

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4479

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit States from denying certain veterans who have been convicted of a felony and who have completed their sentence the opportunity to register to vote or vote.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2004

Ms. CARSON of Indiana (for herself, Mr. CLAY, Ms. LEE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. WATSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on 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 amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to prohibit States from denying certain veterans who have been convicted of a felony and who have completed their sentence the opportunity to register to vote or vote.

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. PROHIBITING STATES FROM DENYING VOTER**
2 **REGISTRATION OR VOTING BY CERTAIN VET-**
3 **ERANS CONVICTED OF FELONIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a) of the Help Amer-
5 ica Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15483(a)) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

7 “(6) PROHIBITING STATES FROM DENYING
8 REGISTRATION OR VOTING BY CERTAIN VETERANS
9 CONVICTED OF FELONIES.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No State may prohibit
11 any individual who is a veteran from registering
12 to vote for any election for public office, or
13 from voting in any election for public office, on
14 the grounds that the individual has been con-
15 victed of a felony if (at the time the individual
16 seeks to register to vote or vote) the individual
17 is no longer in the custody of, or subject to su-
18 pervision by, the State or the Federal govern-
19 ment as a result of the individual’s conviction.

20 “(B) VETERAN DEFINED.—For purposes
21 of this paragraph, the term ‘veteran’ means a
22 person who served in the active military, naval,
23 or air service and who was discharged or re-
24 leased therefrom under conditions other than
25 dishonorable (as described in section 101(2) of
26 title 38, United States Code).”.

1 (b) MANDATORY APPLICATION OF 2004 EFFECTIVE
2 DATE.—Section 303(d)(1)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
3 15483(d)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing sentence: “The previous sentence shall not apply
5 with respect to the requirements of subsection (a)(6).”.

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