

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8924

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat the lease for a dwelling unit under certain federally assisted housing programs as a simultaneous application for voter registration in elections for Federal office, to designate owners of dwelling units under certain federally assisted housing programs as voter registration agencies for purposes of such Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2020

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MENG, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. TORRES of California, and Mr. SCHIFF) 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 treat the lease for a dwelling unit under certain federally assisted housing programs as a simultaneous application for voter registration in elections for Federal office, to designate owners of dwelling units under certain federally assisted housing programs as voter registration agencies for purposes of such Act, 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 “Our Homes, Our Votes
 5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROMOTING VOTER REGISTRATION FOR RESI-**
 7 **DENTS OF UNITS UNDER CERTAIN FEDER-**
 8 **ALLY ASSISTED HOUSING PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) TREATMENT OF LEASE AS SIMULTANEOUS AP-
 10 PLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The National Voter Reg-
 12 istration Act of 1993 is amended by inserting after
 13 section 5 (52 U.S.C. 20504) the following new sec-
 14 tion:

15 **“SEC. 5A. SIMULTANEOUS APPLICATION FOR VOTER REG-**
 16 **ISTRATION AND LEASE FOR PHA-ASSISTED**
 17 **HOUSING.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

19 “(1) APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRA-
 20 TION.—Each lease for a PHA-assisted dwelling unit
 21 (as such term is defined in subsection (e)) submitted
 22 to the applicable public housing agency for such unit
 23 shall serve as an application for voter registration
 24 with respect to elections for Federal office for each

1 lessee who signs the lease unless the lessee fails to
2 sign the voter registration application.

3 “(2) UPDATE.—An application for voter reg-
4 istration submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
5 be considered as updating any previous voter reg-
6 istration by the applicant.

7 “(b) LIMITATION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—No in-
8 formation relating to the failure of a lessee of PHA-as-
9 sisted dwelling unit to sign a voter registration application
10 may be used for any purpose other than voter registration.

11 “(c) FORMS AND PROCEDURES.—

12 “(1) INCLUSION.—Each owner of a PHA-as-
13 sisted dwelling unit shall include a voter registration
14 application form for elections for Federal office as
15 part of a lease for such dwelling unit.

16 “(2) INCLUDED INFORMATION.—The voter reg-
17 istration application portion of a lease for a PHA-
18 assisted dwelling unit—

19 “(A) may not require any information that
20 duplicates information required in the lease por-
21 tion of the form (other than a second signature
22 or other information necessary under subpara-
23 graph (C));

24 “(B) may require only the minimum
25 amount of information necessary to—

1 “(i) prevent duplicate voter registra-
2 tions; and

3 “(ii) enable State election officials to
4 assess the eligibility of the applicant and to
5 administer voter registration and other
6 parts of the election process;

7 “(C) shall include a statement that—

8 “(i) states each eligibility requirement
9 (including citizenship);

10 “(ii) contains an attestation that the
11 applicant meets each such requirement;
12 and

13 “(iii) requires the signature of the ap-
14 plicant, under penalty of perjury;

15 “(D) shall include, in print that is identical
16 to that used in the attestation portion of the
17 application—

18 “(i) the information required in sub-
19 paragraphs (A) and (B) of section 8(a)(5)
20 of this Act;

21 “(ii) a statement that, if an applicant
22 declines to register to vote, the fact that
23 the applicant has declined to register will
24 remain confidential and will be used only
25 for voter registration purposes; and

1 “(iii) a statement that if an applicant
2 does register to vote, the office at which
3 the applicant submits a voter registration
4 application will remain confidential and
5 will be used only for voter registration pur-
6 poses; and

7 “(E) shall be made available (as submitted
8 by the applicant, or in machine readable or
9 other format) to the appropriate State election
10 official as provided by State law.

11 “(d) TRANSMITTAL.—

12 “(1) BY OWNER.—In the case of lease for a
13 PHA-assistance dwelling unit described in subsection
14 (e)(1)(B), the owner of the dwelling unit shall trans-
15 mit a completed voter registration portion of a lease
16 to the public housing agency providing assistance
17 with respect to such unit not later than 10 days
18 after the date of acceptance.

19 “(2) BY PHA.—Subject to paragraph (3), a
20 completed voter registration portion of a lease for a
21 PHA-assisted dwelling unit accepted by the public
22 housing agency as owner of such a dwelling unit, or
23 pursuant to paragraph (1), shall be transmitted to
24 the appropriate State election official not later than
25 10 days after the date of acceptance.

1 “(3) APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHIN 5 DAYS
2 OF REGISTRATION DEADLINE.—If a registration ap-
3 plication is accepted by a public housing agency pur-
4 suant to paragraph (2) within 5 days before the last
5 day for registration to vote in an election, the appli-
6 cation shall be transmitted to the appropriate State
7 election official not later than 5 days after the date
8 of acceptance.

