

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5274

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To promote international exchanges on best election practices, cultivate more secure democratic institutions around the world, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Global Electoral Ex-
3 change Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that—

6 (1) recent elections globally have illustrated the
7 urgent need for the promotion and exchange of
8 international best election practices, particularly in
9 the areas of cybersecurity, results transmission,
10 transparency of electoral data, election dispute reso-
11 lution, and the elimination of discriminatory reg-
12 istration practices and other electoral irregularities;

13 (2) the advancement of democracy worldwide
14 promotes American interests, as stable democracies
15 provide new market opportunities, improve global
16 health outcomes, and promote economic freedom and
17 regional security;

18 (3) credible elections are the cornerstone of a
19 healthy democracy and enable all persons to exercise
20 their basic human right to have a say in how they
21 are governed;

22 (4) inclusive elections strengthen the credibility
23 and stability of democracies more broadly, as demo-
24 cratic institutions flourish when representative of all
25 groups of society;

1 (5) at the heart of a strong election cycle is the
2 professionalism of the election management body
3 and an empowered civil society; and

4 (6) the development of local expertise via peer-
5 to-peer learning and exchanges promotes the inde-
6 pendence of such bodies from internal and external
7 influence.

8 **SEC. 3. GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.**

9 (a) GLOBAL ELECTORAL EXCHANGE.—The Sec-
10 retary of State is authorized to establish and administer
11 a Global Electoral Exchange Program to promote the utili-
12 zation of sound election administration practices around
13 the world.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Global Electoral
15 Exchange Program described in subsection (a) shall in-
16 clude the promotion and exchange of international best
17 election practices, including in the areas of—

- 18 (1) cybersecurity;
- 19 (2) results transmission;
- 20 (3) transparency of electoral data;
- 21 (4) election dispute resolution;
- 22 (5) the elimination of discriminatory registra-
23 tion practices and electoral irregularities;

1 (6) equitable access to polling places, voter edu-
2 cation information, and voting mechanisms (includ-
3 ing by persons with disabilities); and

4 (7) other sound election administration prac-
5 tices.

6 (c) EXCHANGE OF ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may,
8 in consultation, as appropriate, with the United
9 States Agency for International Development, make
10 grants to any United States-based organization de-
11 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
12 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
13 501(a) of such Code with experience in comparative
14 election systems or subject matter expertise in the
15 areas of election administration or electoral integrity
16 that submits an application in such form, and satis-
17 fying such requirements, as the Secretary may re-
18 quire.

19 (2) TYPES OF GRANTS.—An organization de-
20 scribed in paragraph (1) may receive a grant for one
21 or more of the following purposes:

22 (A) To design and implement programs
23 bringing election administrators and officials,
24 including government officials, poll workers,
25 civil society representatives, members of the ju-

1 diciary, and others who participate in the orga-
2 nization and administration of public elections
3 in a foreign country to the United States to
4 study election procedures in the United States
5 for educational purposes.

6 (B) To design and implement programs
7 taking United States or another country's elec-
8 tion administrators and officials, including gov-
9 ernment officials, poll workers, civil society rep-
10 resentatives, members of the judiciary, and oth-
11 ers who participate in the organization and ad-
12 ministration of public elections to study election
13 procedures for educational purposes.

14 (3) LIMITS ON ACTIVITIES.—Activities adminis-
15 tered under the Global Electoral Exchange Program
16 may not—

17 (A) include observation of an election for
18 the purposes of assessing the validity or legit-
19 imacy of that election; or

20 (B) facilitate any advocacy for a certain
21 electoral result by a grantee when participating
22 in the Program.

23 (4) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
24 Congress that the Secretary of State should estab-
25 lish and maintain a network of Global Electoral Ex-

1 change Program alumni, to promote communication
2 and further exchange of information regarding
3 sound election administration practices among cur-
4 rent and former program participants.

5 (5) FURTHER LIMITS.—A recipient of a grant
6 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program may
7 use such grant for only the purpose for which such
8 grant was awarded, unless otherwise authorized by
9 the Secretary of State.

10 (6) NOT DUPLICATIVE.—Grants made under
11 this subsection may not be duplicative of any other
12 grants made under any other provision of law for
13 similar or related purposes.

14 **SEC. 4. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.**

15 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
16 of this Act and in each of the following 2 years thereafter,
17 the Secretary of State shall provide to the Committee on
18 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
19 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a briefing
20 on the status of any activities carried out pursuant to this
21 Act during the preceding year, which shall include, among
22 other information, the following:

23 (1) A summary of all exchanges conducted
24 under the Global Electoral Exchange Program, in-

1 including information regarding grantees, participants,
2 and the locations where program activities were held.

3 (2) A description of the criteria used to select
4 grantees under the Global Electoral Exchange Pro-
5 gram.

6 (3) Any recommendations for the improvement
7 of the Global Electoral Exchange Program, based on
8 the purpose specified in section 3(b).

9 **SEC. 5. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

10 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
11 priated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such
12 requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise
13 authorized to be appropriated.

Passed the House of Representatives September 5,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.