

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4917

To modify certain notice requirements, to study certain election requirements,
to clarify certain election requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MENG, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SIMON, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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 modify certain notice requirements, to study certain election requirements, to clarify certain election requirements, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Expanding the Vol-
 5 untary Opportunities for Translations in Elections Act”
 6 or the “Expanding the VOTE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. LANGUAGE MINORITY NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.**

8 Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
 9 U.S.C. 10503) is amended—

10 (1) by amending subsection (b)(3)(A) to read as
 11 follows:

12 “(A) the term ‘voting materials’—

13 “(i) means registration or voting no-
 14 tices, forms, instructions, assistance, or
 15 other materials or information relating to
 16 the electoral process, including ballots; and

17 “(ii) includes digital and printed ma-
 18 terial or information produced relating to
 19 the electoral process;”;

20 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
 21 section (g); and

22 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 23 lowing new subsections:

24 “(e) RESPONSIBILITY OF STATES PROVIDING VOT-
 25 ING MATERIALS IN COVERED POLITICAL SUBDIVI-

SIONS.—The prohibition under subsection (b) shall apply to any State that provides voting materials to a political subdivision subject to such prohibition.

“(f) NOTICE.—The Attorney General shall submit a notice of the prohibition of subsection (b), and the threshold at which such prohibition applies, to each State or political subdivision that is—

“(1) below the threshold requirement under subclause (II) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) by not more than 1,000; or

“(2) below the threshold requirement under subclause (I) or (III) of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i) by not more than 0.5 percent.”.

SEC. 3. PROVISIONS RELATED TO AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGES.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503), as amended by section 2, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(C), by striking “1990” and inserting “most recent”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PROVISION OF VOTING MATERIALS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY GROUP.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
2 whenever any State or political subdivision subject to
3 the prohibition of subsection (b) provides any reg-
4 istration or voting notices, forms, instructions, as-
5 sistance, or other materials or information relating
6 to the electoral process, including ballots, it shall
7 provide them in the language of the applicable mi-
8 nority group as well as in the English language.

9 “(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

10 “(A) WHEN WRITTEN AMERICAN INDIAN
11 AND ALASKA NATIVE TRANSLATIONS FOR VOT-
12 ERS ARE NOT REQUIRED.—In the case of a mi-
13 nority group that is American Indian or Alaska
14 Native, if the Tribal government of that minor-
15 ity group has notified the Attorney General that
16 the language is unwritten or the Tribal govern-
17 ment does not want a written translation, a
18 State or political subdivision subject to the pro-
19 hibition of subsection (b) shall only be required
20 to furnish that minority group, in the covered
21 language, oral instructions, assistance, trans-
22 lation of voting materials, and other informa-
23 tion relating to registration and voting.

24 “(B) OTHER MINORITY GROUPS WITH UN-
25 WRITTEN LANGUAGE.—In the case of a minor-

ity group that is not American Indian or Alaska Native, if the language of that minority group is unwritten, a State or political subdivision subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) shall only be required to furnish that minority group, in the covered language, oral instructions, assistance, translation of voting materials, and other information relating to registration and voting.

“(3) WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS FOR ELECTION WORKERS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), a State or political division subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) shall provide written translations of all voting materials, with the consent of any applicable Tribal government, to election workers to ensure that the translations from English to the language of a minority group are complete, accurate, and uniform.

“(4) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘Tribal government’ means the recognized governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually identified (including parenthetically) in the list published most recently as of the date of en-

1 actment of the Expanding the VOTE Act pursuant
 2 to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian
 3 Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).”.

4 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO JURISDICTIONS TO INCENTIVIZE THE**
 5 **PROVISION OF VOTING MATERIALS IN LAN-**
 6 **GUAGES NOT TRIGGERING SECTION 203 COV-**
 7 **ERAGE IN APPLYING JURISDICTION.**

8 (a) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance
 10 Commission (in this section, referred to as the
 11 “Commission”) shall make incentive grants under
 12 subsection (b) to States and political subdivisions to
 13 assist the States and political subdivisions in pro-
 14 viding voting materials during an election cycle in
 15 the language of a covered language minority group.

