

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 74

To protect the voting rights of homeless citizens.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 7, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. FOGLIETTA, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. FAZIO of California, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. SHAYS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To protect the voting rights of homeless citizens.

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 “Voting Rights of
5 Homeless Citizens Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. VOTING RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CITIZENS.**

7 No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or
8 standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or ap-
9 plied by any State or political subdivision to deny or
10 abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to

1 vote because that citizen resides at or in a nontraditional
2 abode.

3 **SEC. 3. ENFORCEMENT.**

4 The Attorney General may commence in the name of
5 the United States a civil action (including an action
6 against a State or political subdivision) or an aggrieved
7 citizen may institute a proceeding under this Act, for in-
8 junctive relief against a violation of section 2.

9 **SEC. 4. RELATIONSHIP TO VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.**

10 This Act shall not be construed to impair any right
11 guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
12 1973 et seq.).

13 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

14 As used in this Act, the term “nontraditional abode”
15 includes—

16 (1) a supervised publicly or privately operated
17 shelter designed to provide temporary living accom-
18 modations (including welfare hotels, congregate shel-
19 ters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill);
20 and

21 (2) a public or private place not designated for,
22 or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommoda-
23 tion for human beings.

1 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 This Act applies with respect to elections taking place
3 after December 31, 1997.

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