

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 212

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 2015

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. NELSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote.

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 “Lines Interfere with
5 National Elections Act of 2015” or the “LINE Act of
6 2015”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Excessive wait times at the election polls
2 create an obstacle to an eligible citizen's funda-
3 mental right to vote.

4 (2) The Presidential Commission on Election
5 Administration found that, on the date of the 2012
6 Federal election, over 5,000,000 voters experienced
7 wait times exceeding one hour, and an additional
8 5,000,000 waited between a half hour and an hour.

9 (3) The Presidential Commission on Election
10 Administration found that several million eligible
11 voters stand in line for an unacceptably long time in
12 order to cast a vote in a Federal election, year after
13 year.

14 (4) The Presidential Commission on Election
15 Administration found that excessive wait times are
16 avoidable if the jurisdiction has undergone proper
17 planning and develops systems to inform the respon-
18 sible authorities when a breakdown occurs.

19 (5) The Presidential Commission on Election
20 Administration concluded that, as a general rule, no
21 voter should have to wait more than half an hour in
22 order to have an opportunity to vote.

23 (6) The Presidential Commission on Election
24 Administration offered several recommendations and
25 best practices that could directly reduce voter lines.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to imple-
 2 ment the Presidential Commission on Election Adminis-
 3 tration’s recommendations aimed at reducing long lines at
 4 the election polls.

5 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR JURISDICTIONS WITH SUB-**
 6 **STANTIAL VOTER WAIT TIMES.**

7 (a) REMEDIAL PLANS FOR STATES WITH EXCESSIVE
 8 WAIT TIMES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Help America Vote Act
 10 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et seq.) is amended by
 11 adding at the end the following new title:

12 **“TITLE X—REMEDIAL PLANS**
 13 **FOR STATES WITH EXCESSIVE**
 14 **WAIT TIMES**

15 **“SEC. 1001. REMEDIAL PLANS FOR STATES WITH EXCES-**
 16 **SIVE WAIT TIMES.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each jurisdiction for which the
 18 Attorney General, to the maximum extent practicable in
 19 coordination with the Commission, determines that a sub-
 20 stantial number of voters waited more than 30 minutes
 21 to cast a vote in the election for Federal office held on
 22 November 6, 2012, or any election for Federal office held
 23 on or after such date, shall comply with a State remedial
 24 plan established under this section in accordance with sub-
 25 section (b).

1 “(b) STATE REMEDIAL PLANS.—The Attorney Gen-
2 eral, to the maximum extent practicable in coordination
3 with the Commission, shall establish for each State or ju-
4 risdiction which is required to comply with this section a
5 State remedial plan to minimize the waiting times of indi-
6 viduals voting in the State or jurisdiction in any election
7 for Federal office.

8 “(c) JURISDICTION DEFINED.—For purposes of this
9 section, the term ‘jurisdiction’ has the meaning given the
10 term ‘registrar’s jurisdiction’ in section 8(j) of the Na-
11 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
12 20507(j)).

13 “(d) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—Not later than
14 March 1 of the year following the year in which an election
15 for Federal office is held, the Attorney General, to the
16 maximum extent practicable in coordination with the Com-
17 mission, shall publish in the Federal Register a list of
18 States and jurisdictions that are required to comply with
19 a State remedial plan under this section.

20 “(e) STATE REMEDIAL PLAN CERTIFICATION.—Not
21 later than September 1 of the year following the year in
22 which the Attorney General publishes in the Federal Reg-
23 ister a list described in subsection (d), the governor of
24 each State included on the list shall submit to the Attor-
25 ney General a letter certifying that the State has made

1 a good faith effort to comply with the State remedial plan
2 established for the State under this section.”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 401
4 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C.
5 21111) is amended by striking “and 403” and in-
6 serting “403, and the requirements of title X”.

7 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
8 tents of such Act is amended by adding at the end
9 the following:

“TITLE X—REMEDIAL PLANS FOR STATES WITH EXCESSIVE
WAIT TIMES

“Sec. 1001. Remedial plans for States with excessive wait times.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of
12 this Act.

○