To modernize voter registration, promote access to voting for individuals with disabilities, protect the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BACA, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRALEY of Iowa, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARNAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESCHOO, Mr. FARR, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. FILNER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HAHN, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. KAPTR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KIND, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. LJUJAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. McCArTHY of New York, Ms. McCOLLUM, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PIERLUSI, Ms. Pingree of Maine, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RANGEI, Mr. REYES, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SANCHEZ of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STARK, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr.
WATT, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BISHOP of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Science, Space, and Technology, Veterans’ Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform, and 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 modernize voter registration, promote access to voting for individuals with disabilities, protect the ability of individuals to exercise the right to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Voter Empowerment Act of 2012”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION

Sec. 100. Short title.

Subtitle A—Promoting Internet Registration

Sec. 101. Requiring availability of Internet for voter registration.
Sec. 102. Use of Internet to update registration information.
Sec. 103. Provision of election information by electronic mail to individuals registered to vote.
Sec. 104. Clarification of requirement regarding necessary information to show eligibility to vote.
Sec. 105. Effective date.

Subtitle B—Automated Registration of Certain Individuals
Sec. 111. Automated voter registration.
Sec. 112. List maintenance, privacy, and security.
Sec. 113. Promoting accuracy of Statewide voter registration lists.
Sec. 114. Definitions.
Sec. 115. Effective date.

Subtitle C—Other Initiatives To Promote Voter Registration

Sec. 121. Same day registration.
Sec. 122. Acceptance of voter registration applications from individuals under 18 years of age.
Sec. 123. Annual reports on voter registration statistics.

Subtitle D—Availability of HAVA Requirements Payments

Sec. 131. Availability of requirements payments under HAVA to cover costs of compliance with new requirements.

Subtitle E—Prohibiting Interference With Voter Registration

Sec. 141. Prohibiting hindering, interfering with, or preventing voter registration.
Sec. 142. Establishment of best practices.

TITLE II—ACCESS TO VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Sec. 201. Requirements for States to promote access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities.
Sec. 202. Pilot programs for enabling individuals with disabilities to register to vote and vote privately and independently at residences.
Sec. 203. Expansion and reauthorization of grant program to assure voting access for individuals with disabilities.

TITLE III—PROHIBITING VOTER CAGING

Sec. 301. Voter caging and other questionable challenges prohibited.
Sec. 302. Development and adoption of best practices for preventing voter caging.
Sec. 303. Severability.

TITLE IV—PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

Sec. 401. Prohibition on deceptive practices in Federal elections.
Sec. 402. Modification of penalty for voter intimidation.
Sec. 403. Sentencing guidelines.
Sec. 404. Reporting violations; corrective action.

TITLE V—DEMOCRACY RESTORATION

Sec. 502. Enforcement.
Sec. 503. Notification of restoration of voting rights.
Sec. 504. Definitions.
Sec. 505. Relation to other laws.
Sec. 506. Federal prison funds.
Sec. 507. Effective date.

TITLE VI—ACCURACY, INTEGRITY, AND SECURITY OF ELECTIONS
Sec. 600. Short title.

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

Sec. 601. Paper ballot and manual counting requirements.
Sec. 602. Accessibility and ballot verification for individuals with disabilities.
Sec. 603. Additional voting system requirements.
Sec. 604. Availability of additional funding to enable States to meet costs of revised requirements.
Sec. 605. Effective date for new requirements.

Subtitle B—Requirement for Mandatory Manual Audits by Hand Count

Sec. 611. Mandatory manual audits.
Sec. 613. Guidance on best practices for alternative audit mechanisms.
Sec. 614. Clerical amendment.

TITLE VII—PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

Sec. 701. Requirements for counting provisional ballots; establishment of uniform and nondiscriminatory standards.

TITLE VIII—EARLY VOTING AND VOTING BY MAIL

Sec. 801. Early voting and voting by mail.

TITLE IX—ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

Sec. 901. Extending guarantee of residency for voting purposes to family members of absent military personnel.
Sec. 902. Pre-election reports on availability and transmission of absentee ballots.
Sec. 903. Enforcement.
Sec. 904. Revisions to 45-day absentee ballot transmission rule.
Sec. 905. Use of single absentee ballot application for subsequent elections.
Sec. 906. Application of UOCAVA to Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.
Sec. 907. Effective date.

TITLE X—POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Sec. 1001. Leave to serve as a poll worker for Federal employees.
Sec. 1002. Grants to States for poll worker recruitment and training.
Sec. 1003. Model poll worker training program.
Sec. 1004. State defined.

TITLE XI—ENHANCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT


TITLE XII—FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY

Sec. 1201. Prohibition on campaign activities by chief State election administration officials.

TITLE XIII—OTHER ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENTS
TITLE I—VOTER REGISTRATION MODERNIZATION

SEC. 100. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2012”.

Subtitle A—Promoting Internet Registration

SEC. 101. REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR REGISTRATION.—The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 6 the following new section:

“SEC. 6A. INTERNET REGISTRATION.

“(a) REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION.—

“(1) AVAILABILITY OF 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):

“(A) Online application for voter registration.

“(B) Online assistance to applicants in applying to register to vote.

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

“(D) Online receipt of completed voter registration applications.

“(b) ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.—
A State shall accept an online voter registration application provided 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 provides a signature in electronic form in accordance with subsection (c) (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) SIGNATURES IN ELECTRONIC FORM.—For purposes of this section, an individual provides a signature in electronic form by—

“(1) executing a computerized mark in the signature field on an online voter registration application; or

“(2) submitting with the application an electronic copy of the individual’s handwritten signature through electronic means.

“(d) 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 on how
the individual may check the status of the application.

“(2) NOTICE OF DISPOSITION.—As soon as 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.

“(3) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—The appropriate State or local election official shall send the notices required under this subsection by regular mail, and, in the case of an individual who has requested that the State provide voter registration and voting information through electronic mail, by both electronic mail and regular mail.

“(e) 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 con-
strued to prohibit an applicant from registering to
vote as a member of a political party.

“(f) 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 any unauthor-
ized access to information provided by individuals using
the services made available under subsection (a).

“(g) USE OF ADDITIONAL TELEPHONE-BASED SYS-
TEM.—A State shall make the services made available on-
line under subsection (a) 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 require-
ments of this section.

“(h) 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 adminis-
tration 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 AS INDIVIDUALS REGISTERING TO VOTE BY MAIL FOR PURPOSES OF FIRST-TIME VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 303(b)(1)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15483(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “by mail” and inserting “by mail or online under section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993”.

(2) REQUIRING SIGNATURE FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS IN JURISDICTION.—Section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15483(b)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS USING ONLINE REGISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, require an individual to meet the requirements of sub-paragraph (B) if—
“(i) the individual registered to vote in the State online under section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; and

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

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—An individual meets the requirements of this subparagraph if—

“(i) 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

“(ii) in the case of an individual who votes by mail, the individual submits with the ballot a handwritten signature.

“(C) INAPPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply in the case of an individual who is—

“(i) entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1 et seq.);
“(ii) provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under section 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee–1(b)(2)(B)(ii)); or

“(iii) entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other Federal law.”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 303(d)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15483(d)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “Each State” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (b)(5), each State”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TIMING OF REGISTRATION.—Section 8(a)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C);

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

“(D) in the case of online registration through the official public website of an election official under section 6A, if the valid voter reg-
istration application is submitted online not later than the lesser of 30 days, or the period provided by State law, before the date of the election (as determined by treating the date on which the application is sent electronically as the date on which it is submitted); and”.

(2) INFORMING APPLICANTS OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES.—Section 8(a)(5) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(a)(5)) is amended by striking “and 7” and inserting “6A, and 7”.

SEC. 102. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) UPDATES TO INFORMATION CONTAINED ON COMPUTERIZED STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST.—Section 303(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15483(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) USE OF INTERNET BY REGISTERED VOTERS TO UPDATE INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The appropriate State or local election official shall ensure that any registered voter on the computerized list may at any time update the voter’s registration information, including the voter’s address and elec-
tronic mail address, online through the official public website of the election official responsible for the maintenance of the list, so long as the voter attests to the contents of the update by providing a signature in electronic form in the same manner required under section 6A(c) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

“(B) PROCESSING OF UPDATED INFORMATION BY ELECTION OFFICIALS.—If a registered voter updates registration information under subparagraph (A), the appropriate State or local election official shall—

“(i) revise any information on the computerized list to reflect the update made by the voter; and

“(ii) if the updated registration information affects the voter’s eligibility to vote in an 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.

“(C) CONFIRMATION AND DISPOSITION.—
“(i) CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT.—
Upon the online submission of updated registration information by an individual under this paragraph, the appropriate State or local election official shall send the individual 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.

“(ii) NOTICE OF DISPOSITION.—As soon as the appropriate State or local election official has accepted or rejected updated information submitted by an individual under this paragraph, the official shall send the individual a notice of the disposition of the update.

“(iii) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION.—
The appropriate State or local election official shall send the notices required under this subparagraph by regular mail, and, in the case of an individual who has requested that the State provide voter registration and voting information through electronic mail, by both electronic mail and regular mail.”.
(2) Conforming amendment relating to effective date.—Section 303(d)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15483(d)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraph (B) and subsection (a)(6)”.

(b) Ability of Registrant To Use Online Update To Provide Information on Residence.—Section 8(d)(2)(A) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting after “return 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 second sentence, by striking “returned,” and inserting the following: “returned or if the registrant does not update the registrant’s information on the computerized Statewide voter registration list using such online method,”.
SEC. 103. PROVISION OF ELECTION INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED TO VOTE.

(a) Including Option on Voter Registration Application To Provide E-Mail Address and Receive Information.—

(1) In general.—Section 9(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–7(b)) is amended—

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

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(5) shall include a space for the applicant to provide (at the applicant’s option) an electronic mail address, together with a statement that, if the applicant so requests, instead of using regular mail the appropriate State and local election officials shall provide to the applicant, through electronic mail sent to that address, the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) which the officials would provide to the applicant through regular mail.”.
(2) Prohibiting use for purposes unrelated to official duties of election officials.—Section 9 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–7) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) 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 (b)(5) 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 provision of information by election officials.—Section 302(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15482(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) Provision of other information by electronic mail.—If an individual who is a registered voter has provided the State or local election official with an electronic mail address for the purpose of receiving voting information (as described in
section 9(b)(5) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993), the appropriate State or local election official, through electronic mail transmitted not later than 7 days before the date of the election involved, shall provide the individual with information on how to obtain the following information by electronic means:

“(A) The name and address of the polling place at which the individual is assigned to vote in the election.

“(B) The hours of operation for the polling place.

“(C) A description of any identification or other information the individual may be required to present at the polling place.”

SEC. 104. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT REGARDING NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SHOW ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE.

Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6) is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:
“(j) 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—

“(1) the applicant has accurately completed the application form and attested to the statement required by section 9(b)(2); 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.”.

SEC. 105. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this subtitle (other than the amendments made by section 104) shall take effect January 1, 2014.

(b) Waiver.—Subject to the approval of the Election Assistance Commission, if a State certifies to the Election Assistance Commission that the State will not meet the deadline referred to in subsection (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, 2014” were a reference to “January 1, 2016”.

**Subtitle B—Automated Registration of Certain Individuals**

**SEC. 111. AUTOMATED VOTER REGISTRATION.**

(a) **Collection of Information by Source Agencies.**—

(1) **Duties of source agencies.**—Each source agency in a State (as defined in subsection (e)) shall, with each application for services or assistance by an individual, and with each recertification, renewal, or change of address relating to such services or assistance—

(A) notify each such individual of the substantive qualifications of an elector in the State, using language approved by the State’s chief election official;

(B) notify each such individual that there is an opportunity to be registered to vote or update voter registration, but that voter registration is voluntary, and that neither registering nor declining to register to vote will in any way
affect the availability of services or benefits, nor
be used for other purposes;

(C) require that each such individual indi-
cate, after considering the substantive qualifica-
tion of an elector in the State, whether or not
the person wishes to be registered;

(D) ensure that each such individual’s
transaction with the agency cannot be com-
pleted until the individual has indicated whether
he or she wishes to register to vote; and

(E) for each such individual who consents
to using the individual’s records with the source
agency to enable the individual to register to
vote under this section, collect a signed affirma-
tion of eligibility to register to vote in the State.

(2) NO EFFECT ON RIGHT TO DECLINE VOTER
REGISTRATION.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be
construed to interfere with the right of any person
to decline to be registered to vote for any reason.

(b) TRANSFER OF INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS
CONSENTING TO VOTER REGISTRATION.—

(1) TRANSFER.—For each individual who noti-
fies the source agency that the individual consents to
voter registration under this section, the source
agency shall transfer to the chief State election offi-
cial of the State the following data, to the extent the
data is available to the source agency:

(A) The given name or names and sur-
name or surnames.

(B) Date of birth.

(C) Residential address.

(D) Mailing address.

(E) Signature, in electronic form.

(F) Date of the last change to the infor-
mation.

(G) The motor vehicle driver’s license
number.

(H) The last four digits of the Social Secu-
ry number.

(2) Timing of transfer.—The source agency
shall transfer the data described in paragraph (1) to
the chief State election official on a daily basis.

(3) Format.—The data transferred under
paragraph (1) shall be transferred in a format com-
patible with the Statewide computerized voter reg-
istration list under section 303 of the Help America
Vote Act of 2002.

(4) Prohibiting storage of information.—
Any information collected by the source agency
under this section with respect to an individual who
consents to register to vote under this section may not be stored by the source agency in any form after the information is transferred to the chief State election official under paragraph (1).

(c) Registration of Individuals by Chief State Election Official.—

(1) Comparison with statewide voter registration list.—Upon receiving information from a source agency with respect to an individual under subsection (b), the chief State election official shall determine whether the individual is included in the computerized Statewide voter registration list established and maintained under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15483).

(2) Registration of individuals not on statewide list.—If an individual for whom information is received from a source agency under subsection (b) is eligible to vote in elections for Federal office in the State and is not on the computerized Statewide voter registration list, the chief State election official shall—

(A) ensure that the individual is registered to vote in such elections not later than 5 days after receiving the information, without regard to whether or not the information provided by
the source agency includes the individual’s signature;

(B) update the Statewide computerized voter registration list to include the individual; and

(C) notify the individual that the individual is registered to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.

(3) TREATMENT OF INFORMATION INCORRECTLY PROVIDED.—If a source agency provides the chief State election official with information with respect to an individual who did not consent to be registered to vote under this section, the chief State election official shall not take any action to register the individual to vote, except that no such individual who is already included on the computerized Statewide voter registration list shall be removed from the list solely because the information was incorrectly provided under subsection (b).

