

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1463

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 8, 1997

Mr. KOHL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to
the Committee on Rules and 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 of the United
8 States (2 U.S.C. 7) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “Tuesday next after the first
10 Monday” the second place it appears and inserting

1 “first Saturday and Sunday after the first Friday”;

2 and

3 (2) by striking “day” and inserting “days”.

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

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

10 **SEC. 4. POLLING PLACE HOURS IN CONTINENTAL UNITED**
 11 **STATES.**

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 in continental United States**

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) IN GENERAL.—Each polling place in the
 6 continental United States shall be open, with respect
 7 to a Presidential general election, beginning on Sat-
 8 urday at 6 p.m. eastern standard time and ending
 9 on Sunday at 6 p.m. eastern standard time.

10 “(2) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may
 11 close between the hours of 12 p.m. (midnight) and
 12 5 a.m. as provided by the law of the State in which
 13 the polling place is located.”.

14 (2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—
 15 Section 25 of the Revised Statutes of the United
 16 States (2 U.S.C. 7) is amended—

17 (A) by redesignating section 25 as section
 18 25A; and

19 (B) by inserting before section 25A the fol-
 20 lowing:

21 **“SEC. 25. POLLING PLACE HOURS IN THE CONTINENTAL**
 22 **UNITED STATES.**

23 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.—The
 25 term ‘continental United States’ means a State

1 (other than Alaska and Hawaii) and the District of
 2 Columbia.

3 “(2) CONGRESSIONAL GENERAL ELECTION.—

4 The term ‘congressional general election’ means the
 5 general election for the office of Senator or Rep-
 6 resentative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
 7 sioner to, the Congress.

8 “(b) POLLING PLACE HOURS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each polling place in the
 10 continental United States shall be open, with respect
 11 to a congressional general election, beginning on
 12 Saturday at 6 p.m. eastern standard time and end-
 13 ing on Sunday at 6 p.m. eastern standard time.

14 “(2) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place may
 15 close between the hours of 12 p.m. (midnight) and
 16 5 a.m. as provided by the law of the State in which
 17 the polling place is located.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

19 (1) The table of sections for chapter 1 of title
 20 3, United States Code, is amended by striking the
 21 item relating to section 1 and inserting the follow-
 22 ing:

“1. Polling place hours in continental United States.

“1A. Time of appointing electors.”.

23 (2) Sections 871(b) and 1751(f) of title 18,
 24 United States Code, are amended by striking “title

- 1 3, United States Code, sections 1 and 2” and insert-
- 2 ing “sections 1A and 2 of title 3”.

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