

In 2013, she married Donnie Ray Love. Donnie was also a businessman, who inspired her to pursue other avenues. Together, they have 4 children.

After her daughter graduated from high school, she was hesitant on completing college. Love knew her daughter’s capabilities, and she knew she had become distracted. She challenged her to a bachelor’s degree. She attended Mississippi Valley State University and asked her daughter to attend. She knew that she had bitten off a bit much, but there was no turning back. The bond between the two grew even more, as they traveled to school together at night.

In 2017, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Occupational Management. She wanted a mother and daughter graduation, but her daughter was not quite ready. She finished the next year in 2018.

Love’s professors thought it would be great for her to pursue a master’s degree. She knew it would be difficult, but not impossible. In 2019 she received her master’s degree in Business Administration, with honors.

Patricia understands the full phrase of “it takes a village to raise a child.” She sees guiding children as a community effort. She loves children and wishes she could save them all. Therefore, she enjoys spending her spare time volunteering and tutoring at the Village in Marks, Mississippi.

Love is the owner and operator of PJs Salon for 21 years and has served 28 years in the business.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Patricia Johnson Love for her dedication in serving her community.
HIGHLIGHTS
Senate confirmed the nomination of Gina Marie Raimondo, of Rhode Island, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Senate

Chamber Action
(Legislative Day of Monday, March 1, 2021)
Routine Proceedings, pages S965–S996
Legislative Day of Monday, March 1, 2021:

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 518–552, and S. Res. 86.

Motion To Adjourn: Senate agreed to the motion to adjourn until 7:09 p.m., on Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

- By 84 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. EX. 70), Gina Marie Raimondo, of Rhode Island, to be Secretary of Commerce.
- By 95 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. EX. 72), Cecilia Elena Rouse, of New Jersey, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

- By 94 yeas to 5 nays (Vote No. EX. 71), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

On the Legislative Day of Monday, March 1, 2021:

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Read the First Time:

Executive Communications:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

On the Legislative Day of Tuesday, March 2, 2021:

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—72)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., to then reconvene at 7:09 p.m. on the same day and adjourned at 7:11 p.m., until 12 p.m. on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S997.)

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

- Subcommittee on Airland: Senators Duckworth (Chair), King, Peters, Manchin, Kelly, Rosen, Cotton, Wicker, Tillis, Sullivan, Scott (FL), and Hawley.
- Subcommittee on Cybersecurity: Senators Manchin (Chair), Gillibrand, Blumenthal, Rosen, Rounds, Wicker, Ernst, and Blackburn.
- Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities: Senators Kelly (Chair), Shaheen, Kaine, Warren, Peters, Gillibrand, Ernst, Fischer, Cramer, Scott (FL), Blackburn, Tuberville.
- Subcommittee on Personnel: Senators Gillibrand (Chair), Hirono, Warren, Tillis, Hawley, and Tuberville.
- Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support: Senators Kaine (Chair), Shaheen, Blumenthal, Hirono, Duckworth, Sullivan, Fischer, Rounds, Ernst, and Blackburn.
- Subcommittee on Seapower: Senators Hirono, Shaheen, Blumenthal, King, Kaine, Peters, Cramer, Wicker, Cotton, Tillis, Scott (FL), and Hawley.

Senators Reed and Inhofe are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AND STRATEGY

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine global security challenges and strategy, after receiving testimony from Thomas Wright, The Brookings Institution, and Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster, USA (Ret.), former United States National Security Advisor, Stanford University Hoover Institution, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, who was introduced by Senators Cardin and Van Hollen, and Rohit Chopra, of the District of Columbia, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, who was introduced by Senator Blumenthal, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Leahy, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

GAO’S 2021 HIGH RISK LIST

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Government Accountability Office’s 2021 High Risk List, focusing on addressing waste, fraud, and abuse, after receiving testimony from Eugene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, J. Christopher Mihm, Managing Director, Strategic Issues, Mark Gaffigan, Managing Director, Natural Resources and Environment, Nikki Clowers, Managing Director, Health Care, Nick Marinos, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, and David Trimble, Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure, all of the Government Accountability Office.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security: Senators Sanders, Casey, Baldwin, Murphy, Kaine, Hassan, Rosen, Luján, Collins, Paul, Murkowski, Marshall, Scott (SC), Moran, Cassidy, and Braun.

Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety: Senators Hickenlooper (Chair), Baldwin, Smith, Rosen, Luján, Braun, Tuberville, Paul, Scott (SC), and Romney.

Subcommittee on Children and Families: Senators Casey (Chair), Sanders, Murphy, Kaine, Hassan, Smith, Hickenlooper, Cassidy, Romney, Collins, Murkowski, Moran, Marshall, and Tuberville.

Senators Murray and Burr are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

FBI OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focusing on the January 6, 2021 insurrection, domestic terrorism, and other threats, after receiving testimony from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

Also, Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 117th Congress:

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights: Senators Klobuchar (Chair), Leahy, Blumenthal, Booker, Ossoff, Lee, Hawley, Cotton, Tillis, and Blackburn.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety: Senators Padilla (Chair), Feinstein, Klobuchar, Coons, Blumenthal, Hirono, Booker, Cornyn, Graham, Cruz, Cotton, Kennedy, Tillis, and Blackburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution: Senators Blumenthal (Chair), Feinstein, Whitehouse, Ossoff, Cruz, Cornyn, Lee, and Sasse.

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism: Senators Booker (Chair), Leahy, Feinstein, Whitehouse, Klobuchar, Padilla, Ossoff, Cotton, Graham, Cornyn, Lee, Cruz, Hawley, and Kennedy.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property: Senators Leahy (Chair), Coons, Hirono, Padilla, Tillis, Cornyn, Cotton, and Blackburn.


Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law: Senators Coons (Chair), Whitehouse, Klobuchar, Hirono, Ossoff, Sasse, Graham, Hawley, Kennedy, and Blackburn.
House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 55 public bills, H.R. 1477–1531; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 182–184, were introduced. Pages H1012–14

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1016–17

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Crow to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H885

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 5:59 p.m. Page H1009

For the People Act of 2021: The House considered H.R. 1, to expand Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, March 3rd. Page H886

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–9 shall be considered as adopted. Page H886

Agreed to:

Lofgren en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–9: Armstrong (No. 6) that exempts any state that does not utilize voter registration on enactment date of this Act and continuously thereafter from complying with voter registration requirements in the Act; Burgess (No. 12) that requires a report to Congress on the impact of wide-spread mail-in voting on the suffrage of active duty military servicemembers, how quickly their votes are counted, and whether high volumes of mail-in votes makes it harder for those individuals to vote; Burgess (No. 13) that requires a report to Congress on the data collection practices, the required necessary security resources, and the impact of a potential data breach of local, state, or federal online voter registration systems; Comer (No. 18) that adds provisions requiring the disclosure to Congress of ethics waivers granted to executive branch officials; requiring presidential transition team members to disclose positions they held outside the federal government for the previous year, including paid and unpaid positions; and a provision barring presidential transition team members from working on transition activities who do not disclose information required in the transition “ethics plan”, all of which were included in H.R. 1 as introduced in the 116th Congress; and Schweikert (No. 39) that directs the Election Assistance Commission to conduct a study regarding the use of blockchain technology to enhance voter security in Federal elections; Pages H997–99