(4) NO EFFECT ON OTHER MEANS OF REGISTRATION.—Nothing in this section affects a State’s obligation to register voters upon receipt of a valid voter registration application through means provided by National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg et seq.), the Internet registration
procedure described in subtitle A, or other valid means.

(5) INDIVIDUALS IN EXISTING RECORDS.—No later than January 2015, each individual who is listed in a source agency’s records and for whom there exists reason to believe the individual is a citizen and not otherwise ineligible to vote shall be mailed a postage pre-paid return postcard including a box for the individual to check, together with the statement (in close proximity to the box and in prominent type), “By checking this box, I affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, am eligible to vote in this State, and will be at least eighteen years old by the next general election. I understand that by checking this box, I will be registered to vote if I am eligible to vote in the State,”, along with a clear description of the voting eligibility requirements in the State. The postcard shall also include, where required for voter registration, a place for the individual’s signature and designation of party affiliation. An individual who checks the box and returns the completed postcard postmarked not later than the lesser of the fifteenth day before an election for Federal office, or the period provided by State law, shall be registered to vote in that election.
(d) Options for State to Require Special Treatment of Individuals Registered Automatically.—

(1) Treatment as Individuals Registering to Vote by Mail for Purposes of First-Time Voter Identification Requirements.—Section 303(b)(1)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15483(b)(1)(A)), as amended by section 101(b)(1), is amended by striking “of 1993” and inserting “of 1993 or (at the option of the State) was registered automatically under section 111 of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2012”.

(2) Requiring Signature.—Section 303(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15483(b)), as amended by section 101(b)(2), is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(5) Option for State to Require Signature Requirements for First-Time Voters Registered Automatically.—

“(A) In General.—A State may, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, require an
individual to meet the requirements of subparagraph (B) if—

“(i) the individual was registered to vote in the State automatically under section 111 of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2012; and

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

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—An individual meets the requirements of this subparagraph if—

“(i) 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

“(ii) in the case of an individual who votes by mail, the individual submits with the ballot a handwritten signature.

“(C) INAPPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply in the case of an individual who is—

“(i) entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-
zens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1 et seq.);

“(ii) provided the right to vote otherwise than in person under section 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee–1(b)(2)(B)(ii)); or

“(iii) entitled to vote otherwise than in person under any other Federal law.”.

(3) Conforming amendment relating to effective date.—Section 303(d)(2)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15483(d)(2)(A)), as amended by section 101(b)(3), is amended by striking “subsection (b)(5)” and inserting “subsections (b)(5) and (b)(6)”.

(e) Source agencies described.—

(1) In general.—With respect to any State, a “source agency” is—

(A) each State office which is described in paragraph (2); and

(B) each Federal office which is described in paragraph (3) which is located in the State, except that such office shall be a source agency only with respect to individuals who are residents of the State in which the office is located.
(2) State offices described.—

(A) In general.—The State offices described in this paragraph are as follows:

(i) The State motor vehicle authority.

(ii) Each office in the State which is designated as a voter registration agency in a State pursuant to section 7(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–5(a)).

(iii) Each State agency that administers a program providing assistance pursuant to pursuant to title III of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 501 et seq.).

(iv) Each State agency primarily responsible for maintaining identifying information for students enrolled at public secondary schools in the State, including, where applicable, the State agency responsible for maintaining the education data system described in section 6401(e)(2) of the America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C. 9871(e)(2)).

(v) In the case of a State in which an individual disenfranchised by a criminal conviction may become eligible to vote
upon completion of criminal sentence or any part thereof, or upon formal restoration of rights, the State agency responsible for administering that sentence, or part thereof, or that restoration of rights.

(vi) In the case of a State in which an individual disenfranchised by adjudication of mental incompetence or similar condition becomes eligible to register to vote upon the restoration of competence or similar condition, each State agency responsible for determining when competence or a similar condition is met.

(vii) Such other office which may be designated as a source agency by the chief State election official of the State.

(B) CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL SOURCE AGENCIES.—In designating offices of the State as source agencies for purposes of subparagraph (A)(vii), the chief State election official shall give priority on the basis of the following criteria:

(i) The extent to which individuals receiving services or assistance from the office are likely to be individuals who are eli-
gible to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State but who are not registered to vote in such elections.

(ii) The accuracy of the office’s records with respect to identifying information (including age, citizenship status, and residency) for individuals receiving services or assistance from the office.

(iii) The cost-effectiveness of obtaining such identifying information and transmitting the information to the chief State election official.

(iv) The extent to which the designation of the office as a voter registration agency will promote the registration of eligible individuals to vote in elections for Federal office in the State and the accuracy of the State’s Statewide computerized voter registration list under the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

(3) Federal offices described.—The Federal offices described in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) Armed Forces recruitment offices.
(B) The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau, but only with respect to individuals who complete the naturalization process.

(C) The Social Security Administration.

(D) The Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and the United States Probation Service, but only with respect to individuals completing terms of prison, sentences, probation, or parole.

(E) The Department of Veterans Affairs, but only with respect to individuals applying for or using health care services or services for homeless individuals.

(F) The Defense Manpower Data Center of the Department of Defense.

(G) The Indian Health Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(H) The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(I) Any other Federal office which designated by a State (with the consent of the
President) as a source agency with respect to the State.

SEC. 112. LIST MAINTENANCE, PRIVACY, AND SECURITY.

(a) DATABASE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.—

(1) DATABASE MATCHING STANDARDS.—The chief State election official of each State shall establish standards governing the comparison of data on the Statewide computerized voter registration list under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the data provided by various source agencies under section 111, and relevant data from other sources, including the specific data elements and data matching rules to be used for purposes of determining—

(A) whether a data record from any source agency represents the same individual as a record in another source agency or on the Statewide list;

(B) whether a data record from any source agency represents an individual already registered to vote in the State;

(C) whether two data records in the Statewide computerized voter registration list represent duplicate records for the same individual;
(D) whether a data record supplied by any list maintenance source represents an individual already registered to vote in the State; and

(E) which information will be treated as more current and reliable when data records from multiple sources present information for the same individual.

(2) STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING INELIGIBILITY.—The chief State election official of a State shall establish uniform and non-discriminatory standards describing the specific conditions under which an individual will be determined for list maintenance purposes to be ineligible to vote in an election for Federal office in the State.

(b) PRIVACY AND SECURITY STANDARDS.—

(1) PRIVACY AND SECURITY POLICY.—The chief State election official of a State shall publish and enforce a privacy and security policy specifying each class of users who shall have authorized access to the computerized Statewide voter registration list, specifying for each such class the permission and levels of access to be granted, and setting forth other safeguards to protect the privacy and security of the information on the list. Such policy shall include security safeguards to protect personal infor-
mation in the data transfer process under section 111, the online or telephone interface, the maintenance of the voter registration database, and audit procedure to track individual access to the system.

(2) **NO UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS.**—The chief election official of a State shall establish policies and enforcement procedures to prevent unauthorized access to or use of the computerized Statewide voter registration list, any list or other information provided by a source agency under section 111, or any maintenance source for the list. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to prohibit access to information required for official purposes for purposes of voter registration, election administration, and the enforcement of election laws.

(3) **INTER-AGENCY TRANSFERS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The chief election official of a State shall establish policies and enforcement procedures to maintain security during inter-agency transfers of information required or permitted under this subtitle. Each State agency and third party participating in such inter-agency transfers of information shall facilitate and comply with such policies. Nothing in this subparagraph shall prevent a source
agency under section 111 from establishing and enforcing additional security measures to protect the confidentiality and integrity of inter-agency data transfers. No State or local election official shall transfer or facilitate the transfer of information from the computerized Statewide voter registration list to any source agency under section 111.

(B) Transmission through secure third parties permitted.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent a source agency under section 111 from contracting with a third party to assist in the transmission of data to a chief State election official, so long as the data transmission complies with the applicable requirements of this subtitle, including the privacy and security provisions of this section.

(4) Records retention.—The chief State election official of a State shall establish standards and procedures to maintain all election records required for purposes of this subtitle, including for the purpose of determining the eligibility of persons casting provisional ballots under section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Records for individ-
uals who have been retained on the computerized Statewide voter registration list under section 301 of such Act but identified as ineligible to vote in an election for Federal office within the State, or removed from the list due to ineligibility, shall be maintained and kept available until at least the date of the second general election for Federal office that occurs after the date that the individual was identified as ineligible.

(c) **Publication of Standards.** — The chief State election official of a State shall publish on the official’s website the standards established under this section, and shall make those standards available in written form upon public request.

(d) **Protection of Source Information.** — The identity of the specific source agency through which an individual consented to register to vote under section 111 shall not be disclosed to the public and shall not be retained after the individual is added to the computerized Statewide voter registration list.

(e) **Confidentiality of Information.** — The chief State election official of a State shall establish policies and enforcement procedures to ensure that personal information provided by source agencies or otherwise transmitted under this section is kept confidential and is available only
to authorized users. For purposes of these policies and procedures, the term “personal information” means any of the following:

(1) Any portion of an individual’s Social Security number.

(2) Any portion of an individual’s motor vehicle driver’s license number or State identification card number.

(3) An individual’s signature.

(4) An individual’s personal residence and contact information (in the case of individuals with respect to whom such information is required to be maintained as confidential under State law).

(5) Sensitive information relating to persons in categories designated confidential by Federal or State law, including victims of domestic violence or stalking, prosecutors and law enforcement personnel, and participants in a witness protection program.

(6) An individual’s phone number.

(7) An individual’s email address.

(8) Any indication of an individual’s status as a citizen or noncitizen of the United States.

(9) Such other information as the chief State election official may designate as confidential to the extent reasonably necessary to prevent identity theft.
or impersonation, except that the chief State election
official may not designate as confidential under this
subparagraph the name, address, or date of registra-
tion of an individual, or, where applicable, the self-
identified racial or ethnic category of the individual
as applicable under Revisions to OMB Directive
Number 15 or successor directives.

(f) Protections Against Liability of Individuals on Basis of Information Transferred.—

(1) No individual liability for registration of ineligible individual.—If an individual
who is not eligible to register to vote in elections for
Federal office is registered to vote in such elections
by a chief State election official under section 111,
the individual shall not be subject to any penalty, in-
cluding the imposition of a fine or term of imprison-
ment, adverse treatment in any immigration or nat-
uralization proceeding, or the denial of any status
under immigration laws, under any law prohibiting
an individual who is not eligible to register to vote
in elections for Federal office from registering to
vote in such elections. Nothing in this paragraph
shall be construed to waive the liability of any indi-
vidual who knowingly provides false information to
any person regarding the individual’s eligibility to
register to vote or vote in elections for Federal office.

(2) Prohibiting Use of Information by Officials.—No person acting under color of law may use the information received by the chief State election official under section 111 to attempt to determine the citizenship status of any individual for immigration enforcement, criminal law enforcement (other than enforcement of election laws), or any purpose other than voter registration, election administration, or the enforcement of election laws.

(g) Prohibition on Transfer of Information Irrelevant to Administration of Elections.—No source agency shall transmit any information under section 111 which is irrelevant to the administration of elections. To the extent that an election official receives any information which is accidentally or inadvertently transferred by a source agency under such section, the official shall immediately delete the information from the official’s records.

(h) Restriction on Use of Information.—No information relating to an individual’s absence from the Statewide voter registration list under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 or an individual’s declination to supply information for voter registration purposes
to a source agency under section 111 may be disclosed
to the public for immigration enforcement, criminal law
enforcement other than enforcement of laws against elec-
tion crimes, or used for any purpose other than voter reg-
istration, election administration, or the enforcement of
election laws.

(i) Nondiscrimination.—No person acting under
color of law may discriminate against any individual on
the basis of the individual’s absence from the statewide
voter registration list, the information supplied by the in-
dividual for voter registration purpose to a source agency
under section 111, or the individual’s declination to supply
such information, except as required for purposes of voter
registration, election administration, and the enforcement
of election laws.

(j) Prohibition on the Use of Voter Registra-
tion Information for Commercial or Non-Govern-
mental Purposes.—Voter registration information col-
lected under this subtitle shall not be used for commercial
purposes including for comparison with any existing com-
mercial list or database.

(k) Penalty.—Whoever knowingly uses information
or permits information to be used in violation of this sec-
tion shall be imprisoned for not more than 1 year, fined
under title 18, United States Code, or both.
(l) Exclusion From Lists of Individuals Declining Registration.—The chief State election official of a State shall ensure that, with respect to any individual who declines the opportunity to register to vote under section 111, the individual’s information is not included on the computerized Statewide voter registration list under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and is not provided to any third party (except to the extent required under other law). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude an individual who has previously declined the opportunity to register to vote from subsequently registering to vote.

SEC. 113. PROMOTING ACCURACY OF STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LISTS.

(a) Deadlines for Transmittal of Change of Address or Other Identifying Information.—

(1) Information received by state motor vehicle authority.—Section 5(d) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–3(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) Automatic Transmittal of Change of Address or Other Identifying Information.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a change of address form or any other information indicating that identifying information with respect to an individual which is included
in the records of the State motor vehicle authority has been changed, the State motor vehicle authority shall transmit such form or other information to the chief State election official, unless—

“(1) the records of the authority include information indicating that the individual is not eligible to register to vote in the State; or

“(2) the individual states on the form or otherwise indicates that the change of address or other information is not for voter registration purposes.”.

(2) INFORMATION RECEIVED BY OTHER VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.—Section 7 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–5) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) AUTOMATIC TRANSMITTAL OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a change of address form or any other information indicating that identifying information with respect to an individual which is included in the records of a voter registration agency designated under this section has been changed, the appropriate official of such agency shall transmit such form or other information to the chief State election official, unless—
“(1) the records of the agency include information indicating that the individual is not eligible to register to vote in the State; or

“(2) the individual states on the form or otherwise indicates that the change of address or other information is not for voter registration purposes.”.

(3) Information received from source agencies.—Not later than 24 hours after receiving a change of address form or any other information indicating that identifying information with respect to an individual which is included in the records of a source agency designated under section 111 has been changed, the appropriate official of such agency shall transmit such form or other information to the chief State election official, unless—

(A) the records of the agency include information indicating that the individual is not eligible to register to vote in the State; or

(B) the individual states on the form or otherwise indicates that the change of address or other information is not for voter registration purposes.

