

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 752

To develop voluntary consensus standards to ensure the accuracy and validation of the voting process, to direct the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to study voter participation and emerging voting technology, to provide grants to States to improve voting methods, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2001

Mr. KING introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To develop voluntary consensus standards to ensure the accuracy and validation of the voting process, to direct the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to study voter participation and emerging voting technology, to provide grants to States to improve voting methods, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “American Voting
3 Standards and Technology Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF VOTING SYSTEMS STANDARDS**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(c) of the National Insti-
7 tute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c))
8 is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (21), by striking “and” at the
10 end;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraph (22) as para-
12 graph (23); and

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (21) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(22) study automated voting systems used in
16 the United States, including voter registration, vote
17 casting, and vote counting; and”.

18 (b) DEVELOPING VOTING SYSTEMS STANDARDS.—
19 The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act
20 (15 U.S.C. 271 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following new section:

22 **“SEC. 32. VOTING SYSTEMS STANDARDS.**

23 “(a) The Secretary, through the Director, shall—

24 “(1) have the mission of developing standard
25 practices, codes, specifications, and voluntary con-
26 sensus standards needed to assure the accuracy, in-

1 integrity, and security of voting systems used in the
2 United States, including voter registration, vote
3 casting, and vote counting; and

4 “(2) establish a program with the National Vol-
5 untary Laboratory Accreditation Program to ac-
6 credit laboratories, in accordance with regulations
7 for procedures under such program, to test vote
8 casting and counting devices for conformance with
9 standard practices, codes, specifications, and vol-
10 untary consensus standards developed under para-
11 graph (1).

12 “(b) For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘voting
13 systems’ shall include—

14 “(1) every stage of the voting procedure begin-
15 ning with voter registration through any necessary
16 recount of votes; and

17 “(2) systems used in connection with an elec-
18 tion for the office of President, Vice President, or a
19 member of Congress.

20 “(c) For purposes of subsection (a), the Secretary is
21 authorized to cooperate with other departments and agen-
22 cies of the Federal Government, industry organizations,
23 State and local governments, and private organizations.”.

24 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2002,

1 2003, 2004, and 2005 such sums as may be necessary
2 to carry out the purposes of this section.

3 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF VOTING ISSUES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-
5 stitute of Standards and Technology shall conduct a study
6 of—

7 (1) the impact of income of a voter on effective
8 participation in the election process;

9 (2) the impact of minority status of a voter
10 based on race, gender, or ethnicity on effective par-
11 ticipation in the election process;

12 (3) the effect of the use of differing voting ap-
13 paratus and of substandard or malfunctioning voting
14 machinery on effective participation in, and the in-
15 tegrity of, the election process; and

16 (4) any future and emerging technologies for
17 use in elections, such as Internet voting.

18 (b) STUDY OF INCOME.—The study conducted under
19 subsection (a)(1) shall include the study of the impact of
20 various factors on participation in elections by low-income
21 voters, including voter registration requirements, edu-
22 cational status, type of voting apparatus available, voting
23 outreach efforts, and any other factors the Director of the
24 National Institute of Standards and Technology deems
25 relevant.

1 (c) COORDINATION.—In conducting studies under
2 this section, the Director of the National Institute of
3 Standards and Technology shall cooperate and coordinate
4 with appropriate Federal, State, and local officials, includ-
5 ing election officials and other interested groups and indi-
6 viduals.

7 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National In-
9 stitute of Standards and Technology shall report the re-
10 sults of the study conducted under this section to Con-
11 gress.

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
14 necessary to carry out the studies and report under this
15 section.

16 **SEC. 4. VOTING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

17 (a) MATCHING GRANT TO IMPROVE VOTING METH-
18 ODS.—

19 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Commerce
20 (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) is au-
21 thorized to make matching grants to the State agen-
22 cy responsible for administering elections in a State
23 or the appropriate local agency responsible for ad-
24 ministering elections in a unit of local government
25 for the purpose of purchasing new or rehabilitated

1 voting equipment that improves the ability of the
2 public to cast a timely and accurate vote.

3 (2) VOTING EQUIPMENT.—Voting equipment
4 purchased with the proceeds of a grant under para-
5 graph (1) shall meet the voting systems performance
6 standards developed by the National Institute of
7 Standards and Technology under section 32 of the
8 National Institute of Standards and Technology Act
9 (as added by section 2(b)).

10 (3) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish
11 a notice in the Federal Register to notify State and
12 local agencies regarding the time and manner in
13 which such State or local agency may apply and to
14 prescribe criteria for approval of a State or local
15 agency application.

16 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
17 subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to appli-
18 cations which propose to use the funds to place vot-
19 ing equipment in election precincts that are most in
20 need of updating and improvement of their voting
21 system in order to meet voting system performance
22 standards described in paragraph (2), particularly in
23 areas experiencing the greatest need based on unem-
24 ployment level, income levels, financial need, or other
25 indicators of economic distress.

1 (5) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not
3 make a grant to a State or local agency under
4 this subsection unless that agency agrees that,
5 with respect to the costs to be incurred by the
6 agency in carrying out the purpose for which
7 the grant was awarded, the agency will make
8 available non-Federal contributions in an
9 amount equal to 50 percent of the Federal
10 funds provided under the grant.

11 (B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive
12 the requirement under subparagraph (A) if the
13 Secretary determines a State or local agency
14 displays extreme need.

15 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
17 as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of
18 this subsection, including grant funds and adminis-
19 tration costs.

20 (b) BLOCK GRANT FOR VOTER EDUCATION CAM-
21 PAIGNS.—

22 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary is authorized
23 to make grants to the State agency responsible for
24 administering elections in a State for the purpose of
25 implementing voter education campaigns.

1 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—Each State agency re-
2 ceiving funds under paragraph (1) shall make such
3 funds available to the appropriate State and local
4 election officials to carry out voter education cam-
5 paigns.

6 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as may be necessary to make grants under this sub-
9 section.

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