AMENDMENT NO.  ______  Calendar No.  ______

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.


S. 1

To expand Americans’ access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _______ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Ms. KLOBUCHAR

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “For the People Act of 2021”.

4 SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

5 (a) DIVISIONS.—This Act is organized into divisions as follows:

6 (1) Division A—Voting.
(2) Division B—Campaign Finance.

(3) Division C—Ethics.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Organization of Act into divisions; table of contents.
Sec. 3. Findings of general constitutional authority.
Sec. 4. Standards for judicial review.

DIVISION A—VOTING

TITLE I—ELECTION ACCESS

Sec. 1000. Short title; statement of policy.

Subtitle A—Voter Registration Modernization

Sec. 1000A. Short title.

PART 1—PROMOTING INTERNET REGISTRATION

Sec. 1001. Requiring availability of internet for voter registration.
Sec. 1002. Use of internet to update registration information.
Sec. 1003. Provision of election information by electronic mail to individuals registered to vote.
Sec. 1004. Clarification of requirement regarding necessary information to show eligibility to vote.
Sec. 1005. Prohibiting State from requiring applicants to provide more than last 4 digits of Social Security number.
Sec. 1006. Application of rules to certain exempt States.
Sec. 1007. Report on data collection.
Sec. 1008. Permitting voter registration application form to serve as application for absentee ballot.
Sec. 1009. Effective date.

PART 2—AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1011. Short title; findings and purpose.
Sec. 1012. Automatic registration of eligible individuals.
Sec. 1013. Contributing agency assistance in registration.
Sec. 1014. Voter protection and security in automatic registration.
Sec. 1015. Payments and grants.
Sec. 1016. Treatment of exempt States.
Sec. 1017. Miscellaneous provisions.
Sec. 1018. Definitions.
Sec. 1019. Effective date.

PART 3—SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1031. Same day registration.

PART 4—CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS
Sec. 1041. Conditions on removal of registrants from official list of eligible voters on basis of interstate cross-checks.

PART 5—OTHER INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1051. Biennial reports on voter registration statistics.
Sec. 1052. Ensuring pre-election registration deadlines are consistent with timing of legal public holidays.
Sec. 1053. Use of Postal Service hard copy change of address form to remind individuals to update voter registration.
Sec. 1054. Grants to States for activities to encourage involvement of minors in election activities.
Sec. 1055. Authorizing the dissemination of voter registration information displays following naturalization ceremonies.
Sec. 1056. Requiring states to establish and operate voter privacy programs.
Sec. 1057. Inclusion of voter registration information with certain leases and vouchers for federally assisted rental housing and mortgage applications.

PART 6—AVAILABILITY OF HAVA REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS

Sec. 1061. Availability of requirements payments under HAVA to cover costs of compliance with new requirements.

PART 7—PROHIBITING INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER REGISTRATION

Sec. 1071. Prohibiting hindering, interfering with, or preventing voter registration.
Sec. 1072. Establishment of best practices.

PART 8—VOTER REGISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT

Sec. 1081. Short title.
Sec. 1082. Requiring applicants for motor vehicle driver’s licenses in new State to indicate whether State serves as residence for voter registration purposes.

PART 9—PROVIDING VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sec. 1091. Pilot program for providing voter registration information to secondary school students prior to graduation.
Sec. 1092. Reports.
Sec. 1093. Authorization of appropriations.

PART 10—VOTER REGISTRATION OF MINORS

Sec. 1094. Acceptance of voter registration applications from individuals under 18 years of age.

Subtitle B—Access to Voting for Individuals With Disabilities

Sec. 1101. Requirements for States to promote access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities.
Sec. 1102. Establishment and maintenance of State accessible election websites.
Sec. 1103. Protections for in-person voting for individuals with disabilities and older individuals.
Sec. 1104. Protections for individuals subject to guardianship.
Sec. 1105. Expansion and reauthorization of grant program to assure voting access for individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 1106. Appointments to EAC Board of Advisors.

Sec. 1107. Funding for protection and advocacy systems.

Sec. 1108. Pilot programs for enabling individuals with disabilities to register to vote privately and independently at residences.