16 (2) APPLICATION REQUIRED.—In order to re-
 17 ceive a grant under this section, a State or political
 18 subdivision shall submit to the Commission, at such
 19 time and in such form as the Commission may re-
 20 quire, an application containing such information
 21 and assurances as the Commission may require,
 22 such as a plan for the State or political subdivision
 23 to engage stakeholders with a demonstrated experi-
 24 ence of serving the relevant covered language minor-
 25 ity group.

1 (b) INCENTIVE GRANTS.—

2 (1) USE OF FUNDS.—The Commission shall
3 make an incentive grant under this subsection to a
4 State or political subdivision to cover the reasonable
5 costs incurred by the State or political subdivision in
6 providing voting materials in the language of a cov-
7 ered language minority group for an election cycle.

8 (2) CONTINUATION OF PROVISION OF MATE-
9 RIALS FOR GROUPS IN SUCCEEDING ELECTION CY-
10 CLES.—If a State or political subdivision receives an
11 incentive grant with respect to a covered language
12 minority group for an election cycle, the State or po-
13 litical subdivision will certify to the Commission that
14 the State or political subdivision will continue to
15 provide voting materials in the language of that cov-
16 ered language minority group for each succeeding
17 election cycle unless the population of the group dur-
18 ing the succeeding cycle has dropped by 0.5 percent
19 or more from the population of the group during the
20 first election cycle for which the State or political
21 subdivision received an incentive grant with respect
22 to the group.

23 (3) PROHIBITING MULTIPLE GRANTS FOR SAME
24 LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUP.—If a State or political
25 subdivision receives an incentive grant with respect

1 to a covered language minority group, the State or
2 subdivision may not receive another incentive grant
3 with respect to that same covered language minority
4 group.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 (1) the term “covered language minority
7 group”—

8 (A) means, with respect to a State or polit-
9 ical subdivision, the members of a single lan-
10 guage minority who do not meet the require-
11 ments of clause (i) or (ii) of section
12 203(b)(2)(A) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
13 (52 U.S.C. 10503(b)(2)(A)); and

14 (B) includes the language minorities de-
15 scribed in section 203(g) of such Act (52
16 U.S.C. 10503(g)) and any other language mi-
17 nority;

18 (2) the term “election cycle” means the period
19 which begins on the day after the date of a regularly
20 scheduled general election for Federal office and
21 which ends on the date of the next regularly sched-
22 uled general election for Federal office;

23 (3) the term “State” means each of the several
24 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth
25 of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands,

1 American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of
2 the Northern Mariana Islands; and

3 (4) the term “voting materials” has the mean-
4 ing given under section 203(b)(3)(A) of the Voting
5 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503(b)(3)(A)).

6 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

9 **SEC. 5. STUDY ON CERTAIN LANGUAGE MINORITY NOTICE**
10 **REQUIREMENTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
12 United States, in consultation with the Director of the
13 Census, the Attorney General, and the Election Assistance
14 Commission, shall conduct a study on the impact of—

15 (1) reducing the threshold requirement—

16 (A) under subclause (II) of section
17 203(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Voting Rights Act of
18 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503(b)(2)(A)(i)) to 7,500
19 and 5,000, respectively; and

20 (B) under subclause (I) or (III) of section
21 203(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Voting Rights Act of
22 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503(b)(2)(A)(i)) to 4 per-
23 cent, 3 percent, 2.5 percent, and 2 percent, re-
24 spectively; and

1 (2) expanding the definition of the term “lan-
2 guage minorities” to include native speakers of Ara-
3 bic, French and Haitian Creole, and any other lan-
4 guage that the Comptroller General determines to be
5 appropriate.

6 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
7 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall submit to Congress a report on the
9 findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

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