

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1280

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to increase the penalties imposed for intimidating, threatening, or coercing any person from engaging in voter registration activities or for procuring, submitting, or casting false voter registration applications or ballots, to require election officials to transmit voter registration cards and absentee ballots to voters in elections for Federal office through the use of the automated tagging and tracing services provided by the United States Postal Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2013

Mr. OLSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to increase the penalties imposed for intimidating, threatening, or coercing any person from engaging in voter registration activities or for procuring, submitting, or casting false voter registration applications or ballots, to require election officials to transmit voter registration cards and absentee ballots to voters in elections for Federal office through the use of the automated tagging and tracing services provided by the United States Postal Service, 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 “Voter Fraud Preven-
5 tion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN PENALTIES FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVI-**
7 **TIES INVOLVING VOTER REGISTRATION AND**
8 **VOTING.**

9 (a) INCREASE IN LENGTH OF TERM OF IMPRISON-
10 MENT.—Section 12 of the National Voter Registration Act
11 of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–10) is amended in the matter
12 following paragraph (2) by striking “5 years” and insert-
13 ing “10 years”.

14 (b) PROHIBITION FROM VOTING IN SUBSEQUENT
15 ELECTIONS.—Section 12 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–
16 10) is amended in the matter following paragraph (2) by
17 striking the period at the end and inserting the following:
18 “and, in the case of an individual, shall not be permitted
19 to cast a ballot in any subsequent election for Federal of-
20 fice.”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section shall apply with respect to violations occurring
23 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING USE OF AUTOMATED TAGGING AND**
2 **TRACING SERVICES FOR VOTER REGISTRA-**
3 **TION CARDS AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

4 (a) VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(a) of the National
6 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–
7 6(a)) is amended—

8 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
9 graph (5);

10 (B) by striking the period at the end of
11 paragraph (6) and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following new
13 paragraph:

14 “(7) in transmitting voter registration cards to
15 individuals who are registered to vote—

16 “(A) ensure that any tray or sack con-
17 taining such cards is tagged with Tag 191 or
18 some other similar tagging device used by the
19 United States Postal Service to provide greater
20 visibility to containers of such cards, and

21 “(B) use IMb Tracing or other similar
22 tracking methods made available by the United
23 States Postal Service to provide real-time track-
24 ing information for such cards.”.

25 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
26 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to elec-

1 tions for Federal office held on or after January 1,
2 2014.

3 (b) ABSENTEE BALLOTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help Amer-
5 ica Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481 et seq.) is
6 amended—

7 (A) by redesignating sections 304 and 305
8 as sections 305 and 306; and

9 (B) by inserting after section 303 the fol-
10 lowing new section:

11 **“SEC. 304. USE OF AUTOMATED TAGGING AND TRACING**
12 **SERVICES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

13 “(a) REQUIRING USE OF AUTOMATED TAGGING AND
14 TRACING.—In transmitting blank absentee ballots to indi-
15 viduals who are eligible to vote by absentee ballot in an
16 election for Federal office, the appropriate State election
17 official shall—

18 “(1) ensure that any tray or sack containing
19 such ballots is tagged with Tag 191 or some other
20 similar tagging device used by the United States
21 Postal Service to provide greater visibility to con-
22 tainers of such ballots; and

23 “(2) use IMb Tracing or other similar tracking
24 methods made available by the United States Postal

1 Service to provide real-time tracking information for
2 such ballots.

3 “(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall apply
4 with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after
5 January 1, 2014.”.

6 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO
7 ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (42
8 U.S.C. 15511) is amended by striking “sections 301,
9 302, and 303” and inserting “subtitle A of title
10 III”.

11 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
12 tents of such Act is amended—

13 (A) by redesignating the items relating to
14 sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections
15 305 and 306; and

16 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
17 section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Use of automated tagging and tracing services for absentee bal-
lots.”.

18 (c) REPORT ON EFFORTS TO DETER AND PREVENT
19 LOSS AND THEFT OF VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS AND
20 ABSENTEE BALLOTS.—Not later than 90 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Postmaster General
22 shall submit a report to Congress detailing the efforts that
23 the Postmaster General has undertaken to deter and pre-
24 vent the loss and theft of voter registration cards and

- 1 blank absentee ballots which are transmitted to voters in
- 2 elections for Federal office.