9 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

10 “(1) PHA-ASSISTED DWELLING UNIT.—The
11 term ‘PHA-assisted dwelling unit’ means a dwelling
12 unit—

13 “(A) in public housing, as such term is de-
14 fined in section 3(b) of the United States Hous-
15 ing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)); or

16 “(B) that is assisted under the program
17 for tenant-based rental assistance under section
18 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937
19 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), including the program
20 under paragraph (13) of such section 8(o).

21 “(2) PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term
22 ‘public housing agency’ has the meaning given such
23 term in section 3(b) of the United States Housing
24 Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

1 “(3) OWNER.—The term ‘owner’ means, with
2 respect to a PHA-assisted dwelling unit—

3 “(A) in the case of a unit described in
4 paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection, the public
5 housing agency that owns or operates such unit;
6 or

7 “(B) in the case of a unit described in
8 paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection, the private
9 person or entity having the legal right to lease
10 such unit.”.

11 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
12 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to leases
13 entered into on or after the expiration of the 90-day
14 period beginning on the date of the enactment of
15 this Act.

16 (b) TREATMENT OF OWNERS OF UNITS AS VOTER
17 REGISTRATION AGENCIES.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of such Act (52
19 U.S.C. 20506) is amended—

20 (A) in subsection (a)(2)—

21 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
22 “and” at the end;

23 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
24 the period at the end and inserting “;
25 and”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 2 lowing new subparagraph:

3 “(C) each owner (as such term is defined in
 4 subsection (e)) of a dwelling unit assisted under a
 5 covered federally assisted housing program (as such
 6 term is defined in such subsection) located within
 7 such State, subject to section 5A in the case of an
 8 owner described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of sub-
 9 section (e)(1), except that such an owner shall be a
 10 voter registration agency for purposes of this section
 11 only with respect to lessees of such dwelling units of
 12 such owner located within such State.”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
 14 subsection:

15 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section:

16 “(1) COVERED FEDERALLY ASSISTED HOUSING
 17 PROGRAM.—The term ‘covered federally assisted
 18 housing program’ means—

19 “(A) the public housing program under
 20 title I of the United States Housing Act of
 21 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.);

22 “(B) the programs for rental housing as-
 23 sistance under section 8 of the United States
 24 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), includ-
 25 ing—

1 “(i) the program for tenant-based
2 rental assistance under subsection (o) of
3 such section 8; and

4 “(ii) the program for project-based
5 rental assistance under such section 8;

6 “(C) the program for supportive housing
7 for the elderly under section 202 of the Hous-
8 ing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

9 “(D) the program for supportive housing
10 for persons with disabilities under section 811
11 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable
12 Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013);

13 “(E) the program for housing opportuni-
14 ties for persons with AIDS under subtitle D of
15 title VIII of the Cranston-Gonzalez National
16 Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et
17 seq.);

18 “(F) the program under subtitle A of title
19 IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance
20 Act (42 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.);

21 “(G) the HOME Investment Partnerships
22 Program under subtitle A of title II of the
23 Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Hous-
24 ing Act (42 U.S.C. 12741 et seq.);

1 “(H) the program under paragraph (3) of
2 section 221(d) of the National Housing Act (12
3 U.S.C. 1715l(d)(3)) that bears interest at a
4 rate determined under the proviso under para-
5 graph (5) of such section 221(d);

6 “(I) the rental assistance program under
7 section 236 of the National Housing Act (12
8 U.S.C. 1715z-1);

9 “(J) the programs for rural housing assist-
10 ance provided under sections 514, 515, 516,
11 522, and 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42
12 U.S.C. 1484, 1485, 1486, 1490m, and 1490p-
13 2);

14 “(K) the low income housing tax credit
15 program under section 42 of the Internal Rev-
16 enue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 42);

17 “(L) the program for rural housing vouch-
18 ers under section 542 of the Housing Act of
19 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490r); and

20 “(M) the program for assistance from the
21 Housing Trust Fund established under section
22 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Fi-
23 nancial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12
24 U.S.C. 4568).

1 “(2) OWNER.—The term ‘owner’ means, with
2 respect to a dwelling unit assisted under a covered
3 federally assisted housing program—

4 “(A) in the case of a dwelling unit assisted
5 under a program specified in subparagraph (A)
6 or (B)(1) of paragraph (1) of this subsection,
7 the public housing agency that owns or operates
8 such unit or provides rental assistance with re-
9 spect to such unit, as applicable; or

10 “(B) in the case of a dwelling unit assisted
11 under any other covered federally assisted hous-
12 ing program, the private person or entity hav-
13 ing the legal right to lease such unit.”.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
15 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to assist-
16 ance provided on or after the expiration of the 90-
17 day period beginning on the date of the enactment
18 of this Act.

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