

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 354

To establish a grant program to assist State and local governments with improving the administration of elections through activities which may include the modernization of voting procedures and equipment, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. McINTYRE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. GOODLATTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To establish a grant program to assist State and local governments with improving the administration of elections through activities which may include the modernization of voting procedures and equipment, 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 “Election Procedures
5 Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established a pro-
3 gram under which the Federal Election Commission (here-
4 after in this Act referred to as the “Commission”), acting
5 through the Office of Elections Administration, shall make
6 grants to eligible States and eligible units of local govern-
7 ment for activities to improve the administration of elec-
8 tions.

9 (b) EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED.—In accord-
10 ance with such criteria as the Commission may adopt, a
11 State or unit of local government may use funds provided
12 under the program under this Act for such activities as
13 it considers appropriate to improve the administration of
14 its elections, including the modernization or replacement
15 of voting equipment, the purchase, upgrade, or repair of
16 computer-based voting systems, and the enhancement of
17 the procedures used to tabulate and report election results.

18 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—A State or a unit of local govern-
19 ment is eligible to receive a grant under the program
20 under this Act if it submits to the Commission (at such
21 time and in such manner as the Commission may require)
22 an application containing such information and assurances
23 as the Commission may require.

1 **SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS AMONG GEOGRAPHIC RE-**
2 **GIONS AND RURAL AREAS.**

3 In carrying out the program under this Act, the Com-
4 mission shall ensure—

5 (1) that grants are awarded in a manner which
6 reflects the various geographic regions of the United
7 States; and

8 (2) that not less than 25 percent of the total
9 amount of funds awarded under the program during
10 a fiscal year is provided to units of local government
11 which serve a population of fewer than 50,000 indi-
12 viduals, either directly or through cooperative agree-
13 ments with the States in which such units of local
14 government are located.

15 **SEC. 4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

16 (a) MATCHING OF FUNDS.—The amount provided by
17 a grant under the program under this Act may not exceed
18 75 percent of the total cost of the activity funded by the
19 grant.

20 (b) REPORTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the 1 year-period
22 which begins on the date a State or unit of local
23 government receives a grant under the program
24 under this Act, the State or unit of local government
25 shall submit a report every 6 months to the Commis-

1 sion describing the terms of the grant and the activi-
2 ties funded by the grant.

3 (2) REPORT BY COMMISSION TO CONGRESS.—

4 Based on the information reported by States and
5 units of local government under paragraph (1), the
6 Commission shall submit a report to Congress on
7 the program under this Act not later than 30 days
8 after each fiscal year during which grants are made
9 under the program.

10 **SEC. 5. STATE DEFINED.**

11 In this Act, the term “State” includes the District
12 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam,
13 American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated for the first
16 3 fiscal years which begin after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act an aggregate amount of \$1,500,000,000 to
18 carry out this Act (which shall remain available until ex-
19 pended), of which not more than 2 percent may be used
20 for administrative costs associated with the program
21 under this Act.

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