Sec. 1109. GAO analysis and report on voting access for individuals with disabilities.

Subtitle C—Prohibiting Voter Caging

Sec. 1201. Voter caging and other questionable challenges prohibited.

Sec. 1202. Development and adoption of best practices for preventing voter caging.

Subtitle D—Prohibiting Deceptive Practices and Preventing Voter Intimidation

Sec. 1301. Short title.

Sec. 1302. Prohibition on deceptive practices in Federal elections.

Sec. 1303. Corrective action.

Sec. 1304. Reports to Congress.

Subtitle E—Democracy Restoration

Sec. 1401. Short title.

Sec. 1402. Findings.

Sec. 1403. Rights of citizens.

Sec. 1404. Enforcement.

Sec. 1405. Notification of restoration of voting rights.

Sec. 1406. Definitions.

Sec. 1407. Relation to other laws.

Sec. 1408. Federal prison funds.

Sec. 1409. Effective date.

Subtitle F—Promoting Accuracy, Integrity, and Security Through Voter-Verifiable Permanent Paper Ballot

Sec. 1501. Short title.

Sec. 1502. Paper ballot and manual counting requirements.

Sec. 1503. Accessibility and ballot verification for individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 1504. Durability and readability requirements for ballots.

Sec. 1505. Study and report on optimal ballot design.

Sec. 1506. Paper ballot printing requirements.

Sec. 1507. Ballot marking device cybersecurity requirements.

Sec. 1508. Effective date for new requirements.

Subtitle G—Provisional Ballots

Sec. 1601. Requirements for counting provisional ballots; establishment of uniform and nondiscriminatory standards.

Subtitle H—Early Voting

Sec. 1611. Early voting.

Subtitle I—Voting by Mail
Sec. 1621. Voting by mail.
Sec. 1622. Balloting materials tracking program.
Sec. 1623. Election mail and delivery improvements.
Sec. 1624. Carriage of election mail.

Subtitle J—Absent Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters

Sec. 1701. Pre-election reports on availability and transmission of absentee ballots.
Sec. 1702. Enforcement.
Sec. 1703. Transmission requirements; repeal of waiver provision.
Sec. 1704. Use of single absentee ballot application for subsequent elections.
Sec. 1705. Extending guarantee of residency for voting purposes to family members of absent military personnel.
Sec. 1706. Technical clarifications to conform to 2009 move act amendments related to the federal write-in absentee ballot.
Sec. 1707. Treatment of post card registration requests.
Sec. 1708. Applicability to Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
Sec. 1709. Elimination of 14-day time period between general election and run-off election for Federal elections in the Virgin Islands and Guam.
Sec. 1710. Department of justice report on voter disenfranchisement.
Sec. 1711. Effective date.

Subtitle K—Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

Sec. 1801. Grants to States for poll worker recruitment and training.
Sec. 1802. State defined.

Subtitle L—Enhancement of Enforcement


Subtitle M—Federal Election Integrity

Sec. 1821. Prohibition on campaign activities by chief State election administration officials.

Subtitle N—Promoting Voter Access Through Election Administration Improvements

PART 1—Promoting Voter Access

Sec. 1901. Treatment of institutions of higher education.
Sec. 1902. Minimum notification requirements for voters affected by polling place changes.
Sec. 1903. Permitting use of sworn written statement to meet identification requirements for voting.
Sec. 1904. Accommodations for voters residing in Indian lands.
Sec. 1905. Ensuring equitable and efficient operation of polling places.
Sec. 1906. Requiring States to provide secured drop boxes for voted ballots in elections for Federal office.
Sec. 1907. Prohibiting States from restricting curbside voting.
Sec. 1908. Prohibiting restrictions on donations of food and beverages at polling stations.
Sec. 1909. GAO study on voter turnout rates.

PART 2—Disaster and Emergency Contingency Plans
Sec. 1911. Requirements for Federal election contingency plans in response to natural disasters and emergencies.