(b) Revision of statewide computerized list to reflect revised information.—Section 303(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15483(a)),

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as amended by section 102(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) Revision of list to reflect information received from other state offices.—

“(A) In general.—If a State motor vehicle authority (pursuant to section 5(d) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993) a voter registration agency (designated under section 7 of such Act), or a source agency (designated under section 111 of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2012) transmits to the chief State election official a change of address form or any other information indicating that identifying information with respect to an individual has been changed, the appropriate State or local election official shall—

“(i) determine whether the individual appears on the computerized list established under this section; and

“(ii) if the individual appears on the list, revise the information relating to the individual on the list to reflect the individual’s new address or other changed identifying information.
“(B) NOTIFICATION TO VOTERS.—If an election official revises any voter registration information on the computerized list with respect to any voter (including removing the voter from the list), immediately after revising the information, the official shall send the individual a written notice of the revision which includes the following information:

“(i) The voter’s name, date of birth, and address, as reflected in the revised information on the computerized list.

“(ii) A statement that the voter’s voter registration information has been updated.

“(iii) Information on how to correct information on the computerized list.

“(iv) A statement of the eligibility requirements for registered voters in the State.

“(v) A statement (in larger font size than the other statements on the notice) that it is illegal for an individual who does not meet the eligibility requirements for registered voters in the State to vote in an election in the State.
“(vi) A statement that the voter may terminate the voter’s status as a registered voter in the State, or request a change in the voter’s voter registration information, at any time by contacting the appropriate State or local election official, together with contact information for such official (including any website through which the voter may contact the official or obtain information on voter registration in the State).

“(C) USE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL.—If an election official has an electronic mail address for any voter to whom the official is required to send a written notice under this paragraph, the official may meet the requirements of this paragraph by sending the notice to the voter in electronic form at that address, but only if prior to sending the notice, the official sends a test electronic mail to the voter at that address and receives confirmation that the address is current and valid.”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to elections occurring during 2014 or any succeeding year.
SEC. 114. DEFINITIONS.

(a) CHIEF STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL.—In this subtitle, the “chief State election official” means, with respect to a State, the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–8) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(b) STATE.—In this subtitle, a “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, 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. 115. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2014 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

Subtitle C—Other Initiatives To Promote Voter Registration

SEC. 121. SAME DAY REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481 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 REGISTRATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) REGISTRATION.—Notwithstanding section 8(a)(1)(D) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6), 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 revise any of 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, under a State law in effect continuously 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.

“(b) 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 that election.

“(c) Effective Date.—Each State shall be required to comply with the requirements of subsection (a) for the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2012 and for any subsequent election for Federal office.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Enforcement.—Section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15511) is amended by striking “sections 301, 302, and 303” and inserting “subtitle A of title III”.

(e) 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 registration.”.
SEC. 122. 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 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6), as amended by section 104, is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) 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 at the time 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 Requirements.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to require a State to permit 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, 2014.

SEC. 123. 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 information for the year:

(1) The number of individuals who were registered under section 111.

(2) The number of voter registration application forms 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 and the number of such individuals whose forms were rejected and who were not 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 and the type of form transmitted.

(5) The number of individuals on the Statewide computerized voter registration list (as established and maintained under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) whose voter registration information was revised by the chief State election official as a result of the forms transmitted to the official by such motor vehicle authorities and voter registration agencies (as described in paragraph (3)), broken down by each such authority and agency and the type of form transmitted.

(6) The number of individuals who requested the chief State election official to revise voter registration information on such list, and the number of individuals whose information was revised as a result of such a request.
(b) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—In preparing and submitting a report under this section, the chief State election official shall ensure that no information regarding the identification of any individual is revealed.

(c) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, a “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, 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.

Subtitle D—Availability of HAVA Requirements Payments

SEC. 131. AVAILABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS UNDER HAVA TO COVER COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(2) and (3)” and inserting “(2), (3), and (4)”; and

(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 2012, 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 2012.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 254(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15404(a)(1)) is amended by striking “section 251(a)(2)” and inserting “section 251(b)(2)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year.

Subtitle E—Prohibiting Interference With Voter Registration

SEC. 141. 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. Hindering, 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 corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from registering to vote or aiding another person in registering to vote in any election for Federal office.

“(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.

“(d) ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘election for Federal office’ means a general, special, primary, or runoff election held to nominate or elect a candidate for the office of President or Vice President, presidential elector, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.”.

(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. Hindering, 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 to have violated 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. 142. 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 141) and section 12 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–10) (relating to the unlawful interference with registering to vote, or voting, or attempting to register to vote or vote), including practices 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, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands.
(b) INCLUSION IN VOTER INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15482(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 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–10) (relating to the unlawful interference with registering to vote, or voting, or attempting to register to vote or vote), including information on how individuals may report allegations of violations of such prohibitions.”.
TITLE II—ACCESS TO VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

SEC. 201. 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 (42 U.S.C. 15481 et seq.), as amended by section 114, is amended—

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

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

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

"(a) TREATMENT OF APPLICATIONS AND BALLOTS.—Each State shall—

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

"(2) accept and process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application and absentee ballot application from an individual with a disability if the appli-
cation is received by the appropriate State election official not less than 30 days before the election;

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

“(A) for individuals with disabilities to request by mail and electronically voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications with respect to elections for Federal office in accordance with subsection (c);

“(B) for States to send by mail and electronically (in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the individual under subparagraph (C)) voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications requested under subparagraph (A) in accordance with subsection (c); and

“(C) by which such an individual can designate whether the individual prefers that such voter registration application or absentee ballot application be transmitted by mail or electronically;

“(4) in addition to any other method of transmitting blank absentee ballots in the State, establish procedures for transmitting by mail and electroni-
cally blank absentee ballots to individuals with dis-
abilities with respect to elections for Federal office
in accordance with subsection (d);

“(5) transmit a validly requested absentee bal-
lot to an individual with a disability—

“(A) except as provided in subsection (e),
in the case in which the request is received at
least 45 days before an election for Federal of-
face, not later than 45 days before the election;
and

“(B) in the case in which the request is re-
ceived less than 45 days before an election for
Federal office—

“(i) in accordance with State law; and

“(ii) if practicable and as determined
appropriate by the State, in a manner that
expedites the transmission of such absen-
tee ballot; and

“(6) if the State declares or otherwise holds a
runoff election for Federal office, establish a written
plan that provides absentee ballots are made avail-
able to individuals with disabilities in a manner that
gives them sufficient time to vote in the runoff elec-
tion.
“(b) Designation of Single State Office To Provide Information on Registration and Absentee Ballot Procedures for All Disabled Voters in State.—Each State shall designate a single office which shall be responsible for providing information regarding voter registration procedures and absentee ballot procedures to be used by individuals with disabilities, with respect to elections for Federal office, to all individuals with disabilities who wish to register to vote or vote in any jurisdiction in the State.

“(c) Designation of Means of Electronic Communication for Individuals With Disabilities To Request and for States to Send Voter Registration Applications and Absentee Ballot Applications, and for Other Purposes Related to Voting Information.—

“(1) In General.—Each State shall, in addition to the designation of a single State office under subsection (b), designate not less than 1 means of electronic communication—

“(A) for use by individuals with disabilities who wish to register to vote or vote in any jurisdiction in the State to request voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications under subsection (a)(3);
“(B) for use by States to send voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications requested under such subsection; and

“(C) for the purpose of providing related voting, balloting, and election information to individuals with disabilities.

“(2) Clarification regarding provision of multiple means of electronic communication.—A State may, in addition to the means of electronic communication so designated, provide multiple means of electronic communication to individuals with disabilities, including a means of electronic communication for the appropriate jurisdiction of the State.

“(3) Inclusion of designated means of electronic communication with informational and instructional materials that accompany balloting materials.—Each State shall include a means of electronic communication so designated with all informational and instructional materials that accompany balloting materials sent 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 preference under sub-
section (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.

“(d) Transmission of Blank Absentee Ballots
by Mail and Electronically.—

“(1) In general.—Each State shall establish
procedures—

“(A) to transmit blank absentee ballots by
mail and electronically (in accordance with the
preferred method of transmission designated by
the individual with a disability under subpara-
graph (B)) to individuals with disabilities for an
election for Federal office; and

“(B) by which the individual with a dis-
ability can designate whether the individual pre-
fers that such blank absentee ballot be trans-
mited by mail or electronically.

“(2) Transmission if no preference indi-
cated.—In the case where an individual with a dis-
ability does not designate a preference under para-
graph (1)(B), the State shall transmit the ballot by
any delivery method allowable in accordance with ap-
slicable State law, or if there is no applicable State
law, by mail.

“(e) HARDSHIP EXEMPTION.—

“(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 re-
spect 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 At-
torney General grant a waiver to the State of the
application of such subsection. Such request shall in-
clude—

“(A) a recognition that the purpose of
such subsection is to individuals with disabil-
ities enough time to vote in an election for Fed-
eral office;

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

“(C) the number of days prior to the elec-
tion for Federal office that the State requires
absentee ballots be transmitted to such individ-
uals; 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 that ballot 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) why the plan provides such individuals sufficient time to vote as a substitute for the requirements under such subsection; and

“(iii) the underlying factual information which explains how the plan provides such sufficient time to vote as a substitute for such requirements.

“(2) APPROVAL 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 comprehensive plan under subparagraph (D) of such paragraph provides individuals with disabilities sufficient time to receive absentee ballots they have requested and submit marked absentee ballots to the appropriate State election official in time to have that ballot counted in the election for Federal office.

“(B) One or more of the following issues creates 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 State Constitution prohibits 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 ap-
prove or deny the waiver request not later than 65 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 shall submit to the Attorney General 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 request under paragraph (1) with respect to such election.

“(f) 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.
“(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after January 1, 2014.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ISSUANCE OF VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE BY ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—Section 311(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15501(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(4) in the case of the recommendations with respect to section 305, January 1, 2014.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 114(c), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 305 and 306 as relating to sections 306 and 307; and

(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.”.
SEC. 202. PILOT PROGRAMS FOR ENABLING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO REGISTER TO VOTE AND VOTE PRIVATELY AND INDEPENDENTLY AT RESIDENCES.

(a) Establishment of Pilot Programs.—The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter referred to as the “Commission”) shall make grants to eligible States to conduct pilot programs under which—

(1) 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 permits such individuals to do so privately and independently at their own residences; and

(2) individuals with disabilities may use the telephone to cast ballots electronically from their own residences, but only if the telephone used is not connected to the Internet.

(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.

(d) Timing.—The Commission shall make the first grants under this section for pilot programs which will be in effect with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2014, or, at the option of a State, with respect to other elections for public office held in the State 2013.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants for pilot programs under this section $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2013 and each succeeding fiscal year.

(f) State Defined.—In this section, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands.

SEC. 203. 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 (42 U.S.C. 15421(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 each polling facility, 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 solutions to problems of access to voting and elections for individuals with disabilities that are universally designed and provide the same opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities.”.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 264(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15424(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(4) For fiscal year 2013 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 (42 U.S.C. 15424) 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.—

“(1) Deadline for Obligation and Expenditure.—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 2013 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 prior to the expiration 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) Reallocation 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 (B), which may obligate and expend such payment for the purposes described in section 261(b) during the 1-year period which begins on the date of receipt.

“(B) COVERED PAYMENT RECIPIENTS DESCRIBED.—In subparagraph (A), a ‘covered payment recipient’ is a State or unit of local government with respect to which—

“(i) amounts were appropriated pursuant to the authority of subsection (a); and

“(ii) no amounts were transferred to the Commission under paragraph (1).’’.

TITLE III—PROHIBITING VOTER CAGING

SEC. 301. VOTER CAGING AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE CHALLENGES PROHIBITED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 141(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; or

“(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 ‘voter caging list’ means a list of individuals compiled from voter caging documents; and

“(3) 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 registrar’s jurisdiction, by virtue of death, conviction, change of address, or otherwise; unless one of the pieces of information matched includes a signa-
ture, photograph, or unique identifying number ensuring that the information from each source refers to the same individual.

“(b) PROHIBITION AGAINST VOTER CAGING.—No State or local election official shall prevent 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 under State law to an 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 under section 2004 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1971(a)(2)(B)); or

“(4) any other evidence so designated for purposes of this section by the Election Assistance Com-

mission, except that the election official may use such evidence if it is corroborated by independent evidence of the individual’s ineligibility to register or vote.
“(c) Requirements for Challenges by Persons Other Than Election Officials.—No person, other than a State or local election official, shall submit a formal challenge to an individual’s eligibility to register 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—

“(1) documented in writing; and

“(2) 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.

“(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 Effect on Related Laws.—Nothing in this section is intended to override the protections of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 
1973gg et seq.) or to affect the Voting Rights Act of 1965
(42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended
by section 141(b), is amended by adding at the end the
following:

“613. Voter caging and other questionable challenges.”.

SEC. 302. 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 301(a), including practices to
provide for the posting of relevant information at polling
places and voter registration agencies, the 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 Common-
wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the
United States Virgin Islands.

(b) INCLUSION IN VOTING INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act
of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15482(b)(2)), as amended by section
141(b), is amended—
(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (F);

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

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

“(H) information relating to the prohibition against voter caging and other questionable challenges (as set forth in section 613 of title 18, United States Code), including information on how individuals may report allegations of violations of such prohibition.”.

SEC. 303. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and the amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.
TITLE IV—PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE PRACTICES

SEC. 401. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

(a) In General.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 141(a) and section 301(a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 614. False election-related information in Federal elections

“(a) A person, including an election official, who in any election for Federal office knowingly and willfully deprives, defrauds, or attempts to deprive or defraud the residents of a State of their free and fair exercise of the right to vote by the communication of election-related information that is known by the person to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(b) As used in this section—

“(1) the term ‘election for Federal office’ means any general, primary, runoff, or special election for the office of President, Vice President, presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress; and
“(2) the term ‘election-related information’ means any oral or written communication regard-

ing—

“(A) the time or place of an election for Federal office;

“(B) criminal penalties associated with voting in such an election;

“(C) an individual’s voter registration status or eligibility to vote in such an election; or

“(D) the explicit endorsement by any person or organization of a candidate in such an election.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 141(b) and section 301(b), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“614. False election-related information in Federal elections.”.

SEC. 402. MODIFICATION OF PENALTY FOR VOTER INTIMI-

DATATION.

Section 594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “one year” and inserting “5 years”.

SEC. 403. SENTENCING GUIDELINES.

(a) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Sentencing Commission, pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and
in accordance with this section, shall review and, if appro-
appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines and policy
statements applicable to persons convicted of any offense
under any sections of title 18, United States Code, that
are added or modified by this Act.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States Sentencing
Commission may, for the purposes of the amendments
made pursuant to this title, amend the Federal sentencing
guidelines in accordance with the procedures set forth in
section 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C.
994 note) as though the authority under that section had
not expired.

