

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3978

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the dissemination of false information for the purpose of discouraging a student of an institution of higher education from registering to vote or voting in an election for Federal office, to require States which require individuals to present a photo identification as a condition of voting in elections for Federal office to accept a photo identification presented by a student which is issued by the school the student attends, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

Mr. CLEAVER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the dissemination of false information for the purpose of discouraging a student of an institution of higher education from registering to vote or voting in an election for Federal office, to require States which require individuals to present a photo identification as a condition of voting in elections for Federal office to accept a photo identification presented by a student which is issued by the school the student attends, 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 “Equal Access to Sup-  
5 port Youth Voting Act” or the “EASY Voting Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMA-**  
7 **TION REGARDING STUDENT VOTING IN FED-**  
8 **ERAL ELECTIONS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United  
10 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
11 lowing new section:

12 **“§ 612. Dissemination of false information regarding**  
13 **student voting in Federal elections**

14 “(a) Whoever knowingly disseminates false informa-  
15 tion for the purpose of discouraging a student of an insti-  
16 tution of higher education from registering to vote or vot-  
17 ing in an election for Federal office, or from registering  
18 to vote or voting in an election for Federal office in a spe-  
19 cific jurisdiction, shall be fined under this title or impris-  
20 oned not more than 1 year, or both.

21 “(b) In this section—

22 “(1) the terms ‘election’ and ‘Federal office’  
23 have the meaning given such terms in section 301  
24 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2  
25 U.S.C. 431); and

1 “(2) the term ‘institution of higher education’  
 2 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of  
 3 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
 4 1001), except that such term includes a proprietary  
 5 institution of higher education described in section  
 6 102(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)).”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 8 for chapter 29 of such title is amended by adding at the  
 9 end the following new item:

“612. Dissemination of false information regarding student voting in Federal  
 elections.”.

10 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING STATES TO ACCEPT STUDENT IDENTI-**  
 11 **FICATIONS FOR PURPOSES OF MEETING**  
 12 **VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**

13 (a) ACCEPTANCE OF STUDENT IDENTIFICATIONS.—  
 14 Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.  
 15 15481 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303  
 16 the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 303A. REQUIRING ACCEPTANCE OF STUDENT PHOTO**  
 18 **IDENTIFICATION AS CURRENT AND VALID**  
 19 **PHOTO IDENTIFICATION.**

20 “(a) ACCEPTANCE OF STUDENT IDENTIFICATIONS.—  
 21 A State or local election official shall accept a current and  
 22 valid student photo identification issued by an institution  
 23 of higher education to a student attending such institution  
 24 of higher education as a current and valid photo identifica-

1 tion for purposes of section 303(b)(2) or of any State or  
 2 local law which requires an individual to produce a current  
 3 and valid photo identification to obtain a ballot or vote  
 4 in an election for Federal office.

5 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘institu-  
 6 tion of higher education’ has the meaning given such term  
 7 in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
 8 U.S.C. 1001), except that such term includes a propri-  
 9 etary institution of higher education described in section  
 10 102(b) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1002(b)).”.

11 (b) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (42  
 12 U.S.C. 15511) is amended by striking “and 303” and in-  
 13 serting “303, and 303A”.

14 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
 15 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating  
 16 to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 303A. Requiring acceptance of student photo identification as current  
 and valid photo identification.”.

17 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
 18 this section shall apply with respect to elections occurring  
 19 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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