PART 3—IMPROVEMENTS IN OPERATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Sec. 1921. Reauthorization of Election Assistance Commission.
Sec. 1922. Requiring States to participate in post-general election surveys.
Sec. 1923. Reports by National Institute of Standards and Technology on use of funds transferred from Election Assistance Commission.
Sec. 1924. Recommendations to improve operations of Election Assistance Commission.
Sec. 1925. Repeal of exemption of Election Assistance Commission from certain government contracting requirements.

PART 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 1931. Application of laws to Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.
Sec. 1932. Definition of election for Federal office.
Sec. 1933. Clarification of exemption for States which do not collect telephone information.
Sec. 1934. No effect on other laws.
Sec. 1935. Clarification of exemption for States without voter registration.

Subtitle O—Increased Protections for Election Workers

Sec. 1941. Harassment of election workers prohibited.
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Subtitle P—Severability

Sec. 1951. Severability.

TITLE II—ELECTION INTEGRITY

Subtitle A—Findings Reaffirming the Commitment of Congress to Restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965


Subtitle B—Findings Relating to Native American Voting Rights

Sec. 2101. Findings relating to Native American voting rights.

Subtitle C—Findings Relating to District of Columbia Statehood

Sec. 2201. Findings relating to District of Columbia statehood.

Subtitle D—Territorial Voting Rights

Sec. 2301. Findings relating to territorial voting rights.

Subtitle E—Redistricting Reform

Sec. 2400. Short title; finding of constitutional authority.

PART 1—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
Sec. 2401. Requiring congressional redistricting to be conducted through plan of independent State commission.
Sec. 2402. Ban on mid-decade redistricting.
Sec. 2403. Criteria for redistricting.

PART 2—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Sec. 2411. Independent redistricting commission.
Sec. 2412. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.
Sec. 2413. Public notice and input.
Sec. 2414. Establishment of related entities.
Sec. 2415. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

PART 3—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS

Sec. 2421. Enactment of plan developed by 3-judge court.
Sec. 2422. Special rule for redistricting conducted under order of Federal court.

PART 4—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 2431. Payments to States for carrying out redistricting.
Sec. 2432. Civil enforcement.
Sec. 2433. State apportionment notice defined.
Sec. 2434. No effect on elections for State and local office.
Sec. 2435. Effective date.

PART 5—REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS

SUBPART A—APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS

Sec. 2441. Application of certain requirements for redistricting carried out pursuant to 2020 Census.
Sec. 2442. Triggering events.

SUBPART B—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS

Sec. 2451. Use of independent redistricting commissions for redistricting carried out pursuant to 2020 Census.
Sec. 2452. Establishment of selection pool of individuals eligible to serve as members of commission.
Sec. 2453. Criteria for redistricting plan; public notice and input.
Sec. 2454. Establishment of related entities.
Sec. 2455. Report on diversity of memberships of independent redistricting commissions.

Subtitle F—Saving Eligible Voters From Voter Purging

Sec. 2501. Short title.
Sec. 2502. Conditions for removal of voters from list of registered voters.

Subtitle G—No Effect on Authority of States to Provide Greater Opportunities for Voting
Sec. 2601. No effect on authority of States to provide greater opportunities for voting.

Subtitle II—Residence of Incarcerated Individuals

Sec. 2701. Residence of incarcerated individuals.

Subtitle I—Findings Relating to Youth Voting

Sec. 2801. Findings relating to youth voting.

Subtitle J—Severability

Sec. 2901. Severability.

TITLE III—ELECTION SECURITY

Sec. 3000. Short title; sense of Congress.

Subtitle A—Financial Support for Election Infrastructure

PART 1—VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Sec. 3001. Grants for obtaining compliant paper ballot voting systems and carrying out voting system security improvements.
Sec. 3002. Coordination of voting system security activities with use of requirements payments and election administration requirements under Help America Vote Act of 2002.
Sec. 3003. Incorporation of definitions.

PART 2—POST-ELECTION AUDIT REQUIREMENT

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Sec. 3012. GAO analysis of effects of audits.

PART 3—ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 3021. Election infrastructure innovation grant program.

Subtitle B—Security Measures

Sec. 3101. Election infrastructure designation.
Sec. 3102. Timely threat information.
Sec. 3103. Security clearance assistance for election officials.
Sec. 3104. Security risk and vulnerability assessments.
Sec. 3105. Annual reports.
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Subtitle C—Enhancing Protections for United States Democratic Institutions

Sec. 3201. National strategy to protect United States democratic institutions.
Sec. 3202. National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions.