SEC. 404. REPORTING VIOLATIONS; CORRECTIVE ACTION.

(a) REPORTING.—Any person may submit a report
to the Attorney General regarding any violation or possible
violation of section 594 or section 614 of title 18, United
States Code (as added by section 401(a)).

(b) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Immediately after receiving
a report under subsection (a), the Attorney General
shall consider and review the report, and if the At-
torney General determines that there is a reasonable
basis to find that a violation included in the report
has occurred, the Attorney General shall—
(A) undertake all effective measures necessary to provide correct information to voters affected by the false information; and

(B) refer the matter to the appropriate Federal and State authorities for criminal prosecution or civil action after the election involved.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations regarding the methods and means of corrective actions to be taken under paragraph (1). Such regulations shall be developed in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, civil rights organizations, voting rights groups, State and local election officials, voter protection groups, and other interested community organizations.

(3) STUDY AND REPORT ON METHODS OF DISSEMINATING CORRECTIVE INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission and the Election Assistance Commission, shall conduct a study on the feasibility of providing the corrective information under paragraph (1) through public service an-
nouncements, the emergency alert system, or other forms of public broadcast.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report detailing the results of the study conducted under subparagraph (A).

(4) PUBLICIZING AVAILABILITY OF REMEDIES.—The Attorney General shall make public through the Internet, radio, television, and newspaper advertisements information on the responsibilities, contact information, and complaint procedures applicable under this section.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after any election with respect to which a report has been submitted under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report compiling all such reports submitted under subsection (a) with respect to that election.

(2) CONTENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(i) detailed information on specific allegations;
(ii) statistical compilations of how many allegations were made and of what type;

(iii) the geographic locations of and the populations affected by the alleged violations;

(iv) the status of the investigations of such allegations;

(v) any corrective actions taken in response to such allegations;

(vi) the rationale used for any corrective actions or for any refusal to pursue an allegation;

(vii) the effectiveness of any such corrective actions;

(viii) whether a Voting Integrity Task Force was established with respect to such election, and, if so, how such task force was staffed and funded;

(ix) any referrals of information to other Federal, State, or local agencies; and

(x) any criminal prosecution instituted under title 18, United States Code, in connection with such allegations.
(3) Report made public.—On the date that the Attorney General submits the report under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall also make the report publicly available through the Internet and other appropriate means.

(d) Delegation of Duties.—

(1) Use of Voting Integrity Task Force.—
The Attorney General shall delegate the responsibilities under this section with respect to a particular election to a Voting Integrity Task Force established by the Attorney General for such purpose.

(2) Composition.—A Voting Integrity Task Force established under paragraph (1) shall be under the direction of the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division and the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, acting jointly.

TITLE V—DEMOCRACY RESTORATION

SEC. 501. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.
The right of an individual who is a citizen of the United States to vote in any election for Federal office shall not be denied or abridged because that individual has been convicted of a criminal offense unless such individual
is serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution
or facility at the time of the election.

SEC. 502. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General
may, in a civil action, obtain such declaratory or injunctive
relief as is necessary to remedy a violation of this title.

(b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(1) A person who is aggrieved by a violation of
this title may provide written notice of the violation
to the chief election official of the State involved.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), if the
violation is not corrected within 90 days after receipt
of a notice under paragraph (1), or within 20 days
after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred
within 120 days before the date of an election for
Federal office, the aggrieved person may, in a civil
action, obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with re-
spect to the violation.

(3) If the violation occurred within 30 days be-
fore the date of an election for Federal office, the
aggrieved person need not provide notice to the chief
election official of the State under paragraph (1) be-
fore bringing a civil action to obtain declaratory or
injunctive relief with respect to the violation.
SEC. 503. NOTIFICATION OF RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS.

(a) State Notification.—

(1) Notification.—On the date determined under paragraph (2), each State shall notify in writing any individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense under the law of that State that such individual has the right to vote in an election for Federal office pursuant to this title and may register to vote in any such election.

(2) Date of Notification.—

(A) Felony conviction.—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a felony, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which the individual—

(i) is sentenced to serve only a term of probation; or

(ii) is released from the custody of that State (other than to the custody of another State or the Federal Government to serve a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction).

(B) Misdemeanor conviction.—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the notification re-
quired under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which such individual is sentenced by a State court.

(b) Federal Notification.—

(1) Notification.—On the date determined under paragraph (2), the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall notify in writing any individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense under Federal law that such individual has the right to vote in an election for Federal office pursuant to this title and may register to vote in any such election.

(2) Date of Notification.—

(A) Felony Conviction.—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a felony, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which the individual—

(i) is sentenced to serve only a term of probation by a court established by an Act of Congress; or

(ii) is released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons (other than to the custody of a State to serve a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction).
(B) MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION.—In the case of such an 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 State court.

SEC. 504. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this title:

(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, primary, or runoff election;

(B) a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate 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) Probation.—The term “probation” means probation, imposed by a Federal, State, or local court, with or without a condition on the individual involved concerning—

(A) the individual’s 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. 505. RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) State Laws Relating to Voting Rights.—Nothing in this title 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 established by this title.
(b) CERTAIN FEDERAL ACTS.—The rights and remedies established by this title are in addition to all other rights and remedies provided by law, and neither rights and remedies established by this title shall supersede, restrict, or limit the application of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.) or the National Voter Registration Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg).

SEC. 506. 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, any Federal grant amounts 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 501.

SEC. 507. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This title shall apply to citizens of the United States voting in any election for Federal office held after the date of the enactment of this Act.
TITLE VI—ACCURACY, INTEGRITY, AND SECURITY OF ELECTIONS

SEC. 600. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012”.

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

SEC. 601. PAPER BALLOT AND MANUAL COUNTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—Section 301(a)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) Paper ballot requirement.—

“(A) Voter-verified paper ballots.—

“(i) Paper ballot requirement.—

(I) The voting system shall require the use of an individual, durable, voter-verified, paper ballot of the voter’s vote that shall be marked and made available for inspection and verification by the voter before the voter’s vote is cast and counted, and which shall be counted by hand or read by
an optical character recognition device or
other counting device. For purposes of this
subclause, the term ‘individual, durable,
voter-verified, paper ballot’ means a paper
ballot marked by the voter by hand or a
paper ballot marked through the use of a
nontabulating ballot marking device or sys-
tem, so long as the voter shall have the op-
tion to mark his or her ballot by hand.

“(II) The voting system shall provide
the voter with an opportunity to correct
any error on the paper ballot before the
permanent voter-verified paper ballot is
preserved in accordance with clause (ii).

“(III) The voting system shall not
preserve the voter-verified paper ballots in
any manner that makes it possible, at any
time after the ballot has been cast, to asso-
ciate a voter with the record of the voter’s
vote without the voter’s consent.

“(ii) PRESERVATION AS OFFICIAL
RECORD.—The individual, durable, voter-
verified, paper ballot used in accordance
with clause (i) shall constitute the official
ballot and shall be preserved and used as
the official ballot for purposes of any re-
count or audit conducted with respect to
any election for Federal office in which the
voting system is used.

“(iii) **Manual counting require-
ments for recounts and audits.**—(I)
Each paper ballot used pursuant to clause
(i) shall be suitable for a manual audit,
and shall be counted by hand in any re-
count or audit conducted with respect to
any election for Federal office.

“(II) In the event of any inconsist-
encies or irregularities between any elec-
tronic vote tallies and the vote tallies de-
termined by counting by hand the indi-
vidual, durable, voter-verified, paper ballots
used pursuant to clause (i), and subject to
subparagraph (B), the individual, durable,
voter-verified, paper ballots shall be the
true and correct record of the votes cast.

“(iv) **Application to all bal-
lots.**—The requirements of this subpara-
graph shall apply to all ballots cast in elec-
tions for Federal office, including ballots
cast by absent uniformed services voters
and overseas voters under the Uniformed
and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act
and other absentee voters.

“(B) Special rule for treatment of
disputes when paper ballots have been
shown to be compromised.—

“(i) In general.—In the event
that—

“(I) there is any inconsistency
between any electronic vote tallies and
the vote tallies determined by count-
ing by hand the individual, durable,
voter-verified, paper ballots used pur-
suant to subparagraph (A)(i) with re-
spect to any election for Federal of-
lice; and

“(II) it is demonstrated by clear
and convincing evidence (as deter-
mined in accordance with the applica-
ble standards in the jurisdiction in-
volved) in any recount, audit, or con-
test of the result of the election that
the paper ballots have been com-
promised (by damage or mischief or
otherwise) and that a sufficient num-

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number of the ballots have been so compromised that the result of the election could be changed, the determination of the appropriate remedy with respect to the election shall be made in accordance with applicable State law, except that the electronic tally shall not be used as the exclusive basis for determining the official certified result.

“(ii) Rule for consideration of ballots associated with each voting machine.—For purposes of clause (i), only the paper ballots deemed compromised, if any, shall be considered in the calculation of whether or not the result of the election could be changed due to the compromised paper ballots.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment Clarifying Applicability of Alternative Language Accessibility.—Section 301(a)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15481(a)(4)) is amended by inserting “(including the paper ballots required to be used under paragraph (2))” after “voting system”.

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(c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 301(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15481(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “counted” and inserting “counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “counted” and inserting “counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(3) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking “counted” each place it appears and inserting “counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(4) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “counted” and inserting “counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)”.

SEC. 602. ACCESSIBILITY AND BALLOT VERIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a)(3)(B) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481(a)(3)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B)(i) satisfy the requirement of subparagraph (A) through the use of at least one voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities, including nonvisual and enhanced visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired,
and nonmanual and enhanced manual accessibility for the mobility and dexterity impaired, at
each polling place; and

“(ii) meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) and paragraph (2)(A) by using a sys-
tem that—

“(I) allows the voter to privately and
independently verify the permanent paper
ballot through the presentation, in accessible form, of the printed or marked vote
selections from the same printed or
marked information that would be used for
any vote counting or auditing; and

“(II) allows the voter to privately and
independently verify and cast the perma-
nent paper ballot without requiring the
voter to manually handle the paper ballot;
and”.

(b) Specific Requirement of Study, Testing,
and Development of Accessible Paper Ballot
Verification Mechanisms.—

(1) Study and reporting.—Subtitle C of
title II of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15381 et seq.) is
amended—
(A) by redesignating section 247 as section 248; and

(B) by inserting after section 246 the following new section:

“SEC. 247. STUDY AND REPORT ON ACCESSIBLE PAPER BALLOT VERIFICATION MECHANISMS.

“(a) Study and Report.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall make grants to not fewer than 3 eligible entities to study, test, and develop accessible paper ballot voting, verification, and casting mechanisms and devices and best practices to enhance the accessibility of paper ballot voting and verification mechanisms for individuals with disabilities, for voters whose primary language is not English, and for voters with difficulties in literacy, including best practices for the mechanisms themselves and the processes through which the mechanisms are used.

“(b) Eligibility.—An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this part if it submits to the Director (at such time and in such form as the Director may require) an application containing—

“(1) certifications that the entity shall specifically investigate enhanced methods or devices, including non-electronic devices, that will assist such individuals and voters in marking voter-verified

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paper ballots and presenting or transmitting the in-
formation printed or marked on such ballots back to
such individuals and voters, and casting such ballots;
“(2) a certification that the entity shall com-
plete the activities carried out with the grant not
later than December 31, 2014; and
“(3) such other information and certifications
as the Director may require.
“(c) Availability of Technology.—Any tech-
nology developed with the grants made under this section
shall be treated as non-proprietary and shall be made
available to the public, including to manufacturers of vot-
ing systems.
“(d) Coordination With Grants for Tech-
nology Improvements.—The Director shall carry out
this section so that the activities carried out with the
grants made under subsection (a) are coordinated with the
research conducted under the grant program carried out
by the Commission under section 271, to the extent that
the Director and Commission determine necessary to pro-
vide for the advancement of accessible voting technology.
“(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection
(a) $5,000,000, 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 246 the following new item:

"Sec. 247. Study and report on accessible paper ballot verification mechanisms."

(c) Clarification of Accessibility Standards Under Voluntary 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 ballot verification requirements for individuals with disabilities, the Election Assistance Commission shall include and apply the same accessibility standards applicable under the voluntary guidance adopted for accessible voting systems under such subtitle.

(d) Permitting Use of Funds for Protection and Advocacy Systems To Support Actions To Enforce Election-Related Disability Access.—Section 292(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15462(a)) is amended by striking "; except that" and all that follows and inserting a period.

SEC. 603. ADDITIONAL VOTING SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Requirements Described.—Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481(a))
is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
graphs:

“(7) PROHIBITING USE OF UNCERTIFIED ELECT-
TION-DEDICATED VOTING SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES;
DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A voting system used
in an election for Federal office in a State may
not at any time during the election contain or
use any election-dedicated voting system tech-
nology—

“(i) which has not been certified by
the State for use in the election; and

“(ii) which has not been deposited
with an accredited laboratory described in
section 231 to be held in escrow and dis-
closed in accordance with this section.

“(B) REQUIREMENT FOR DISCLOSURE AND
LIMITATION ON RESTRICTING DISCLOSURE.—
An accredited laboratory under section 231
with whom an election-dedicated voting system
technology has been deposited shall—

“(i) hold the technology in escrow;
and
'(ii) disclose technology and information regarding the technology to another person if—

'(I) the person is a qualified person described in subparagraph (C) who has entered into a nondisclosure agreement with respect to the technology which meets the requirements of subparagraph (D); or

'(II) the laboratory is permitted or required to disclose the technology to the person under State law, in accordance with the terms and conditions applicable under such law.

'(C) QUALIFIED PERSONS DESCRIBED.—

With respect to the disclosure of election-dedicated voting system technology by a laboratory under subparagraph (B)(ii)(I), a ‘qualified person’ is any of the following:

'(i) A governmental entity with responsibility for the administration of voting and election-related matters for purposes of reviewing, analyzing, or reporting on the technology.
“(ii) A party to pre- or post-election litigation challenging the result of an election or the administration or use of the technology used in an election, including but not limited to election contests or challenges to the certification of the technology, or an expert for a party to such litigation, for purposes of reviewing or analyzing the technology to support or oppose the litigation, and all parties to the litigation shall have access to the technology for such purposes.

“(iii) A person not described in clause (i) or (ii) who reviews, analyzes, or reports on the technology solely for an academic, scientific, technological, or other investigation or inquiry concerning the accuracy or integrity of the technology.