Lofgren en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–9: Scanlon (No. 1) that expands state requirements for early voting locations to include college campuses; Adams (No. 2) that requires that, in order to be eligible for funds under the program for institutions of higher education demonstrating excellence in voter registration, institutions must have engaged in initiatives to facilitate the enfranchisement of groups of individuals that have historically faced barriers to voting; Adams (No. 3) that requires school districts to describe how they will prioritize access to initiatives for schools serving their most vulnerable students when applying for funds under the “Pilot Program for Providing Voter Registration Information to Secondary School Students”; Adams (No. 4) that requires an appropriations set-aside for minority-serving institutions (MSIs) under the grant program for institutions of higher education demonstrating excellence in voter registration; Adams (No. 5) that expands the requirements for states to receive grants for poll worker recruitment and training to ensure the state includes dedicated poll worker recruitment for youth and minors, including by recruiting at institutions of higher education and secondary education; Auchincloss (No. 7) that expands the requirements for states to receive grants for poll worker recruitment and training to ensure the state includes dedicated poll worker recruitment for youth and minors, including by recruiting at institutions of higher education and secondary education; Auchincloss (No. 8) that adds “age” to the list of bases upon which voter challenges by persons other than election officials will be
presumed as lacking a good faith factual basis; Bourdeaux (No. 9) that protects the ability of third parties to provide an application for an absentee ballot; ensures that election officials can send voter registration applications unsolicited; ensures that the number of drop boxes and geographical distribution of drop boxes provide a reasonable opportunity for voters to submit their ballot; permits for the security of drop boxes through remote or electronic surveillance; Boyle (PA) (No. 10) that allows for voter education information at naturalization ceremonies for newly sworn in citizens; Brown (No. 11) that requires states to include an option for an absentee ballot in the next and subsequent federal elections on a voter registration application form as part of registering for a State motor vehicle driver's license; Bush (No. 15) that expands accessibility requirements for ballot drop box locations to ensure unhoused communities can participate in federal elections; Case (No. 16) that directs the Election Assistance Commission to conduct a study on the 2020 elections and compile a list of recommendations to help states administer vote-by-mail elections; Castor (FL) (No. 17) that adds campaign fund disbursement requirements for former candidates registering as an agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act; DeSaulnier (No. 20) that adds the Bots Research Act to the bill, which requires the EAC to establish a task force to study and report on the impact of automated accounts, known as “bots,” on social media, public discourse, and elections; and Escobar (No. 21) that exempts cybersecurity assistance, including assistance in responding to threats or harassment online, from limits on coordinated political party expenditures (by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 52); and

Lofgren en bloc amendment No. 5 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–9: Gallego (No. 22) that improves voting access for individuals with disabilities in the four corners region of AZ, NM, CO, and UT by making a technical fix to the Protection and Advocacy for Voting Access (PAVA) program to include all 57 Protection and Advocacy Systems as eligible funding recipients; Grijalva (No. 23) that requires each State to submit to the Election Assistance Commission and Congress a report that includes the number of individuals who were purged from the official voter registration list or moved to inactive status, broken down by the reason for those actions, including the method used for identifying those voters; Grijalva (No. 24) that ensures that posting of notices at polling locations take into consideration factors including the linguistic preferences of voters in the jurisdiction; Langevin (No. 25) that implements a recommendation of the Cyberspace Solarium Commission to ensure the security of our elections and resilience of our democracy by creating the position of Senior Cyber Policy Advisor at the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and specifying that the duties of the EAC include the development, maintenance and dissemination of cybersecurity guidelines; Lawrence (No. 26) that prevents the United States Postal Service from enacting any new operational change that slows the delivery of voting materials in the 120-day period before an election; Lawrence (No. 27) that requires the United States Postal Service to appoint Election Mail Coordinators to assist election officials with any voting material questions; Levin (MI) (No. 29) that amends Sec. 8042 (requiring disclosures of political donations and fundraising by certain Senate-confirmed nominees and other senior appointees) to add “chiefs of mission,” as defined by the Foreign Service Act of 1980, to the list of covered individuals; Luria (No. 30) that prohibits taxpayer funds from being added into Freedom From Influence fund; Manning (No. 31) that directs the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a joint study to Congress of how to best enforce the fair and equitable waiting times standards set forth in Sec. 1906 of H.R. 1; requires that no individual waits longer than 30 minutes to cast a ballot at a polling place; Phillips (No. 32) that requires state election officials to undertake accessible public education campaigns to inform voters of any changes to election processes made in response to public emergencies; Plaskett (No. 33) that amends the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to equitably include territories of the United States; Plaskett (No. 34) that applies federal voter protection laws to territories of the United States; Plaskett (No. 35) that permits each of the territories of the United States to provide and furnish statues honoring their United States citizen residents for placement in Statuary Hall in the same manner as statues honoring United States citizen residents of the several States are provided for in Statuary Hall; Plaskett (No. 36) that includes territories of the United States in the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2021 in the same manner as the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and Schneider (No. 38) that requires disclosure of donations of $5,000 or more to political committees, including super PACs, made 20 days or less before an election in order to ensure transparency of contributions not likely to be disclosed through regular reporting requirements before an election (by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 55).
Rejected:

