

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4849

To authorize funding for election security grants for fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2026

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To authorize funding for election security grants for fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028, 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 “State and Local Elec-
5 tion Security Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) elections in the United States are safe and
9 secure thanks to the hard work of State and local
10 election officials and that eligible voters should be

1 confident in their ability to cast their vote and have
 2 their voice heard;

3 (2) election officials need consistent and reliable
 4 Federal funding to administer elections; and

5 (3) the Trump Administration has furloughed,
 6 fired, and uprooted the election mission of critical
 7 Federal agencies and cut off funding for the Elec-
 8 tion Infrastructure Information Sharing and Anal-
 9 ysis Center (EI-ISAC), forcing State and local elec-
 10 tion officials to spend significant resources to pre-
 11 pare for the possibility of election interference from
 12 our own Federal Government.

13 **SEC. 3. ELECTION SECURITY GRANTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Help America Vote Act of
 15 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.) is amended by adding at
 16 the end the following new title:

17 **“TITLE X—ELECTION SECURITY**
 18 **GRANTS**

19 **“SEC. 1001. ELECTION SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, the Com-
 21 mission shall establish a program under which the Com-
 22 mission shall make a payment to each State in which the
 23 chief executive officer of the State, or designee, in con-
 24 sultation and coordination with the chief State election of-
 25 ficial—

1 “(1) agrees to comply with the requirements of
2 section 1002; and

3 “(2) notifies the Commission that the State in-
4 tends to use the payment in accordance with this
5 section.

6 “(b) USE OF PAYMENTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State or unit of local
8 government shall use the funds provided under a
9 payment made under this section for activities to im-
10 prove the administration of elections for Federal of-
11 fice, including to modernize election infrastructure,
12 improve election administration efficiency, and pre-
13 vent, prepare for, and respond to election security
14 threats.

15 “(2) LIMITATION.—A State or unit of local gov-
16 ernment may not use the funds provided under a
17 payment made under this section—

18 “(A) to pay costs associated with any liti-
19 gation, except to the extent that such costs oth-
20 erwise constitute permitted uses of a payment
21 under this section; or

22 “(B) for the payment of any judgment.

23 “(c) USE OF FUNDS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH
24 OTHER LAWS AND REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive
25 a payment under the program under this section, the State

1 or unit of local government shall provide the Commission
 2 with certifications that—

3 “(1) the State will use the funds provided under
 4 the payment in a manner that is consistent with
 5 each of the laws described in section 906, as such
 6 laws relate to the provisions of this Act; and

7 “(2) the proposed uses of the funds are not in-
 8 consistent with the requirements of title III.

9 “(d) AMOUNT OF ANNUAL PAYMENT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of payment
 11 made to a State under this section for any fiscal
 12 year shall be the minimum payment amount de-
 13 scribed in paragraph (2) plus the voting age popu-
 14 lation proportion amount described in paragraph
 15 (3).

16 “(2) MINIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The min-
 17 imum payment amount described in this paragraph
 18 is—

19 “(A) in the case of any of the several
 20 States or the District of Columbia, one-half of
 21 1 percent of the amount made available for pay-
 22 ments under this section for the fiscal year; and

23 “(B) in the case of any other State, one-
 24 tenth of 1 percent of such amount.

1 “(3) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPORTION
2 AMOUNT.—The voting age population proportion
3 amount described in this paragraph is the product
4 of—

5 “(A) the amount made available for pay-
6 ments under this section for the fiscal year
7 minus the total of all of the minimum payment
8 amounts determined under paragraph (2); and

9 “(B) the voting age population proportion
10 for the State (as defined in paragraph (4)).

11 “(4) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPORTION
12 DEFINED.—The term ‘voting age population propor-
13 tion’ means, with respect to a State, the amount
14 equal to the quotient of—

15 “(A) the voting age population of the State
16 (as reported in the most recent decennial cen-
17 sus); and

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

21 “(e) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—A payment under this
22 section for any fiscal year shall be made not later than
23 45 days after the first day of such fiscal year (30 days
24 after the date of the enactment of this section in the case
25 of any payment for fiscal year 2026).