“(D) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS.—A nondisclosure agreement entered into with respect to an election-dedicated voting system technology meets the requirements of this subparagraph if the agreement—
“(i) is limited in scope to coverage of
the technology disclosed under subpara-
graph (B) and any trade secrets and intel-
lectual property rights related thereto;

“(ii) does not prohibit a signatory
from entering into other nondisclosure
agreements to review other technologies
under this paragraph;

“(iii) exempts from coverage any in-
formation the signatory lawfully obtained
from another source or any information in
the public domain;

“(iv) remains in effect for not longer
than the life of any trade secret or other
intellectual property right related thereto;

“(v) prohibits the use of injunctions
barring a signatory from carrying out any
activity authorized under subparagraph
(C), including injunctions limited to the
period prior to a trial involving the tech-
nology;

“(vi) is silent as to damages awarded
for breach of the agreement, other than a
reference to damages available under appli-
cable law;
“(vii) allows disclosure of evidence of crime, including in response to a subpoena or warrant;

“(viii) allows the signatory to perform analyses on the technology (including by executing the technology), disclose reports and analyses that describe operational issues pertaining to the technology (including vulnerabilities to tampering, errors, risks associated with use, failures as a result of use, and other problems), and describe or explain why or how a voting system failed or otherwise did not perform as intended; and

“(ix) provides that the agreement shall be governed by the trade secret laws of the applicable State.

“(E) ELECTION-DEDICATED VOTING SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘election-dedicated voting system technology’ means the following:

“(I) The source code used for the trusted build and its file signatures.
“(II) A complete disk image of the pre-build, build environment, and any file signatures to validate that it is unmodified.

“(III) A complete disk image of the post-build, build environment, and any file signatures to validate that it is unmodified.

“(IV) All executable code produced by the trusted build and any file signatures to validate that it is unmodified.

“(V) Installation devices and software file signatures.

“(ii) Exclusion.—Such term does not include ‘commercial-off-the-shelf’ software and hardware defined under the 2005 voluntary voting system guidelines adopted by the Commission under section 222.

“(8) Prohibition of use of wireless communications devices in systems or devices.—No system or device upon which ballots are programmed or votes are cast or tabulated shall contain, use, or be accessible by any wireless, power-line, or concealed communication device, except that
enlosed infrared communications devices which are
certified for use in such device by the State and
which cannot be used for any remote or wide area
communications or used without the knowledge of
poll workers shall be permitted.

“(9) Prohibiting connection of system to
the Internet.—

“(A) In general.—No system or device
upon which ballots are programmed or votes are
cast or tabulated shall be connected to the
Internet at any time.

“(B) Rule of construction.—Nothing
contained in this paragraph shall be deemed to
prohibit the Commission from conducting the
studies under section 242 or to conduct other
similar studies under any other provision of law
in a manner consistent with this paragraph.

“(10) Security standards for voting sys-
tems used in federal elections.—

“(A) In general.—No voting system may
be used in an election for Federal office unless
the manufacturer of such system and the elec-
tion officials using such system meet the appli-
cable requirements described in subparagraph
(B).
“(B) REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED.—The requirements described in this subparagraph are as follows:

“(i) The manufacturer and the election officials shall document the secure chain of custody for the handling of all software, hardware, vote storage media, blank ballots, and completed ballots used in connection with voting systems, and shall make the information available upon request to the Commission.

“(ii) The manufacturer shall disclose to an accredited laboratory under section 231 and to the appropriate election official any information required to be disclosed under paragraph (7).

“(iii) After the appropriate election official has certified the election-dedicated and other voting system software for use in an election, the manufacturer may not—

“(I) alter such software; or

“(II) insert or use in the voting system any software, software patch, or other software modification not cer-
tified by the State for use in the election.

“(iv) At the request of the Commission—

“(I) the appropriate election official shall submit information to the Commission regarding the State’s compliance with this subparagraph; and

“(II) the manufacturer shall submit information to the Commission regarding the manufacturer’s compliance with this subparagraph.

“(C) DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF BEST PRACTICES OF SECURE CHAIN OF CUSTODY.—Not later than August 1, 2016, the Commission shall develop and make publicly available best practices regarding the requirement of subparagraph (B)(i) and (B)(iii), and in the case of subparagraph (B)(iii), shall include best practices for certifying software patches and minor software modifications under short deadlines.

“(D) DISCLOSURE OF SECURE CHAIN OF CUSTODY.—The Commission shall make infor-
mentation provided to the Commission under sub-
paragraph (B)(i) available to any person upon
request.

“(11) Durability and readability requirements for ballots.—

“(A) Durability requirements for paper ballots.—

“(i) In general.—All voter-verified paper ballots required to be used under this Act shall be marked or printed on durable paper.

“(ii) Definition.—For purposes of this Act, paper is ‘durable’ if it is capable of withstanding multiple counts and re-
counts 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 pe-
riod of 22 months.

“(B) Readability requirements for paper ballots marked by ballot marking device.—All voter-verified paper ballots com-
pleted 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.

“(12) REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLICATION OF POLL TAPES.—

“(A) REQUIREMENTS.—Each State shall meet the following requirements:

“(i) Upon the closing of the polls at each polling place, the appropriate election official, under the observation of the certified tabulation observers admitted to the polling place under subparagraph (E) (if any), shall announce the vote orally, post a copy of the poll tape reflecting the totals from each voting machine upon which votes were cast in the election at the polling place, and prepare and post a statement of the total number of individuals who appeared at the polling place to cast ballots, determined by reference to the number of signatures in a sign-in book or other similar independent count. Such officials shall ensure that each of the certified
tabulation observers admitted to the polling place has full access to observe the process by which the poll tapes and statement are produced and a reasonable period of time to review the poll tapes and statement before the polling place is closed, and (if feasible) shall provide such observers with identical duplicate copies of the poll tapes and statement.

“(ii) As soon as practicable, but in no event later than noon of the day following the date of the election, the appropriate election official shall display (at a prominent location accessible to the public during regular business hours and in or within reasonable proximity to the polling place) a copy of each poll tape and statement prepared under clause (i), and the information shall be displayed on the official public websites of the applicable local election official and chief State election official, together with the name of the designated voting official who entered the information and the date and time the information was entered.
“(iii) Each website on which information is posted under clause (ii) shall include information on the procedures by which discrepancies shall be reported to election officials. If any discrepancy exists between the posted information and the relevant poll tape or statement, the appropriate election official shall display information on the discrepancy on the website on which the information is posted under clause (ii) not later than 24 hours after the official is made aware of the discrepancy, and shall maintain the information on the discrepancy and its resolution (if applicable) on such website during the entire period for which results of the election are typically maintained on such website.

“(iv) The appropriate election official shall preserve archived copies of the poll tapes and statements prepared under clause (i) and reports of discrepancies filed by certified tabulation observers for the period of time during which records and papers are required to be retained and preserved pursuant to title III of the Civil
Rights Act of 1960 (42 U.S.C. 1974 et seq.) or for the same duration for which archived copies of other records of the election are required to be preserved under applicable State law, whichever is longer.

“(B) **Treatment of ballots cast at early voting sites.**—

“(i) **Application.**—The requirements of this subparagraph shall apply with respect to poll tapes and statements of the number of voters who voted in person at designated sites prior to the date of the election.

“(ii) **Daily count of voters.**—At the close of business on each day on which ballots described in clause (i) may be cast prior to the date of the election, the appropriate election official at each such site shall—

“(I) under the observation of certified tabulation observers admitted to the site under subparagraph (E) (if any), prepare and post a statement of the total number of individuals who appeared at the site to cast ballots,
determined by reference to the number of signatures in a sign-in book or other similar independent count, and the total number of ballots cast (excluding information on the votes received by individual candidates), and shall ensure that each of the certified tabulation observers admitted to the site has full access to observe the process by which the statement is produced and a reasonable period of time to review the statement before the site is closed; and

“(II) display at the site during regular business hours for the duration of the early voting period a paper copy of the statement prepared under subclause (I).

“(iii) APPLICATION OF GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR POLL TAPES AND STATEMENTS.—Upon the closing of the polls on the date of the election, the appropriate election official at each designated site described in this subparagraph shall meet the requirements of subparagraph
(A) (including requirements relating to the role of certified tabulation observers) in the same manner as an election official at a polling place.

“(C) Treatment of absentee ballots.—

“(i) Daily count of ballots mailed and received.—At the close of each business day on which a State mails or accepts absentee ballots cast in an election for Federal office prior to the date of the election, the appropriate election official shall—

“(I) under the observation of certified tabulation observers admitted under subparagraph (E) to the site at which the ballots are mailed and received (if any), prepare and post a statement of the total number of absentee ballots mailed and received by the official during that day and a separate count of the number of absentee ballots received but rejected (separated into categories of the reasons for rejection), and ensure that each of
the certified tabulation observers admitted to the site has full access to observe the process by which the statement is produced and a reasonable period of time to review the statement before the site is closed; and

“(II) display at the site during regular business hours for the duration of the period during which absentee ballots are processed a paper copy of the statement prepared under subclause (I).

“(ii) Application of general requirements for poll tapes and statements.—At the close of business on the last day on which absentee ballots are counted prior to the certification of the election, the appropriate election official at the site at which absentee ballots are received and counted shall meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) (including requirements relating to the role of certified tabulation observers) in the same manner as an election official at a polling place.
“(D) Daily count of provisional ballots.—At the close of business on the day on which the appropriate election official determines whether or not provisional ballots cast in an election for Federal office will be counted as votes in the election (as described in section 302(a)(4)), the official shall—

“(i) under the observation of certified tabulation observers admitted under subparagraph (E) to the site at which the determination is made (if any), prepare and post a statement of the number of such ballots for which a determination was made, the number of ballots counted, and the number of ballots rejected (separated into categories of the reason for the rejection), and ensure that each of the certified tabulation observers admitted to the site has full access to observe the process by which the statement is produced and a reasonable period of time to review the statement before the site is closed; and

“(ii) display at the site during regular business hours for the duration of the period during which provisional ballots are
processed a paper copy of the statement prepared under clause (i).

“(E) Admission of certified tabulation observers.—

“(i) Certified tabulation observer defined.—In this paragraph, a ‘certified tabulation observer’ is an individual who is certified by an appropriate election official as authorized to carry out the responsibilities of a certified tabulation observer under this paragraph.

“(ii) Selection.—In determining which individuals to certify as tabulation observers and admit to a polling place or other location to serve as certified tabulation observers with respect to an election for Federal office, the election official shall give preference to individuals who are affiliated with a candidate in the election, except that—

“(I) the number of individuals admitted who are affiliated with the same candidate for Federal office may not exceed one; and
“(II) the maximum number of individuals who may be admitted shall equal the number of candidates in the election plus 3, or such greater number as may be authorized under State law.

“(iii) NO EFFECT ON ADMISSION OF OTHER OBSERVERS.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to limit or otherwise affect the authority of other individuals to enter and observe polling place operations under any other law, including international observers authorized under any treaty or observers of the Federal Government authorized under the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

“(F) NO EFFECT ON OTHER TABULATION REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to supersede any requirement that an election official at a polling place report vote totals to a central tabulation facility and address discrepancies the official finds in the aggregation of those totals with other vote totals.”.

(b) REQUIRING LABORATORIES TO MEET STANDARDS PROHIBITING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AS CONDI-
TION OF ACCREDITATION FOR TESTING OF VOTING SYS-
TEM HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 231(b) of such Act
(42 U.S.C. 15371(b)) is amended by adding at the
end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) PROHIBITING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST;
ENSURING AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A laboratory may not
be accredited by the Commission for purposes
of this section unless—

“(i) the laboratory certifies that the
only compensation it receives for the test-
ing carried out in connection with the cer-
tification, decertification, and recertifi-
cation of the manufacturer’s voting system
hardware and software is the payment
made from the Testing Escrow Account
under paragraph (4);

“(ii) the laboratory meets such stand-
ards as the Commission shall establish
(after notice and opportunity for public
comment) to prevent the existence or ap-
pearance of any conflict of interest in the
testing carried out by the laboratory under
this section, including standards to ensure
that the laboratory does not have a financial interest in the manufacture, sale, and distribution of voting system hardware and software, and is sufficiently independent from other persons with such an interest;

“(iii) the laboratory certifies that it will permit an expert designated by the Commission or by the State requiring certification of the system being tested to observe any testing the laboratory carries out under this section; and

“(iv) the laboratory, upon completion of any testing carried out under this section, discloses the test protocols, results, and all communication between the laboratory and the manufacturer to the Commission.

“(B) Availability of results.—Upon receipt of information under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall make the information available promptly to election officials and the public.

“(4) Procedures for conducting testing; payment of user fees for compensation of accredited laboratories.—
“(A) Establishment of Escrow Account.—The Commission shall establish an escrow account (to be known as the ‘Testing Escrow Account’) for making payments to accredited laboratories for the costs of the testing carried out in connection with the certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software.

“(B) Schedule of Fees.—In consultation with the accredited laboratories, the Commission shall establish and regularly update a schedule of fees for the testing carried out in connection with the certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software, based on the reasonable costs expected to be incurred by the accredited laboratories in carrying out the testing for various types of hardware and software.

“(C) Requests and Payments by Manufacturers.—A manufacturer of voting system hardware and software may not have the hardware or software tested by an accredited laboratory under this section unless—
“(i) the manufacturer submits a detailed request for the testing to the Commission; and

“(ii) the manufacturer pays to the Commission, for deposit into the Testing Escrow Account established under subparagraph (A), the applicable fee under the schedule established and in effect under subparagraph (B).

“(D) SELECTION OF LABORATORY.—Upon receiving a request for testing and the payment from a manufacturer required under subparagraph (C), the Commission shall select, from all laboratories which are accredited under this section to carry out the specific testing requested by the manufacturer, an accredited laboratory to carry out the testing.

“(E) PAYMENTS TO LABORATORIES.—Upon receiving a certification from a laboratory selected to carry out testing pursuant to subparagraph (D) that the testing is completed, along with a copy of the results of the test as required under paragraph (3)(A)(iv), the Commission shall make a payment to the laboratory from the Testing Escrow Account established
under subparagraph (A) in an amount equal to
the applicable fee paid by the manufacturer
under subparagraph (C)(ii).

“(5) DISSEMINATION OF ADDITIONAL INFOR-
MATION ON ACCREDITED LABORATORIES.—

“(A) INFORMATION ON TESTING.—Upon
completion of the testing of a voting system
under this section, the Commission shall
promptly disseminate to the public the identi-
fication of the laboratory which carried out the
testing.