Subtitle D—Promoting Cybersecurity Through Improvements in Election Administration

Sec. 3301. Election cybersecurity.
Sec. 3302. Guidelines and certification for electronic poll books and remote ballot marking systems.
Sec. 3303. Pre-election reports on voting system usage.
Sec. 3304. Streamlining collection of election information.

Subtitle E—Preventing Election Hacking

Sec. 3401. Short title.
Sec. 3402. Election security bug bounty program.

Subtitle F—Election Security Grants Advisory Committee

Sec. 3501. Establishment of advisory committee.

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Sec. 3601. Definitions.
Sec. 3602. Initial report on adequacy of resources available for implementation.

Subtitle H—Use of Voting Machines Manufactured in the United States

Sec. 3701. Use of voting machines manufactured in the United States.

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Sec. 3801. Severability.

DIVISION B—CAMPAIGN FINANCE

TITLE IV—CAMPAIGN FINANCE TRANSPARENCY

Subtitle A—Establishing Duty to Report Foreign Election Interference

Sec. 4001. Findings relating to illicit money undermining our democracy.
Sec. 4002. Federal campaign reporting of foreign contacts.
Sec. 4003. Federal campaign foreign contact reporting compliance system.
Sec. 4004. Criminal penalties.
Sec. 4005. Report to congressional intelligence committees.
Sec. 4006. Rule of construction.

Subtitle B—DISCLOSE Act

Sec. 4100. Short title.

PART 1—CLOSING LOOHOLES ALLOWING SPENDING BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTIONS

Sec. 4101. Clarification of prohibition on participation by foreign nationals in election-related activities.
Sec. 4102. Clarification of application of foreign money ban to certain disbursements and activities.
Sec. 4103. Audit and report on illicit foreign money in Federal elections.
Sec. 4104. Prohibition on contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda.
Sec. 4105. Disbursements and activities subject to foreign money ban.
Sec. 4106. Prohibiting establishment of corporation to conceal election contributions and donations by foreign nationals.

PART 2—REPORTING OF CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENTS

Sec. 4111. Reporting of campaign-related disbursements.
Sec. 4112. Application of foreign money ban to disbursements for campaign-related disbursements consisting of covered transfers.

Sec. 4113. Effective date.

PART 3—OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

Sec. 4121. Petition for certiorari.
Sec. 4122. Judicial review of actions related to campaign finance laws.

Subtitle C—Honest Ads

Sec. 4201. Short title.
Sec. 4202. Purpose.
Sec. 4203. Findings.
Sec. 4204. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 4205. Expansion of definition of public communication.
Sec. 4206. Expansion of definition of electioneering communication.
Sec. 4207. Application of disclaimer statements to online communications.
Sec. 4208. Political record requirements for online platforms.
Sec. 4209. Preventing contributions, expenditures, independent expenditures, and disbursements for electioneering communications by foreign nationals in the form of online advertising.
Sec. 4210. Requiring online platforms to display notices identifying sponsors of political advertisements and to ensure notices continue to be present when advertisements are shared.

Subtitle D—Stand By Every Ad

Sec. 4301. Short title.
Sec. 4302. Stand By Every Ad.
Sec. 4303. Disclaimer requirements for communications made through prerecorded telephone calls.
Sec. 4304. No expansion of persons subject to disclaimer requirements on internet communications.
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Subtitle E—Deterring Foreign Interference in Elections

PART 1—DETERRENCE UNDER FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971

Sec. 4401. Restrictions on exchange of campaign information between candidates and foreign powers.
Sec. 4402. Clarification of standard for determining existence of coordination between campaigns and outside interests.
Sec. 4403. Prohibition on provision of substantial assistance relating to contribution or donation by foreign nationals.
Sec. 4404. Clarification of application of foreign money ban.

PART 2—NOTIFYING STATES OF DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS

Sec. 4411. Notifying States of disinformation campaigns by foreign nationals.