1 **“SEC. 1002. REQUIREMENTS.**

2 “(a) DISTRIBUTION TO LOCAL ELECTION ADMINIS-
3 TRATORS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State shall provide not
5 less than the applicable percentage of any payment
6 received for a year under section 1001 to units of
7 local government responsible for the administration
8 of elections for Federal office in the State for pur-
9 poses of carrying out the activities described in sec-
10 tion 1001(b)(1).

11 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
13 subparagraph (B), the applicable percentage
14 under paragraph (1) shall be 50 percent.

15 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If a State certifies
16 to the Commission that the State government is
17 primarily responsible for the administration of
18 elections for Federal office in the State and in-
19 cludes with such certification a list of relevant
20 State and local duties and costs with regard to
21 the administration of elections for Federal of-
22 fice, the applicable percentage under paragraph
23 (1) shall be the percentage determined by the
24 Commission to bear the same ratio to the duties
25 and costs with respect to elections for Federal

1 office born by the units of local government in
 2 the State to all such duties and costs.

3 “(b) REPORTS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 50 days
 5 after each election for Federal office in the State,
 6 the State shall submit to the Commission a report
 7 that includes a full accounting of the uses of the
 8 payment (including any amounts provided to units
 9 of local government) and an explanation of how such
 10 uses allowed the State or unit of local government
 11 to improve the administration of Federal elections.

12 “(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later
 13 than 3 days of receipt of a report required under
 14 paragraph (1), the Commission shall submit to the
 15 Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on
 16 House Administration of the House of Representa-
 17 tives and the Committee on Appropriations and the
 18 Committee on Rules and Administration of the Sen-
 19 ate the report provided under paragraph (1).

20 “(c) DEPOSIT OF AMOUNTS IN STATE ELECTION
 21 FUND.—When a State has established an election fund
 22 described in section 254(b), the State shall ensure that
 23 any funds provided to the State under this title are depos-
 24 ited and maintained in such fund.

1 **“SEC. 1003. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
3 propriated for payments under this title—

4 “(1) \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

5 “(2) \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

6 “(3) \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.

7 “(b) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AFTER
8 APPROPRIATION.—Any payment made to a State under
9 this title shall be available to the State without fiscal year
10 limitation (subject to subsection (c)).

11 “(c) RETURN OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any portion of a payment
13 made to a State with funds provided under this title
14 which is unobligated on the date that is 5 years
15 after the payment was disbursed shall be returned to
16 the Treasury.

17 “(2) EXTENSION OF TIME.—Upon request by a
18 State, the Commission may extend the date under
19 paragraph (1), except that any such extension may
20 not exceed 3 additional years.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
22 in section 1(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 1986 is
23 amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE X—ELECTION SECURITY GRANTS

“Sec. 1001. Election security grant program.

“Sec. 1002. Requirements.

“Sec. 1003. Authorization of appropriations.”.

1 **SEC. 4. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TERRITORIES UNDER**
2 **HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.**

3 Section 901 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002
4 (52 U.S.C. 21141) is amended by striking “and the
5 United States Virgin Islands” and inserting “the United
6 States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern
7 Mariana Islands, and any other territory authorized under
8 Federal law (or otherwise permitted by the practices and
9 procedures of the Congress, as determined by the Commit-
10 tees on House Administration and on Rules of the House
11 of Representatives and communicated in writing by the
12 Chairs of such committees to the Commission) to elect a
13 Delegate or Resident Commissioner to Congress”.

14 **SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR ELECTION INFORMATION SHARING.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Direc-
16 tor of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agen-
17 cy \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026, 2027, and
18 2028 for the purpose of making grants to the Center for
19 Internet Security to carry out the Elections Infrastructure
20 Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

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