“(B) INFORMATION ON STATUS OF LAB-
ORATORIES.—The Commission shall promptly
notify Congress, the chief State election official
of each State, and the public whenever—

“(i) the Commission revokes, termi-
nates, or suspends the accreditation of a
laboratory under this section;

“(ii) the Commission restores the ac-
creditation of a laboratory under this sec-
tion which has been revoked, terminated,
or suspended; or

“(iii) the Commission has credible evi-
dence of significant security failure at an
accredited laboratory.”.
(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 231 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15371) is further amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “testing, certification,” and all that follows and inserting the following: “testing of voting system hardware and software by accredited laboratories in connection with the certification, decertification, and recertification of the hardware and software for purposes of this Act.”;

(B) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “testing, certification,” and all that follows and inserting the following: “testing of its voting system hardware and software by the laboratories accredited by the Commission under this section in connection with certifying, decertifying, and recertifying the hardware and software.”;

(C) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “testing, certification, decertification, and recertification” and inserting “testing”; and

(D) in subsection (d), by striking “testing, certification, decertification, and recertification” each place it appears and inserting “testing”.

(3) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS, ESCROW ACCOUNT, AND SCHEDULE OF FEES.—The Election Assistance Commission shall
establish the standards described in section 231(b)(3) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 and the Testing Escrow Account and schedule of fees described in section 231(b)(4) of such Act (as added by paragraph (1)) not later than January 1, 2016.

(4) Authorization of Appropriations.—
There are authorized to be appropriated to the Election Assistance Commission such sums as may be necessary to carry out the Commission's duties under paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 231 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by paragraph (1)).

(e) Grants for Research on Development of Election-Dedicated Voting System Software.—

(1) In General.—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 new part:
PART 7—GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTION-DEDICATED VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE

SEC. 297. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTION-DEDICATED VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE.

(a) In General.—The Director of the National Science Foundation (hereafter in this part referred to as the ‘Director’) shall make grants to not fewer than 3 eligible entities to conduct research on the development of election-dedicated voting system software.

(b) Eligibility.—An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this part if it submits to the Director (at such time and in such form as the Director may require) an application containing—

“(1) certifications regarding the benefits of operating voting systems on election-dedicated software which is easily understandable and which is written exclusively for the purpose of conducting elections;

“(2) certifications that the entity will use the funds provided under the grant to carry out research on how to develop voting systems that run on election-dedicated software and that will meet the applicable requirements for voting systems under title III; and
“(3) such other information and certifications as the Director may require.

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF TECHNOLOGY.—Any technology developed with the grants made under this section shall be treated as non-proprietary and shall be made available to the public, including to manufacturers of voting systems.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section $1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018, to remain available until expended.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

“PART 7—GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTION-DEDICATED VOTING SYSTEM SOFTWARE

“Sec. 297. Grants for research on development of election-dedicated voting system software.”.

SEC. 604. AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO ENABLE STATES TO MEET COSTS OF REVISED REQUIREMENTS.

(a) EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS FOR MEETING REVISED REQUIREMENTS.—Section 257(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15407(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

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“(5) For fiscal year 2018, the sum of—

“(A) $1,000,000,000, except that any funds provided under the authorization made by this subparagraph shall be used by a State only to meet the requirements of title III which are first imposed on the State pursuant to the amendments made by title I of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012, or to otherwise modify or replace its voting systems in response to such amendments; plus

“(B) such sums as may be necessary to enable States to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (A) with respect to requirements which first apply to elections for Federal office held after in November 2020, except that any funds provided under the authorization made by this subparagraph shall be used by a State only for carrying out these activities.”.

(b) USE OF REVISED FORMULA FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Section 252(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15402(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) STATE ALLOCATION PERCENTAGE DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the ‘State allocation percentage’ for a
State is the amount (expressed as a percentage) equal to the quotient of—

“(A) the voting age population of the State (as reported in the most recent decennial census); and

“(B) the total voting age population of all States (as reported in the most recent decennial census).

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR PAYMENTS USED TO MEET REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED UNDER VOTER CONFIDENCE AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2012.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of the requirements payment made to a State under the authorization made by section 257(a)(5) for fiscal year 2018 or any fiscal year thereafter, the ‘State allocation percentage’ for a State is the amount (expressed as a percentage) equal to the quotient of—

“(i) the sum of the number of non-compliant precincts in the State and 50 percent of the number of partially non-compliant precincts in the State; and

“(ii) the sum of the number of non-compliant precincts in all States and 50
percent of the number of partially non-compliant precincts in all States.

“(B) NONCOMPLIANT PRECINCT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, a ‘noncompliant precinct’ means any precinct (or equivalent location) within a State for which the voting system used to administer the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2016 did not meet either of the requirements described in subparagraph (D).

“(C) PARTIALLY NONCOMPLIANT PRECINCT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, a ‘partially noncompliant precinct’ means any precinct (or equivalent location) within a State for which the voting system used to administer the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2016 met only one of the requirements described in subparagraph (D).

“(D) REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED.—The requirements described in this subparagraph with respect to a voting system are as follows:

“(i) The primary voting system required the use of durable paper ballots (as described in section 301(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) and
301(a)(11)(A), as amended or added by the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012) for every vote cast.

“(ii) The voting system allowed the voter to privately and independently verify the permanent paper ballot through the presentation of the same printed or marked information used for vote counting and auditing and to privately and independently cast the permanent paper ballot without handling the ballot manually.”

(c) Revised Conditions for Receipt of Funds.—Section 253 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15403) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “A State is eligible” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (f), a State is eligible”; and

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

“(f) Special Rule for Payments Used To Meet Requirements Imposed Under Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012.—

“(1) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part, a State is eligible to receive a requirements payment under the authorization
made by section 257(a)(5) for fiscal year 2018 or any fiscal year thereafter if, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012, the chief executive officer of the State, or designee, in consultation and coordination with the chief State election official—

“(A) certifies to the Commission the number of noncompliant and partially noncompliant precincts in the State (as defined in section 252(b)(2));

“(B) certifies to the Commission that the State will reimburse each unit of local government in the State for any costs the unit incurs in carrying out the activities for which the payment may be used; and

“(C) files a statement with the Commission describing the State’s need for the payment and how the State will use the payment to meet the requirements of title III (in accordance with the limitations applicable to the use of the payment under section 257(a)(5)).

“(2) Certifications by States that require changes to State law.—In the case of a State that requires State legislation to carry out any
activity covered by any certification submitted under this subsection, 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.”.

(d) Permitting Use of Funds for Reimbursement for Costs Previously Incurred.—Section 251(c)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15401(c)(1)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, or as a reimbursement for any costs incurred after November 2016 in meeting the requirements of title III which are imposed pursuant to the amendments made by title I of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012 or in otherwise upgrading or replacing voting systems in a manner consistent with such amendments (so long as the voting systems meet any of the requirements that apply with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2020 and each succeeding year).”.

(e) Rule of Construction Regarding States Receiving Other Funds for Replacing Punch Card, Lever, or Other Voting Machines.—Nothing in the amendments made by this section or in any other provision of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 may be construed to prohibit a State which received or was au-
authorized to receive a payment under title I or II of such Act for replacing punch card, lever, or other voting machines from receiving or using any funds which are made available under the amendments made by this section.

(f) Rule of Construction Regarding Use of Funds Received in Prior Years.—

(1) In General.—Nothing contained in this Act or the Help America Vote Act of 2002 may be construed to prohibit a State from using funds received under title I or II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to purchase or acquire by other means a voting system that meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 301 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as amended by this Act) in order to replace voting systems purchased with funds received under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 that do not meet such requirements.

(2) Waiver of Notice and Comment Requirements.—The requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of section 254(a)(11) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 shall not apply to any State using funds received under such Act for the purposes described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1).
(g) **Effective Date.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2018.

**SEC. 605. EFFECTIVE DATE FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS.**

Section 301(d) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) **Effective Date.**—

“(1) **In general.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section on and after January 1, 2006.

“(2) **Special rule for certain requirements.**—

“(A) **In general.**—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the requirements of this section which are first imposed on a State and jurisdiction pursuant to the amendments made by title I of the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012 shall apply with respect to voting systems used for any election for Federal office held in 2018 or any succeeding year.

“(B) **Delay for jurisdictions using certain paper record printers or certain
SYSTEMS USING OR PRODUCING VOTER-
VERIFIABLE PAPER RECORDS IN 2016.—

“(i) DELAY.—In the case of a juris-
diction described in clause (ii), subpara-
graph (A) shall apply to a voting system in
the jurisdiction as if the reference in such
subparagraph to ‘2018’ were a reference to
‘2020’, but only with respect to the fol-
lowing requirements of this section:

“(I) Paragraph (2)(A)(i)(I) of
subsection (a) (relating to the use of
voter-marked paper ballots).

“(II) Paragraph (3)(B)(ii)(I) and
(II) of subsection (a) (relating to ac-
cess to verification from and casting
of the durable paper ballot).

“(III) Paragraph (11) of sub-
section (a) (relating to durability and
readability requirements for ballots).

“(ii) JURISDICTIONS DESCRIBED.—A
jurisdiction described in this clause is a ju-
risdiction—

“(I) which used voter verifiable
paper record printers attached to di-
rect recording electronic voting ma-
chines, or which used other voting systems that used or produced paper records of the vote verifiable by voters but that are not in compliance with paragraphs (2)(A)(i)(I), (3)(B)(ii) (I) and (II), and (11) of subsection (a) (as amended or added by the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2012), for the administration of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2016; and

“(II) which will continue to use such printers or systems for the administration of elections for Federal office held in years before 2020.

“(iii) Mandatory availability of paper ballots at polling places using grandfathered printers and systems.—

“(I) Requiring ballots to be offered and provided.—The appropriate election official at each polling place that uses a printer or system described in clause (ii)(I) for the
administration of elections for Federal office shall offer each individual who is eligible to cast a vote in the election at the polling place the opportunity to cast the vote using a blank pre-printed paper ballot which the individual may mark by hand and which is not produced by the direct recording electronic voting machine or other such system. The official shall provide the individual with the ballot and the supplies necessary to mark the ballot, and shall ensure (to the greatest extent practicable) that the waiting period for the individual to cast a vote is the lesser of 30 minutes or the average waiting period for an individual who does not agree to cast the vote using such a paper ballot under this clause.

“(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 incorporating it into the final
unofficial vote count (as defined by the State) for the precinct) and not as a provisional ballot, unless the individual casting the ballot would have otherwise been required to cast a provisional ballot.

“(III) Posting of notice.—The appropriate election official shall ensure there is prominently displayed at each polling place a notice that describes the obligation of the official to offer individuals the opportunity to cast votes using a pre-printed blank paper ballot.

“(IV) Training of election officials.—The chief State election official 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 under subclause (III), and are aware that it is a violation of the requirements of this title for an election official to fail to offer an indi-
individual the opportunity to cast a vote using a blank pre-printed paper ballot.

“(V) **Period of applicability.**—The requirements of this clause 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 nontabulating ballot marking device which automatically deposits the ballot into a privacy sleeve, subparagraph (A) shall apply to a voting system in the jurisdiction as if the reference in such subparagraph to ‘any election for Federal office held in 2018 or any succeeding year’ were a reference to ‘elections for Federal office occurring held in 2020 or each succeeding year’, but only with respect to paragraph (3)(B)(ii)(II) of subsection (a) (relating to nonmanual casting of the durable paper ballot).”.
Subtitle B—Requirement for Mandatory Manual Audits by Hand Count

SEC. 611. MANDATORY MANUAL AUDITS.

Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

“Subtitle C—Mandatory Manual Audits

“SEC. 321. REQUIRING AUDITS OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS.

“(a) REQUIRING AUDITS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this subtitle, each State shall administer, without advance notice to the precincts or alternative audit units selected, audits of the results of all elections for Federal office held in the State (and, at the option of the State or jurisdiction involved, of elections for State and local office held at the same time as such election) consisting of random hand counts of the voter-verified paper ballots required to be used and preserved pursuant to section 301(a)(2).

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN ELECTIONS.—A State shall not be required to administer an audit of the results of an election for Federal office under...
this subtitle if the winning candidate in the election—

“(A) had no opposition on the ballot; or

“(B) received 80 percent or more of the total number of votes cast in the election, as determined on the basis of the final unofficial vote count.

“(b) DETERMINATION OF ENTITY CONDUCTING AUDITS; APPLICATION OF GAO INDEPENDENCE STANDARDS.—The State shall administer audits under this subtitle through an entity selected for such purpose by the State in accordance with such criteria as the State considers appropriate consistent with the requirements of this subtitle, except that the entity must meet the general standards established by the Comptroller General and as set forth in the Comptroller General’s Government Auditing Standards to ensure the independence (including, except as provided under section 323(b), the organizational independence) of entities performing financial audits, attestation engagements, and performance audits.

“(c) REFERENCES TO ELECTION AUDITOR.—In this subtitle, the term ‘Election Auditor’ means, with respect to a State, the entity selected by the State under subsection (b).
“SEC. 322. NUMBER OF BALLOTS COUNTED UNDER AUDIT.

“(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection
(b), the number of voter-verified paper ballots which will
be subject to a hand count administered by the Election
Auditor of a State under this subtitle with respect to an
election shall be determined as follows:

“(1) In the event that the unofficial count as
described in section 323(a)(1) reveals that the mar-
gin of victory between the two candidates receiving
the largest number of votes in the election is less
than 1 percent of the total votes cast in that elec-
tion, the hand counts of the voter-verified paper bal-
lots shall occur in at least 10 percent of all precincts
or equivalent locations (or alternative audit units
used in accordance with the method provided for
under subsection (b)) in the Congressional district
involved (in the case of an election for the House of
Representatives) or the State (in the case of any
other election for Federal office).

“(2) In the event that the unofficial count as
described in section 323(a)(1) reveals that the mar-
gin of victory between the two candidates receiving
the largest number of votes in the election is greater
than or equal to 1 percent but less than 2 percent
of the total votes cast in that election, the hand
counts of the voter-verified paper ballots shall occur
in at least 5 percent of all precincts or equivalent locations (or alternative audit units used in accordance with the method provided for under subsection (b)) in the Congressional district involved (in the case of an election for the House of Representatives) or the State (in the case of any other election for Federal office).

“(3) In the event that the unofficial count as described in section 323(a)(1) reveals that the margin of victory between the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the election is equal to or greater than 2 percent of the total votes cast in that election, the hand counts of the voter-verified paper ballots shall occur in at least 3 percent of all precincts or equivalent locations (or alternative audit units used in accordance with the method provided for under subsection (b)) in the Congressional district involved (in the case of an election for the House of Representatives) or the State (in the case of any other election for Federal office).

