

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 254

To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish polling place hours.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 2009

Mr. ISRAEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To change the date for regularly scheduled Federal elections and establish polling place hours.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Weekend Voting Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CHANGE IN CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION DAY TO**
6 **SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.**

7 Section 25 of the Revised Statutes (2 U.S.C. 7) is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 “SEC. 25. The first Saturday and Sunday after the
10 first Friday in November, in every even numbered year,

1 are established as the days for the election, in each of the
2 States and Territories of the United States, of Represent-
3 atives and Delegates to the Congress commencing on the
4 3d day of January thereafter.”.

5 **SEC. 3. CHANGE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY TO SAT-**
6 **URDAY AND SUNDAY.**

7 Section 1 of title 3, United States Code, is amended
8 by striking “Tuesday next after the first Monday” and
9 inserting “first Saturday and Sunday after the first Fri-
10 day”.

11 **SEC. 4. POLLING PLACE HOURS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—

13 (1) PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.—

14 Chapter 1 of title 3, United States Code, is amend-
15 ed—

16 (A) by redesignating section 1 as section
17 1A; and

18 (B) by inserting before section 1A the fol-
19 lowing:

20 **“§ 1. Polling place hours**

21 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

22 **“(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—**The
23 term ‘continental United States’ means a State
24 (other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of
25 Columbia.

1 “(2) PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.—The
2 term ‘Presidential general election’ means the elec-
3 tion for electors of President and Vice President.

4 “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

5 “(1) POLLING PLACES IN THE CONTINENTAL
6 UNITED STATES.—Each polling place in the conti-
7 nental United States shall be open, with respect to
8 a Presidential general election, beginning on Satur-
9 day at 10:00 a.m. eastern standard time and ending
10 on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard time.

11 “(2) POLLING PLACES OUTSIDE THE CONTI-
12 NENTAL UNITED STATES.—Each polling place not
13 located in the continental United States shall be
14 open, with respect to a Presidential general election,
15 beginning on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. local time and
16 ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. local time.

17 “(3) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may
18 close between the hours of 10:00 p.m. local time on
19 Saturday and 6:00 a.m. local time on Sunday as
20 provided by the law of the State in which the polling
21 place is located.”.

22 (2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—
23 Section 25 of the Revised Statutes of the United
24 States (2 U.S.C. 7) is amended—

1 (A) by redesignating section 25 as section
2 25A; and

3 (B) by inserting before section 25A the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 25. POLLING PLACE HOURS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—The
8 term ‘continental United States’ means a State
9 (other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of
10 Columbia.

11 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—
12 The term ‘congressional general election’ means the
13 general election for the office of Senator or Rep-
14 resentative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
15 sioner to, the Congress.

16 “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

17 “(1) POLLING PLACES INSIDE THE CONTI-
18 NENTAL UNITED STATES.—Each polling place in the
19 continental United States shall be open, with respect
20 to a congressional general election, beginning on
21 Saturday at 10:00 a.m. eastern standard time and
22 ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. eastern standard
23 time.

24 “(2) POLLING PLACES OUTSIDE THE CONTI-
25 NENTAL UNITED STATES.—Each polling place not

1 located in the continental United States shall be
2 open, with respect to a congressional general elec-
3 tion, beginning on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. local time
4 and ending on Sunday at 6:00 p.m. local time.

5 “(3) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may
6 close between the hours of 10:00 p.m. local time on
7 Saturday and 6:00 a.m. local time on Sunday as
8 provided by the law of the State in which the polling
9 place is located.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

11 (1) The table of sections for chapter 1 of title
12 3, United States Code, is amended by striking the
13 item relating to section 1 and inserting the fol-
14 lowing:

“1. Polling place hours.

“1A. Time of appointing electors.”.

15 (2) Sections 871(b) and 1751(f) of title 18,
16 United States Code, are each amended by striking
17 “title 3, United States Code, sections 1 and 2” and
18 inserting “sections 1A and 2 of title 3”.

○