

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8192

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. SOTO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “High School Voter Em-
 5 powerment Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS AS VOTER**
 7 **REGISTRATION AGENCIES.**

8 (a) **REQUIRING DESIGNATION BY STATES.**—Section
 9 7(a)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993
 10 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)(2)) is amended—

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

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

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 16 paragraph:

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

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

1 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
2 Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7801)),”.

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

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

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

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

16 “(A) enrolled in a class in American Gov-
17 ernment or Economics;

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

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

22 “(2) USE OF VOTING MACHINES FOR STUDENT
23 ELECTIONS.—At the request of a public high school
24 which is operating a high school voter registration
25 program under paragraph (1), the appropriate elec-

1 tion official of the State may enter into an agree-
2 ment under which the official provides the school
3 with voting machines and related equipment and
4 supplies for use in a student council or similar elec-
5 tion held at the school, under such terms and condi-
6 tions as the school and official may determine.”.

7 (b) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS TO COVER COSTS OF
8 VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES.—

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

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

1 (A) a statement of the reasonable costs in-
2 curred by the school in carrying out the voter
3 registration drive, including the information
4 used by the school to determine the amount of
5 such costs;

6 (B) a description of the activities con-
7 ducted under the drive, including the number of
8 students registered; and

9 (C) such other information and assurances
10 as the Secretary may require.

11 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 There are authorized to be appropriated for pay-
13 ments under this subsection such sums as may be
14 necessary for fiscal year 2025 and each succeeding
15 fiscal year.

16 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

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