

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 571

To establish a uniform poll closing time throughout the continental United States for Presidential general elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 1997

Mr. REID introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To establish a uniform poll closing time throughout the continental United States for Presidential general elections.

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. UNIFORM POLL CLOSING TIME THROUGHOUT**
4 **THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES FOR**
5 **PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 3, United
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating section 1 as section 1A;

9 and

10 (2) by inserting before section 1A the following:

1 **“§ 1. Uniform poll closing time throughout the con-**
 2 **tinental United States**

3 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

11 “(b) CLOSING TIME.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each polling place in the
 13 continental United States shall close, with respect to
 14 a Presidential general election, at 10:00 p.m. East-
 15 ern Standard Time.

16 “(2) EARLY CLOSING.—A polling place at which
 17 each person who is eligible to vote has voted may
 18 close earlier than the time specified in paragraph
 19 (1), as provided by the law of the State in which the
 20 polling place is located.

21 “(c) NO VOTING BY LATE ARRIVALS.—A person who,
 22 as determined under the law of the State in which a poll-
 23 ing place is located, arrives at a polling place after the
 24 closing time established by subsection (b) shall not be per-
 25 mitted to vote in the Presidential general election.”.

26 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) The table of sections for chapter 1 of title
2 3, United States Code, is amended by striking the
3 item relating to section 1 and inserting the follow-
4 ing:

“1. Uniform poll closing time throughout the continental United States.
“1A. Time of appointing electors.”.

5 (2) Sections 871(b) and 1751(f) of title 18,
6 United States Code, are amended by striking “title
7 3, United States Code, sections 1 and 2” and insert-
8 ing “sections 1A and 2 of title 3”.

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