PART 3—PROHIBITING USE OF DEEPFAKES IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Sec. 4421. Prohibition on distribution of materially deceptive audio or visual media prior to election.
PART 4—ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER FARA FOR REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

Sec. 4431. Assessment of exemption of registration requirements under FARA for registered lobbyists.

Subtitle F—Secret Money Transparency

Sec. 4501. Repeal of restriction of use of funds by Internal Revenue Service to bring transparency to political activity of certain nonprofit organizations.

Subtitle G—Shareholder Right-to-Know

Sec. 4601. Repeal of restriction on use of funds by Securities and Exchange Commission to ensure shareholders of corporations have knowledge of corporation political activity.
Sec. 4602. Shareholder approval of corporate political activity.

Subtitle H—Disclosure of Political Spending by Government Contractors

Sec. 4701. Repeal of restriction on use of funds to require disclosure of political spending by government contractors.

Subtitle I—Limitation and Disclosure Requirements for Presidential Inaugural Committees

Sec. 4801. Short title.
Sec. 4802. Limitations and disclosure of certain donations to, and disbursements by, Inaugural Committees.

Subtitle J—Miscellaneous Provisions

Sec. 4901. Effective dates of provisions.
Sec. 4902. Severability.

TITLE V—CAMPAIGN FINANCE EMPOWERMENT

Subtitle A—Findings Relating to Citizens United Decision

Sec. 5001. Findings relating to Citizens United decision.

Subtitle B—Senate Elections

Sec. 5100. Short title.

PART 1—SMALL DONOR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Sec. 5101. Sense of the Senate regarding small donor incentive programs.

PART 2—SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING OF SENATE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

Sec. 5111. Eligibility requirements and benefits of fair elections financing of Senate election campaigns.
Sec. 5112. Prohibition on joint fundraising committees.
Sec. 5113. Exception to limitation on coordinated expenditures by political party committees with participating candidates.
Sec. 5114. Assessments against fines and penalties.
Sec. 5115. Study and report on small dollar financing program.
Sec. 5116. Effective date.
PART 3—RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Sec. 5121. Petition for certiorari.
Sec. 5122. Electronic filing of FEC reports.

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Sec. 5131. Severability.

Subtitle C—Presidential Elections

Sec. 5200. Short title.

PART 1—PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Sec. 5201. Increase in and modifications to matching payments.
Sec. 5202. Eligibility requirements for matching payments.
Sec. 5203. Repeal of expenditure limitations.
Sec. 5204. Period of availability of matching payments.
Sec. 5205. Examination and audits of matchable contributions.
Sec. 5206. Modification to limitation on contributions for Presidential primary candidates.

PART 2—GENERAL ELECTIONS

Sec. 5211. Modification of eligibility requirements for public financing.
Sec. 5212. Repeal of expenditure limitations and use of qualified campaign contributions.
Sec. 5213. Matching payments and other modifications to payment amounts.
Sec. 5214. Increase in limit on coordinated party expenditures.
Sec. 5215. Use of general election payments for general election legal and accounting compliance.

PART 3—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 5221. Effective date.

Subtitle D—Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditures

Sec. 5301. Short title; findings; purpose.
Sec. 5302. Treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as authorized campaign expenditure.

Subtitle E—Empowering Small Dollar Donations

Sec. 5401. Permitting political party committees to provide enhanced support for candidates through use of separate small dollar accounts.

Subtitle F—Severability

Sec. 5501. Severability.

TITLE VI—CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERSIGHT

Subtitle A—Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections

Sec. 6001. Short title.
Sec. 6002. Membership of Federal Election Commission.
Sec. 6003. Assignment of powers to Chair of Federal Election Commission.
Sec. 6004. Revision to enforcement process.
Sec. 6005. Permitting appearance at hearings on requests for advisory opinions by persons opposing the requests.

Sec. 6006. Permanent extension of administrative penalty authority.

Sec. 6007. Restrictions on ex parte communications.

Sec. 6008. Clarifying authority of FEC attorneys to represent FEC in Supreme Court.

Sec. 6009. Requiring forms to permit use of accent marks.


Sec. 6011. Effective date; transition.