“(b) USE OF ALTERNATIVE MECHANISM.—

“(1) PERMITTING USE OF ALTERNATIVE MECHANISM.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a State may adopt and apply an alternative mechanism to determine the number of voter-verified paper ballots
which will be subject to the hand counts required
under this subtitle with respect to an election, so
long as the alternative mechanism uses the voter-
verified paper ballots to conduct the audit and the
National Institute of Standards and Technology de-
termines that the alternative mechanism is in ac-
cordance with the principles set forth in paragraph
(2).

“(2) Principles for Approval.—In approving an alternative mechanism under paragraph (1),
the National Institute of Standards and Technology
shall ensure that the audit procedure will have the
property that for each election—

“(A) the alternative mechanism will be at
least as statistically effective in ensuring the ac-
curacy of the election results as the procedures
under this subtitle; or

“(B) the alternative mechanism will
achieve at least a 95% confidence interval (as
determined in accordance with criteria set forth
by the National Institute of Standards and
Technology) with respect to the outcome of the
election.

“(3) Deadline for Response.—The Director
of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
nology shall make a determination regarding a
State’s request to approve an alternative mechanism
under paragraph (1) not later than 30 days after re-
ceiving the State’s request.

“SEC. 323. PROCESS FOR ADMINISTERING AUDITS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Election Auditor of a State
shall administer an audit under this section of the results
of an election in accordance with the following procedures:

“(1) Within 24 hours after the State announces
the final unofficial vote count (as defined by the
State) in each precinct in the State, the Election
Auditor shall—

“(A) determine and then announce the
precincts or equivalent locations (or alternative
audit units used in accordance with the method
provided under section 322(b)) in the State in
which it will administer the audits; and

“(B) with respect to votes cast at the pre-
cinct or equivalent location on or before the
date of the election (other than provisional bal-
lots described in paragraph (2)), begin to ad-
minister the hand count of the votes on the
voter-verified paper ballots required to be used
and preserved under section 301(a)(2)(A) and
the comparison of the count of the votes on
those ballots with the final unofficial count of
such votes as announced by the State.

“(2) With respect to votes cast other than at
the precinct on the date of the election (other than
votes cast before the date of the election described
in paragraph (2)) or votes cast by provisional ballot
on the date of the election which are certified and
counted by the State on or after the date of the elec-
tion, including votes cast by absent uniformed serv-
dees voters and overseas voters under the Uniformed
and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the
Election Auditor shall administer the hand count of
the votes on the applicable voter-verified paper bal-
lots required to be produced and preserved under
section 301(a)(2)(A) and the comparison of the
count of the votes on those ballots with the final un-
oficial count of such votes as announced by the
State.

“(b) USE OF PERSONNEL.—In administering the au-
dits, the Election Auditor may utilize the services of the
personnel of the State or jurisdiction, including election
administration personnel and poll workers, without regard
to whether or not the personnel have professional auditing
experience.
“(c) LOCATION.—The Election Auditor shall admin-
ister an audit of an election—

“(1) at the location where the ballots cast in
the election are stored and counted after the date of
the election or such other appropriate and secure lo-
cation agreed upon by the Election Auditor and the
individual that is responsible under State law for the
custody of the ballots; and

“(2) in the presence of the personnel who under
State law are responsible for the custody of the bal-
lots.

“(d) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF DELAY IN REPORT-
ING ABSENTEE VOTE COUNT.—In the case of a State in
which the final count of absentee and provisional votes is
not announced until after the date of the election, the
Election Auditor shall initiate the process described in
subsection (a) for administering the audit not later than
24 hours after the State announces the final unofficial
vote count for the votes cast at the precinct or equivalent
location on or before the date of the election, and shall
initiate the administration of the audit of the absentee and
provisional votes pursuant to subsection (a)(2) not later
than 24 hours after the State announces the final unoffi-
cial count of such votes.

“(e) ADDITIONAL AUDITS IF CAUSE SHOWN.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Election Auditor finds that any of the hand counts administered under this section do not match the final unofficial tally of the results of an election, the Election Auditor shall administer hand counts under this section of such additional precincts (or alternative audit units) as the Election Auditor considers appropriate to resolve any concerns resulting from the audit and ensure the accuracy of the election results.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT AND PUBLICATION OF PROCEDURES GOVERNING ADDITIONAL AUDITS.—Not later than August 1, 2017, each State shall establish and publish procedures for carrying out the additional audits under this subsection, including the means by which the State shall resolve any concerns resulting from the audit with finality and ensure the accuracy of the election results.

“(f) PUBLIC OBSERVATION OF AUDITS.—Each audit conducted under this section shall be conducted in a manner that allows public observation of the entire process.

“SEC. 324. SELECTION OF PRECINCTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the selection of the precincts or alternative audit units in the State in which the Election Auditor of the State shall administer the hand counts under this subtitle shall
be made by the Election Auditor on a random basis, in accordance with procedures adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, except that at least one precinct shall be selected at random in each county, with additional precincts selected by the Election Auditor at the Auditor’s discretion.

“(b) Public Selection.—The random selection of precincts under subsection (a) shall be conducted in public, at a time and place announced in advance.

“(c) Mandatory Selection of Precincts Established Specifically For Absentee Ballots.—If a State does not sort absentee ballots by precinct and include those ballots in the hand count with respect to that precinct, the State shall create absentee ballot precincts or audit units which are of similar size to the average precinct or audit unit in the jurisdiction being audited, and shall include those absentee precincts or audit units among the precincts in the State in which the Election Auditor shall administer the hand counts under this subtitle.

“(d) Deadline for Adoption of Procedures by Commission.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall adopt the procedures described in subsection (a) not later than March 31, 2017, and shall publish them in the Federal Register upon adoption.
SEC. 325. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS.

(a) Submission to Commission.—As soon as practicable after the completion of an audit under this subtitle, the Election Auditor of a State shall submit to the Commission the results of the audit, and shall include in the submission a comparison of the results of the election in the precinct as determined by the Election Auditor under the audit and the final unofficial vote count in the precinct as announced by the State and all undervotes, overvotes, blank ballots, and spoiled, voided, or cancelled ballots, as well as a list of any discrepancies discovered between the initial, subsequent, and final hand counts administered by the Election Auditor and such final unofficial vote count and any explanation for such discrepancies, broken down by the categories of votes described in paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) of section 323(a).

(b) Publication by Commission.—Immediately after receiving the submission of the results of an audit from the Election Auditor of a State under subsection (a), the Commission shall publicly announce and publish the information contained in the submission.

(c) Delay in Certification of Results by State.—

(1) Prohibiting certification until completion of audits.—No State may certify the re-
results of any election which is subject to an audit under this subtitle prior to—

“(A) to the completion of the audit (and, if required, any additional audit conducted under section 323(c)(1)) and the announcement and submission of the results of each such audit to the Commission for publication of the information required under this section; and

“(B) the completion of any procedure established by the State pursuant to section 323(e)(2) to resolve discrepancies and ensure the accuracy of results.

“(2) Deadline for completion of audits of presidential elections.—In the case of an election for electors for President and Vice President which is subject to an audit under this subtitle, the State shall complete the audits and announce and submit the results to the Commission for publication of the information required under this section in time for the State to certify the results of the election and provide for the final determination of any controversy or contest concerning the appointment of such electors prior to the deadline described in section 6 of title 3, United States Code.
“SEC. 326. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

“(a) Payments For Costs of Conducting Audits.—In accordance with the requirements and procedures of this section, the Commission shall make a payment to a State to cover the costs incurred by the State in carrying out this subtitle with respect to the elections that are the subject of the audits conducted under this subtitle.

“(b) Certification of Compliance and Anticipated Costs.—

“(1) Certification Required.—In order to receive a payment under this section, a State shall submit to the Commission, in such form as the Commission may require, a statement containing—

“(A) a certification that the State will conduct the audits required under this subtitle in accordance with all of the requirements of this subtitle;

“(B) a notice of the reasonable costs incurred or the reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by the State in carrying out this subtitle with respect to the elections involved; and

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

“(2) Amount of Payment.—The amount of a payment made to a State under this section shall be
equal to the reasonable costs incurred or the reasonable costs anticipated to be incurred by the State in carrying out this subtitle with respect to the elections involved, as set forth in the statement submitted under paragraph (1).

“(3) **Timing of Notice.**—The State may not submit a notice under paragraph (1) until candidates have been selected to appear on the ballot for all of the elections for Federal office which will be the subject of the audits involved.

“(c) **Timing of Payments.**—The Commission shall make the payment required under this section to a State not later than 30 days after receiving the notice submitted by the State under subsection (b).

“(d) **Recoupment of Overpayments.**—No payment may be made to a State under this section unless the State agrees to repay to the Commission the excess (if any) of—

“(1) the amount of the payment received by the State under this section with respect to the elections involved; over

“(2) the actual costs incurred by the State in carrying out this subtitle with respect to the elections involved.
“(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for fiscal year 2018 and each succeeding fiscal year $100,000,000 for payments under this section.

“SEC. 327. EXCEPTION FOR ELECTIONS SUBJECT TO RECOUNT UNDER STATE LAW PRIOR TO CERTIFICATION.

“(a) Exception.—This subtitle does not apply to any election for which a recount under State law will commence prior to the certification of the results of the election, including but not limited to a recount required automatically because of the margin of victory between the 2 candidates receiving the largest number of votes in the election, but only if each of the following applies to the recount:

“(1) The recount commences prior to the determination and announcement by the Election Auditor under section 323(a)(1) of the precincts in the State in which it will administer the audits under this subtitle.

“(2) If the recount would apply to fewer than 100 percent of the ballots cast in the election—

“(A) the number of ballots counted will be at least as many as would be counted if an
audit were conducted with respect to the election in accordance with this subtitle; and

“(B) the selection of the precincts in which the recount will be conducted will be made in accordance with the random selection procedures applicable under section 324.

“(3) The recount for the election meets the requirements of section 323(f) (relating to public observation).

“(4) The State meets the requirements of section 325 (relating to the publication of results and the delay in the certification of results) with respect to the recount.

“(b) Clarification of Effect on Other Requirements.—Nothing in this section may be construed to waive the application of any other provision of this Act to any election (including the requirement set forth in section 301(a)(2) that the voter verified paper ballots serve as the vote of record and shall be counted by hand in all audits and recounts, including audits and recounts described in this subtitle).

SEC. 328. EFFECTIVE DATE.

“This subtitle shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2018 or any succeeding year.”
SEC. 612. AVAILABILITY OF ENFORCEMENT UNDER HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15511) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, or the requirements of subtitle C of title III.”.

SEC. 613. GUIDANCE ON BEST PRACTICES FOR ALTERNATIVE AUDIT MECHANISMS.

(a) In General.—Not later than May 1, 2017, the Director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology shall establish guidance for States that wish to establish alternative audit mechanisms under section 322(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by section 611). Such guidance shall be based upon scientifically and statistically reasonable assumptions for the purpose of creating an alternative audit mechanism that will be consistent with the principles for approval described in section 322(b)(2) of such Act (as so added).

(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) $100,000, to remain available until expended.

SEC. 614. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.

The table of contents of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title III the following:

“Subtitle C—Mandatory Manual Audits
TITLE VII—PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

SEC. 701. REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM AND NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15482) is amended—

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

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

“(d) STATEWIDE COUNTING 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 within the State, the appropriate election official shall count each vote on such ballot for each election 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, 2013.

“(c) 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, 2013.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 302(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15482(f)), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by striking “Each State” and inserting “Except as provided in subsections (d)(2) and (e)(2), each State”.

TITLE VIII—EARLY VOTING AND VOTING BY MAIL

SEC. 801. EARLY VOTING AND VOTING BY MAIL.

(a) Requirements.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481 et seq.), as amended by section 114(a) and section 201(a), is amended—
(1) by redesignating sections 306 and 307 as sections 308 and 309; and
(2) by inserting after section 305 the following new sections:

“SEC. 306. EARLY VOTING.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall allow individuals to vote in an election for Federal office not less than 15 days prior to the day scheduled for such election in the same manner as voting is allowed on such day.

“(b) MINIMUM EARLY VOTING REQUIREMENTS.—

Each polling place which allows voting prior to the day of a Federal election pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

“(1) allow such voting for no less than 4 hours on each day (other than Sunday); and

“(2) have uniform hours each day for which such voting occurs.

“(c) LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES NEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.—To the greatest extent practicable, a State shall ensure that each polling place which allows voting prior to the day of a Federal election pursuant to subsection (a) is located within walking distance of a stop on a public transportation route.

“(d) 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 the nondiscriminatory geographic placement of polling places at which such voting occurs.

“(2) Deviation.—The standards described in paragraph (1) shall permit States, upon providing adequate public 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) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2014.

“SEC. 307. PROMOTING ABILITY OF VOTERS TO VOTE BY MAIL.

“(a) In General.—If an individual in a State is eligible to cast a vote in an election for Federal office, the State may not impose any additional conditions or requirements on the eligibility of the individual to cast the vote in such election by mail, except as required under subsection (b) and except to the extent that the State imposes a deadline for requesting the ballot and related voting materials from the appropriate State or local election official and for returning the ballot to the appropriate State or local election official.
“(b) Requiring Signature Verification.—A State may not accept and process an absentee ballot submitted by any individual with respect to an election for Federal office unless the State verifies the identification of the individual by comparing the individual’s signature on the absentee ballot with the individual’s signature on the official list of registered voters in the State, in accordance with such procedures as the State may adopt.

“(c) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2014.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Issuance of Voluntary Guidance by Election Assistance Commission.—Section 311(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15501(b)), as amended by section 201(b), is amended—

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

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting a semicolon; and

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

“(5) in the case of the recommendations with respect to section 306, June 30, 2013; and
“(6) in the case of the recommendations with respect to section 307, June 30, 2013.”.

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

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 306 and 307 as relating to sections 308 and 309; and

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

“Sec. 306. Early voting.
Sec. 307. Promoting ability of voters to vote by mail.”.

TITLE IX—ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS

SEC. 901. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Section 705 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 595) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “SPOUSES” and inserting “FAMILY MEMBERS”; and

(2) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) FAMILY MEMBERS.—For the purposes of voting for in any election for any Federal office (as defined in section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971...
(2 U.S.C. 431)) or any State or local office, a spouse, domestic partner, or dependent of a person who is absent from a State in compliance with military or naval orders shall not, solely by reason of that person’s absence and without regard to whether or not such family member is accompanying that person—

“(1) be deemed to have lost a residence or domicile in that State, without regard to whether or not the person intends to return to that State;

“(2) be deemed to have acquired a residence or domicile in any other State; or

“(3) be deemed to have become a resident in or a resident of any other State.”.

SEC. 902. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON AVAILABILITY AND TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

Section 102(c) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(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, the Election Assistance Com-
mission (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 each unit of local government which will administer the election.

