

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1950

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for online voter registration and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 2015

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

A BILL

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for online voter registration 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. FEDERAL ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION AP-**
4 **PLICATION FORM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Voter Registration
6 Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended by in-
7 serting after section 6 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 6A. ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION.**

9 “(a) DEVELOPMENT.—The Election Assistance Com-
10 mission shall, in consultation with chief election officers

1 of the States, develop an online voter registration platform
2 which—

3 “(1) contains an online version of the mail voter
4 registration application form prescribed under sec-
5 tion 9(a)(2) (in this section referred to as the ‘online
6 voter registration application form’) that—

7 “(A) meets the requirements of section
8 9(b) and section 303(a)(4) of the Help America
9 Vote Act of 2002; and

10 “(B) allows for the applicant to provide—

11 “(i) an identification number which
12 the State or jurisdiction in which the appli-
13 cant is registering may use to identify an
14 existing signature of the applicant on file
15 with such State or jurisdiction; or

16 “(ii) an electronic signature in such
17 form or by such method as is acceptable by
18 the State or jurisdiction to which the appli-
19 cant is registering; and

20 “(2)(A) requires an applicant to indicate wheth-
21 er the applicant is currently registered to vote in any
22 other jurisdiction (and, if so, to provide information
23 identifying such other jurisdiction; and

24 “(B) in the case of an applicant who is reg-
25 istered to vote in another jurisdiction, treats submis-

1 sion and acceptance of such application in a new ju-
 2 risdiction as a request under section 8(a)(3)(A) to
 3 cancel registration in such other jurisdiction.

4 “(b) DUTIES OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMIS-
 5 SION.—

6 “(1) TRANSMISSION OF COMPLETED APPLICA-
 7 TIONS AND CANCELLATION REQUESTS.—The Elec-
 8 tion Assistance Commission shall automatically for-
 9 ward completed online voter registration application
 10 forms and cancellation requests pursuant to sub-
 11 section (a)(2)(B) to the appropriate chief State elec-
 12 tion officials and, acting through such officials, to
 13 appropriate State and local election officials in the
 14 State.

15 “(2) REGISTRATION THROUGH STATE-BASED
 16 PLATFORMS.—If the Election Assistance Commis-
 17 sion confirms a certification of the chief election offi-
 18 cial of a State that the State has developed a plat-
 19 form that meets the requirements of subsection (a),
 20 the Election Assistance Commission shall automati-
 21 cally connect applicants for registration in that State
 22 to such State platform in lieu of the platform devel-
 23 oped under subsection (a).

24 “(c) ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.—
 25 A State shall accept an online voter registration applica-

tion form transmitted under subsection (b), and ensure that the individual is registered to vote in the State, if the individual meets the same voter registration requirements applicable to individuals who register to vote by mail in accordance with section 6(a)(1) using the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2).

“(d) PROCEDURES IF NO EXISTING ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE.—If a State does not accept an electronic signature for an individual registering online and there is insufficient information to identify an existing signature of the applicant on file with the State or jurisdiction, the State shall allow the individual to finalize the individual’s registration by providing a signature at the poll prior to voting for the first time in such jurisdiction after acceptance of the online voter registration application form.

“(e) FIRST-TIME VOTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a State may by law require a person to vote in person if—

“(A) the person registered to vote in a jurisdiction online under this section; and

“(B) the person has not previously voted in that jurisdiction.

1 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) does not
2 apply in the case of a person—

3 “(A) who is entitled to vote by absentee
4 ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citi-
5 zens Absentee Voting Act;

6 “(B) who is provided the right to vote oth-
7 erwise than in person under section
8 3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility for the
9 Elderly and Handicapped Act;

10 “(C) who has provided sufficient informa-
11 tion for the purposes of identifying an existing
12 signature of the applicant on file with such
13 State or jurisdiction; or

14 “(D) who is entitled to vote otherwise than
15 in person under any other Federal law.

16 “(3) APPLICATION TO STATES WITH ALL-MAIL
17 VOTING.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
18 strued to prevent a State from conducting elections
19 entirely by mail-in ballot.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

21 (1) STATE PROCEDURES.—Section 4(a) of the
22 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
23 20503(a)) is amended—

24 (A) by striking “and” at the end of para-
25 graph (2);

1 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
 2 paragraph (4); and

3 (C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
 4 following new paragraph:

5 “(3) by online application pursuant to section
 6 6A; and”.

7 (2) TIMING OF REGISTRATION.—Section 8(a)(1)
 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52
 9 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)) is amended—

10 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-
 11 paragraph (C);

12 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as
 13 subparagraph (E); and

14 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (C)
 15 the following new subparagraph:

16 “(D) in the case of registration online
 17 under section 6A, if the valid voter registration
 18 application is submitted not later than the less-
 19 er of 20 days, or the period provided by State
 20 law, before the date of the election (as deter-
 21 mined by treating the date on which the appli-
 22 cation is completed online as the date on which
 23 it is submitted); and”.

24 (3) INFORMING APPLICANTS OF ELIGIBILITY
 25 REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES.—Section 8(a)(5)

1 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(5)) is amended by
 2 striking “and 7” and inserting “6A, and 7”.

3 (c) APPLICABILITY OF ONLINE REGISTRATION.—

4 Section 4(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20503(b)) is amended
 5 by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:

6 “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, subsection
 7 (a)(3) and sections 6A and 8(a)(1)(D) shall continue to
 8 apply to any State described in paragraph (2).”.

9 (d) APPLICATION OF FIRST TIME VOTER REQUIRE-
 10 MENTS UNDER HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(b)(1)(A) of the
 12 Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C.
 13 21083(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “or by on-
 14 line application” after “by mail”.

15 (2) EXCEPTIONS.—Section 303(b)3) of such
 16 Act is amended—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or
 18 who registers to vote by online application
 19 under section 6A of such Act” before “and sub-
 20 mits”, and

21 (B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting
 22 “or who registers to vote by online application
 23 under section 6A of such Act” before “and sub-
 24 mits”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION AP-**
 2 **PLICATION IN USPS ONLINE CHANGE OF AD-**
 3 **DRESS PROCESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Postmaster General shall en-
 5 sure that the United States Postal Service Online Change
 6 of Address process—

7 (1) incorporates the online voter registration
 8 platform developed under section 6A of the National
 9 Voter Registration Act of 1993, as added by section
 10 1; and

11 (2) allows individuals to register to vote during
 12 the process.

13 (b) TRANSMISSION OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.—
 14 The Postmaster General shall coordinate with the Election
 15 Assistance Commission to ensure that applications and re-
 16 quests for cancellation through the platform under para-
 17 graph (1) are forwarded in accordance with section
 18 6A(b)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993,
 19 as added by section 1.

20 **SEC. 3. VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE.**

21 Section 8(a)(1) of the National Voter Registration
 22 Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)) is amended by strik-
 23 ing “30 days” each place it appears and inserting “28
 24 days”.

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