

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 729

To provide grant money to States to enable States to expand the opportunity for citizens to vote over the Internet.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 6, 2001

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

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## A BILL

To provide grant money to States to enable States to expand the opportunity for citizens to vote over the Internet.

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 “Internet Voting Ex-  
5       pansion Act of 2001”.

6       **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND INTERNET VOTING.**

7       (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Attorney General,  
8       in consultation with the Federal Election Commission, is  
9       authorized to award grants up until August 2, 2004, to

1 States to enable States to expand the opportunity for citi-  
2 zens to vote over the Internet.

3 (b) CRITERIA.—The Attorney General shall establish  
4 criteria for approval of State plans submitted under sub-  
5 section (d).

6 (c) USES OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) EXPANSION OF INTERNET VOTING.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall use pay-  
9 ments received under this Act to expand the op-  
10 portunity for citizens to vote over the Internet.

11 (B) MILITARY PERSONNEL VOTING.—A  
12 State shall use a portion of the payments re-  
13 ceived under this Act to expand the opportunity  
14 for military personnel to vote over the Internet.

15 (2) REPORTS.—

16 (A) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—A State shall  
17 submit reports to the Attorney General not  
18 later than 90 days after it is awarded a grant  
19 under this Act, and every 90 days thereafter  
20 until November 2, 2004, that outline—

21 (i) actions taken by the State to ex-  
22 pand the opportunity for citizens to vote  
23 over the Internet;

(ii) actions taken by the State to ensure the security of voting over the Internet; and

(iii) any obstacles the State has encountered in expanding the opportunity for citizens to vote over the Internet.

(B) FINAL REPORTS.—A State awarded a grant under this Act shall submit a final report to the Attorney General not later than December 2, 2004 that assesses the State’s ability to expand the opportunity for citizens to vote over the Internet.

(d) STATE PLANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The chief executive officer of each State desiring a grant under this Act shall submit a State plan to the Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Attorney General, in consultation with the Federal Election Commission, may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each State plan submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) describe actions already taken in the State to expand the opportunity for citizens to vote over the Internet;

1 (B) describe the activities for which assist-  
 2 ance under this Act is sought; and

3 (C) provide assurances as the Attorney  
 4 General, in consultation with the Federal Elec-  
 5 tion Commission, determines to be essential to  
 6 ensure compliance with the requirements of this  
 7 Act.

8 (e) REPORTS FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

9 (1) REPORTS AFTER AWARDS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
 11 shall submit reports to the Congress not later  
 12 than 30 days after awarding any grant under  
 13 this Act.

14 (B) CONTENTS.—The reports submitted  
 15 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

16 (i) a copy of the State plan for the  
 17 State awarded a grant under this Act; and

18 (ii) the Attorney General's assessment  
 19 of the State plan.

20 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General  
 22 shall submit a final report to the Congress not  
 23 later than January 31, 2005.

24 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted  
 25 under subparagraph (A) shall include rec-

1           ommendations for amendments to Federal law  
2           that would expand the opportunity for citizens  
3           to vote over the Internet.

4       (f) STATE DEFINED.—In this Act, the term “State”  
5 means each of the several States and the District of Co-  
6 lumbia.

7       (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act  
9 \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2001 through  
10 2005.

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