“(2) PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON ABSENTEE BALLOT TRANSMISSION.—Not later than 43 days before any regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State shall submit a report to the Attorney General, 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 all qualified absent uniformed services 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,
and 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.—Not later than 90 days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State and unit of local government which administered the election shall (through the State, in the case of a unit of local government) submit a report to the Attorney General, the Commission, and the Presidential Designee on the combined number of absentee ballots transmitted to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for the election and the combined number of such ballots which were returned by such voters and cast in the election, and shall make such report available to the general public that same day.”.

SEC. 903. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Availability of Civil Penalties and Private Rights of Action.—Section 105 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–4) 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 for such declaratory or injunctive relief as may be necessary to carry out this title.

“(2) Penalty.—In a civil action brought under paragraph (1), if the court finds that the State violated any provision of this title, it may, to vindicate the public interest, assess a civil penalty against the State—

“(A) in an amount not to exceed $110,000 for each such violation, in the case of a first violation; or

“(B) in an amount not to exceed $220,000 for each such violation, for any subsequent violation.

“(3) Report to Congress.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress an annual report on any civil action brought under paragraph (1) during the preceding year.

“(b) Private Right of Action.—A person who is aggrieved by a State’s violation of this title may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declar-
atory or injunctive relief as may be necessary to carry out
this title.

“(c) State as Only Necessary Defendant.—In
any action brought under this section, the only necessary
party defendant is the State, and it shall not be a defense
to any such action that a local election official or a unit
of local government is not named as a defendant, notwith-
standing that a State has exercised the authority described
in section 576 of the Military and Overseas Voter Em-
powerment Act to delegate to another jurisdiction in the
State any duty or responsibility which is the subject of
an action brought under this section.”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by
this section shall apply with respect to violations alleged
to have occurred on or after the date of the enactment
of this Act.

SEC. 904. REVISIONS TO 45-DAY ABSENTEE BALLOT TRANS-
MISSION RULE.

(a) Repeal of Waiver Authority.—

(1) In general.—Section 102 of the Uni-
formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act
(42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1) is amended by striking sub-
section (g).

(2) Conforming Amendment.—Section
102(a)(8)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–
1(a)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “except as pro-
vided in subsection (g),”.

(b) REQUIRING USE OF EXPRESS DELIVERY IN CASE
OF FAILURE TO MEET REQUIREMENT.—Section 102 of
such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1), as amended by subsection
(a), is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the fol-
lowing new subsection:

“(g) REQUIRING USE OF EXPRESS DELIVERY IN
CASE OF FAILURE TO TRANSMIT BALLOTS WITHIN
DEADLINES.—

“(1) TRANSMISSION OF BALLOT BY EXPRESS
delivery.—If a State fails to meet the requirement
of subsection (a)(8)(A) to transmit a validly re-
quested absentee ballot to an absent uniformed serv-
ices voter or overseas voter not later than 45 days
before the election (in the case in which the request
is received at least 45 days before the election)—

“(A) the State shall transmit the ballot to
the voter by express delivery; or

“(B) in the case of a voter who has des-
ignated that absentee ballots be transmitted
electronically in accordance with subsection
(f)(1), the State shall transmit the ballot to the
voter electronically.
“(2) **Special rule for transmission fewer than 40 days before the election.**—If, in carrying out paragraph (1), a State transmits an absentee ballot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter fewer than 40 days before the election, the State shall enable the ballot to be returned by the voter by express delivery, except that in the case of an absentee ballot of an absent uniformed services voter for a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the State may satisfy the requirement of this paragraph by notifying the voter of the procedures for the collection and delivery of such ballots under section 103A.”.

(e) **Clarification of Treatment of Weekends.**—Section 102(a)(8)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–1(a)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “the election;” and inserting the following: “the election (or, if the 45th day preceding the election is a weekend or legal public holiday, not later than the most recent weekday which precedes such 45th day and which is not a legal public holiday, but only if the request is received by at least such most recent weekday);”.
SEC. 905. USE OF SINGLE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff–3) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 104. USE OF SINGLE APPLICATION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If a State accepts and processes an official post card form (prescribed under section 101) submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter for simultaneous voter registration and absentee ballot application (in accordance with section 102(a)(4)) and the voter requests that the application be considered an application for an absentee ballot for each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State through the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office (including any runoff elections which may occur as a result of the outcome of such general election), the State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each such subsequent election.

“(b) EXCEPTION FOR VOTERS CHANGING REGISTRATION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a voter registered to vote in a State for any election held after the voter notifies the State that the voter no longer wishes to be registered to vote in the State or after the State determines that the voter has registered to vote in
another State or is otherwise no longer eligible to vote in
the State.

“(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 otherwise valid voter registration
application or absentee ballot application (including the
postcard form prescribed under section 101) submitted by
an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter on
the grounds that the voter submitted the application be-
fore the first date on which the State otherwise accepts
or processes such applications for that election which are
submitted by absentee voters who are not members of the
uniformed services or overseas citizens.”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall apply with respect to voter registration
and absentee ballot applications which are submitted to
a State or local election official on or after the date of
the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 906. APPLICATION OF UOCAVA TO COMMONWEALTH
OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.
Section 107(6) of the Uniformed and Overseas Civ-
zens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973 ff–6(6)) is
amended by striking “and American Samoa” and insert-
ing “American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

SEC. 907. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title shall apply with respect to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2014.

TITLE X—POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

SEC. 1001. LEAVE TO SERVE AS A POLL WORKER FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 6329. Absence in connection with serving as a poll worker

“(a) IN GENERAL.—An employee in or under an Executive agency is entitled to leave, without loss of or reduction in pay, leave to which otherwise entitled, credit for time or service, or performance or efficiency rating, not to exceed 6 days in a leave year, in order—

“(1) to provide election administration assistance to a State or unit of local government at a polling place on the date of any election for public office; or
“(2) to receive any training without which such
employee would be ineligible to provide such assist-
ance.

“(b) Regulations.—The Director of the Office of
Personnel Management may prescribe regulations for the
administration of this section, including regulations set-
ing forth the terms and conditions of the election admin-
istration assistance an employee may provide for purposes
of subsection (a).”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections
for chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, is amended
by inserting after the item relating to section 6328 the
following:

“6329. Absence in connection with serving as a poll worker.”.

SEC. 1002. GRANTS TO STATES FOR POLL WORKER RE-
CRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) Grants by Election Assistance Commis-
sion.—

(1) In general.—The Election Assistance
Commission (hereafter referred to as the “Commis-
sion”) shall make a grant to each eligible State for
recruiting and training individuals to serve as non-
partisan poll workers on dates of elections for public
office.

(2) Use of commission materials.—In car-
rying out activities with a grant provided under this
section, the recipient of the grant shall use the man-
ual prepared by the Commission on successful prac-
tices for poll worker recruiting, training and reten-
tion as an interactive training tool, and shall develop
training programs with the participation and input
of experts in adult learning.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) APPLICATION.—Each State that desires to
receive a payment under this section 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) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each appli-
cation submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) describe the activities for which assist-
ance under this section is sought;

(B) provide assurances that the funds pro-
vided under this section will be used to supple-
ment and not supplant other funds used to
carry out the activities;

(C) provide assurances that the State will
furnish the Commission with information on the
number of individuals who served as non-
partisan poll workers after recruitment and
training with the funds provided under this sec-
tion; and

(D) provide such additional information
and certifications as the Commission deter-
mines to be essential 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 DE-
FINED.—In paragraph (1), the “voting age popu-
lation 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).
(d) 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 a report to the Commission 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. 1003. MODEL POLL WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) Development of Program by Election Assistance Commission.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission shall develop and provide to each State materials for a model poll worker training program which the State may use to train individuals to serve as poll workers in elections for Federal office.

(b) Contents of Materials.—The materials for the model poll worker training program developed under this section shall include materials to provide training with respect to the following:


(2) The provision of access to voting to individuals with disabilities in a manner which preserves the dignity and privacy of such individuals.

(3) The provision of access to voting to individuals with limited English language proficiency, and to individuals who are members or racial or ethnic minorities, consistent with the protections provided for such individuals under relevant law, in a manner which preserves the dignity of such individuals.
(4) Practical experience in the use of the voting machines which will be used in the election involved, including the accessibility features of such machines.

(5) Such other election administration subjects as the Commission considers appropriate to ensure that poll workers are able to effectively assist with the administration of elections for Federal office.

SEC. 1004. STATE DEFINED.

In this title, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands.

TITLE XI—ENHANCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 1101. ENHANCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

(a) Complaints; Availability of Private Right of Action.—Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15511) 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 Persons.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who is aggrieved by a violation of subtitle A or subtitle C of title III which has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur may file a written, signed, notarized complaint 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 a 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), in accordance 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)(2). The Attorney General shall immediately provide a copy of the response made 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 enforce the individual’s right to a voter-verified paper ballot, the right to have the voter-verified paper ballot counted in accordance with this Act, or any other right under subtitles A or C of title III) may file an action under section 1979 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (42 U.S.C. 1983) to enforce the uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements under subtitle A of title III, or the requirements of subtitle C of title III.

“(d) No Effect on State Procedures.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the availability of the State-based administrative complaint procedures required under section 402 to any person filing a complaint under this subsection.”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to violations occurring with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2014 or any succeeding year.
TITLE XII—FEDERAL ELECTION INTEGRITY

SEC. 1201. PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 319 the following new section:

“CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

“Sec. 319A. (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 election for Federal office over which such official has supervisory authority.

“(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) serving as a member of an authorized committee of a candidate for Federal office;
“(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 solicitation, acceptance, or receipt 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 7323(b) of title 5, United States Code, if taken by an individual to whom such paragraph applies (other than any prohibition on running for public office).

“(d) EXCEPTION FOR CAMPAIGNS OF OFFICIAL OR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—

“(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.

“(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.”.
(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held after December 2012.

TITLE XIII—OTHER ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 1301. TREATMENT OF UNIVERSITIES AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.

(a) In General.—Section 7(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–5(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

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

(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 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) in the State that receives Federal funds.”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(A), by inserting “or, in the case of an institution of higher education, with
each registration of a student for enrollment in a course of study’’ after ‘‘assistance,’’.

(b) Amendment to Higher Education Act of 1965.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (23).

(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2014.

SEC. 1302. MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE CHANGES.

(a) Requirements.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15482), as amended by section 701(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) 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 7 days before the date of the election; 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 previously assigned, the State shall make every reasonable effort to enable the individual to vote on the date of the election.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2013.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302(f) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15482(f)), as redesignated by subsection (a) and as amended by section 701(b), is amended by striking “(d)(2) and (e)(2)” and inserting“(d)(2), (e)(2), and (f)(2)”.

SEC. 1303. VOTER INFORMATION RESPONSE SYSTEMS AND HOTLINE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SYSTEMS AND SERVICES.—
(1) **State-based response systems.**—The Attorney General shall coordinate the establishment of a State-based response system for responding to questions and complaints from individuals voting or seeking to vote, or registering to vote or seeking to register to vote, in elections for Federal office. Such system shall provide—

(A) State-specific, same-day, and immediate assistance to such individuals, including information on how to register to vote, the location and hours of operation of polling places, and how to obtain absentee ballots; and

(B) State-specific, same-day, and immediate assistance to individuals encountering problems with registering to vote or voting, including individuals encountering intimidation or deceptive practices.

(2) **Hotline.**—The Attorney General, in consultation with State election officials, shall establish and operate a toll-free telephone service, using a telephone number that is accessible throughout the United States and that uses easily identifiable numerals, through which individuals throughout the United States—
(A) may connect directly to the State-based response system described in paragraph (1) with respect to the State involved;

(B) may obtain information on voting in elections for Federal office, including information on how to register to vote in such elections, the locations and hours of operation of polling places, and how to obtain absentee ballots; and

(C) may report information to the Attorney General on problems encountered in registering to vote or voting, including incidences of voter intimidation or suppression.

(3) COLLABORATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS.—

(A) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM STATES.—The Attorney General shall coordinate the collection of information on State and local election laws and policies, including information on the Statewide computerized 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.
(B) Forwarding questions and complaints to states.—If an individual contacts the free telephone service established under paragraph (2) on the date of an election for Federal office with a question or complaint with respect to a particular State or jurisdiction within a State, the Attorney General shall forward the question or complaint immediately to the appropriate election official of the State or jurisdiction so that the official may answer the question or remedy the complaint on that date.

(b) Use of service by individuals with disabilities and individuals with 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 and individuals with limited proficiency in the English language are fully able to use the service.

(c) Voter Hotline Task Force.—

(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 tele-
phone service established under this section, and
shall give special consideration in making appoint-
ments to the Task Force to individuals who rep-
resent civil rights organizations. At least one mem-
ber of the Task Force shall be a representative of
an organization promoting voting rights or civil
rights which has experience in the operation of simi-
lar telephone services or in protecting the rights of
individuals to vote, especially individuals who are
members or racial minorities or of communities who
have been adversely affected by efforts to suppress
voting rights.

(2) ELIGIBILITY.—An individual shall be eligi-
able 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 criminal offense relating to voter in-
timidation or voter suppression.

(3) TERM OF SERVICE.—An individual ap-
pointed to the Task Force shall serve a single term
of 2 years, except that the initial terms of the mem-
ers first appointed to the Task Force shall be stag-
gered 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.

(4) **No Compensation for Service.**—Members of
the Task Force shall serve without pay, but
shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in
lieu of subsistence, in accordance with applicable
provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
5, United States Code.

(d) **Bi-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 dur-
ing the previous 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;

(3) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
service in making information available to all house-
holds in the United States with telephone service;

(4) any recommendations developed by the
Task Force established under subsection (c) with re-
spect 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 subsection (a)(1).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General for fiscal year 2012 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 Act for a fiscal year pursuant to the authorization under paragraph (1), not less than 15% shall be used for outreach activities to make the public aware of the availability of 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.
SEC. 1304. REAUTHORIZATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

Section 210 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15330) is amended by striking “for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2005” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2016”.

SEC. 1305. REPEAL OF EXEMPTION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—Section 205 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15325) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contracts entered into by the Election Assistance Commission on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1306. NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) In General.—Except as specifically provided, nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize or require conduct prohibited under any of the following laws, or to supersede, restrict, or limit the application of such laws:


(2) The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.).
(3) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ff et seq.).


(b) NO EFFECT ON PRECLEARANCE OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER VOTING RIGHTS ACT.—The approval by any person of a payment or grant application under this Act, or any other action taken by any person under this Act, shall not be considered to have any effect on requirements for preclearance under section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973c) or any other requirements of such Act.