

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1151

To direct the Federal Election Commission to issue voluntary standards to promote the accessibility and effective use of voting systems, voting equipment, and polling places, to make grants to assist States in complying with such standards and carrying out other activities to promote accessibility in voting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FRANK, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. LANTOS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Federal Election Commission to issue voluntary standards to promote the accessibility and effective use of voting systems, voting equipment, and polling places, to make grants to assist States in complying with such standards and carrying out other activities to promote accessibility in voting, 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 “Voting Opportunity
5 Through Technology and Education Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS FOR**
2 **POLLING PLACES AND VOTING EQUIPMENT.**

3 (a) REVISION AND EXPANSION OF CURRENT VOTING
4 SYSTEM STANDARDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Of-
7 fice of Election Administration of the Federal Elec-
8 tion Commission (hereafter in this section referred
9 to as the “Office”) shall develop and publish revi-
10 sions to the most recent version of voting system
11 standards issued by the Office, and shall expand the
12 scope of such standards to include voluntary stand-
13 ards to promote for all individuals, including the el-
14 derly and individuals with disabilities, the accessi-
15 bility of polling places and the effective use of voting
16 systems and voting equipment which provide the op-
17 portunity for casting a secure and secret ballot.

18 (2) FUTURE UPDATES.—The Office shall up-
19 date the revised and expanded standards under
20 paragraph (1) at such intervals as the Office con-
21 siders appropriate.

22 (b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the revised and
23 expanded standards under subsection (a), the Office shall
24 consult with officials of the Federal Government and State
25 and local governments with expertise in assessing the ac-
26 cessibility of facilities and voting systems for the elderly

1 and individuals with disabilities, and with appropriate or-
 2 ganizations with expertise in developing accessibility
 3 standards for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

4 (c) POSTING ON INTERNET.—The Office shall post
 5 the revised and expanded standards under this section on
 6 the Internet, and shall take such other measures to dis-
 7 seminate the standards to the public as the Office con-
 8 siders appropriate.

9 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING OFFICE OF ELECTION ADMINISTRA-**
 10 **TION TO SERVE AS CLEARINGHOUSE OF IN-**
 11 **FORMATION ON ACCESSIBILITY OF VOTING**
 12 **SYSTEMS.**

13 Section 311(a)(10) of the Federal Election Campaign
 14 Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 438(a)(10)) is amended by striking
 15 “Federal elections.” and inserting the following: “Federal
 16 elections (including information regarding the accessibility
 17 of voting systems, voting equipment, and polling places for
 18 the elderly and individuals with disabilities), and provide
 19 information on methods to improve the administration of
 20 Federal elections upon request to a State or unit of local
 21 government.”.

22 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM FOR ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE**
 23 **ACCESSIBILITY IN VOTING.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—After the issuance of the revised
 25 voting system standards by the Office of Election Admin-

1 istration of the Commission pursuant to section 2, the
2 Federal Election Commission shall make grants to eligible
3 States—

4 (1) to bring voting systems, voting equipment,
5 polling places, and voter registration facilities in the
6 State into compliance with such revised standards;
7 and

8 (2) to carry out other activities to promote the
9 accessibility of voting systems, voting equipment,
10 polling places, and voter registration facilities for the
11 elderly and individuals with disabilities.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State is eligible to receive
14 a grant under this section if it submits to the Com-
15 mission (at such time and in such form as the Com-
16 mission may require) an application containing—

17 (A) a description of the activities the State
18 will carry out with the funds provided under the
19 grant;

20 (B) assurances that the State will carry
21 out such activities in a manner consistent with
22 the revised voting system standards issued pur-
23 suant to section 2; and

24 (C) such other information and assurances
25 as the Commission may require.

1 (2) USE OF FUNDS FOR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—At the option of the State, a State may use
2 funds provided under a grant made under this section to educate poll workers, election officials, and
3 voters on the availability and use of voting technology and equipment which is designed to be fully
4 accessible to the elderly and individuals with disabilities.
5 ities.

6 (c) REPORT.—At such time as the Commission may
7 require, each State receiving a grant under this section
8 shall submit a report to the Commission which describes
9 the activities carried out with the funds provided under
10 the grant and contains such other information as the Commission may require.

11 (d) ACTION THROUGH OFFICE OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION.—The Commission shall carry out its duties
12 under this section through its Office of Election Administration.
13 tration.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for
16 each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005—

17 (1) \$200,000,000 for grants under this section;
18 and

19 (2) such sums as may be necessary for the administrative expenses of carrying out this section, in-

1 cluding expenses relating to the hiring of additional
2 personnel.

3 **SEC. 5. REVISIONS TO VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE EL-**
4 **DERLY AND HANDICAPPED ACT.**

5 (a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—Section 2 of the Vot-
6 ing Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42
7 U.S.C. 1973ee) is amended by striking “to promote the
8 fundamental right” and all that follows and inserting the
9 following: “to ensure that no citizen is denied the right
10 to vote because the citizen is elderly or has a disability.”.

11 (b) RESTORATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-
12 MENTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of such Act (42
14 U.S.C. 1973ee–1(c)) is amended by striking para-
15 graph (3).

16 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
17 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to years
18 beginning with 2002.

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