Bush amendment (No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–9) that sought to clarify that felony convictions do not bar any eligible individual from voting in federal elections, including individuals who are currently incarcerated (by a yea-and-nay vote of 97 yeas to 328 nays, Roll No. 53); and

Rodney Davis (IL) amendment (No. 19 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–9) that sought to strikeSubtitle C of Title III “Enhancing Protections for United States Democratic Institutions” creating a ‘national strategy’ to protect US democratic institutions by establishing a national commission (by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 54).

H. Res. 179, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1) and (H.R. 1280) was agreed to yesterday, March 1st.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1001–02, H1002, H1009–10, and H1010.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS FOR MEATPACKING, POULTRY, AND AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Health and Safety Protections for Meatpacking, Poultry, and Agricultural Workers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—OPEN WORLD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on Open World. Testimony was heard from Jane Sargus, Executive Director, Open World Leadership Center.

U.S. MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES OVERVIEW

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled “U.S. Military Service Academies Overview”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Sean Buck, Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy; Lieutenant General Richard M. Clark, Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy; and Lieutenant General Darryl A. Williams, Superintendent, U.S. Military Academy West Point.

APPROPRIATIONS—CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the Congressional Budget Office. Testimony was heard from Philip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

THE FUTURE OF TELEHEALTH: HOW COVID–19 IS CHANGING THE DELIVERY OF VIRTUAL CARE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “The Future of Telehealth: How COVID–19 is Changing the Delivery of Virtual Care”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ELECTIONS IN AFRICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights held a hearing entitled “Elections in Africa”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE 2021 GAO HIGH-RISK LIST: BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER, STRONGER, MORE EFFECTIVE AMERICA

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The 2021 GAO High-Risk List: Blueprint for a Safer, Stronger, More Effective America”. Testimony was heard from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

COVID–19’S EFFECTS ON U.S. AVIATION AND THE FLIGHT PATH TO RECOVERY

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “COVID–19’s Effects on U.S. Aviation and the Flight Path to Recovery”. Testimony was heard from Heather Krause, Director, Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Polly Ellen Trottenberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR–253.
Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Brenda Mallory, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Janet Garvin McCabe, of Indiana, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Xavier Becerra, of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services, Katherine C. Tai, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Adewale O. Adeyemo, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Wendy Ruth Sherman, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary, and Brian P. McKeon, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–106/VTC.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: with the Committee on Rules and Administration, to hold a joint hearing to examine the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, 10 a.m., SD–G50/WEBEX.

Committee on Rules and Administration: with the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to hold a joint hearing to examine the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, 10 a.m., SD–G50/WEBEX.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: to hold hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations, 10 a.m., WEXBEX.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the U.S. Capitol Police, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch budget hearing on the Library of Congress, 12 p.m., Webex.


Joint Meetings

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of veterans services organizations, 10 a.m., WEBEX.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
12 p.m., Wednesday, March 3

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.
Senate expects to consider the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1319, American Rescue Plan Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Wednesday, March 3

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Complete consideration of H.R. 1—For the People Act of 2021.

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