Subtitle B—Stopping Super PAC–Candidate Coordination

Sec. 6101. Short title.

Sec. 6102. Clarification of treatment of coordinated expenditures as contributions to candidates.

Sec. 6103. Clarification of ban on fundraising for super PACs by Federal candidates and officeholders.

Subtitle C—Disposal of Contributions or Donations

Sec. 6201. Timeframe for and prioritization of disposal of contributions or donations.

Sec. 6202. 1-year transition period for certain individuals.

Subtitle D—Recommendations to Ensure Filing of Reports Before Date of Election

Sec. 6301. Recommendations to ensure filing of reports before date of election.

Subtitle E—Severability

Sec. 6401. Severability.

DIVISION C—ETHICS

TITLE VII—ETHICAL STANDARDS

Subtitle A—Supreme Court Ethics

Sec. 7001. Code of conduct for Federal judges.

Subtitle B—Foreign Agents Registration

Sec. 7101. Establishment of FARA investigation and enforcement unit within Department of Justice.

Sec. 7102. Authority to impose civil money penalties.

Sec. 7103. Disclosure of transactions involving things of financial value conferred on officeholders.

Sec. 7104. Ensuring online access to registration statements.

Subtitle C—Lobbying Disclosure Reform

Sec. 7201. Expanding scope of individuals and activities subject to requirements of Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995.

Sec. 7202. Requiring lobbyists to disclose status as lobbyists upon making any lobbying contacts.

Subtitle D—Recusal of Presidential Appointees
Sec. 7301. Recusal of appointees.

Subtitle E—Clearinghouse on Lobbying Information

Sec. 7401. Establishment of clearinghouse.

Subtitle F—Foreign Lobbying

Sec. 7501. Prohibition on foreign lobbying.

Subtitle G—Severability

Sec. 7601. Severability.

TITLE VIII—ETHICS REFORMS FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Subtitle A—Executive Branch Conflict of Interest

Sec. 8001. Short title.
Sec. 8002. Restrictions on private sector payment for government service.
Sec. 8003. Requirements relating to slowing revolving door.
Sec. 8004. Prohibition of procurement officers accepting employment from government contractors.
Sec. 8005. Revolving door restrictions on employees moving into the private sector.
Sec. 8006. Guidance on unpaid employees.
Sec. 8007. Limitation on use of Federal funds and contracting at businesses owned by certain Government officers and employees.

Subtitle B—Presidential Conflicts of Interest

Sec. 8011. Short title.
Sec. 8012. Divestiture of personal financial interests of the President and Vice President that pose a potential conflict of interest.
Sec. 8013. Initial financial disclosure.
Sec. 8014. Contracts by the President or Vice President.
Sec. 8015. Legal Defense Funds.

Subtitle C—White House Ethics Transparency

Sec. 8021. Short title.
Sec. 8022. Procedure for waivers and authorizations relating to ethics requirements.

Subtitle D—Executive Branch Ethics Enforcement

Sec. 8031. Short title.
Sec. 8032. Reauthorization of the Office of Government Ethics.
Sec. 8033. Tenure of the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.
Sec. 8034. Duties of Director of the Office of Government Ethics.
Sec. 8035. Agency ethics officials training and duties.
Sec. 8036. Prohibition on use of funds for certain Federal employee travel in contravention of certain regulations.
Sec. 8037. Reports on cost of Presidential travel.
Sec. 8038. Reports on cost of senior Federal official travel.

Subtitle E—Conflicts From Political Fundraising
Sec. 8041. Short title.
Sec. 8042. Disclosure of certain types of contributions.

Subtitle F—Transition Team Ethics

Sec. 8051. Short title.
Sec. 8052. Presidential transition ethics programs.

Subtitle G—Ethics Pledge for Senior Executive Branch Employees

Sec. 8061. Short title.
Sec. 8062. Ethics pledge requirement for senior executive branch employees.

Subtitle H—Travel on Private Aircraft by Senior Political Appointees

Sec. 8071. Short title.
Sec. 8072. Prohibition on use of funds for travel on private aircraft.

Subtitle I—Severability

Sec. 8081. Severability.

TITLE IX—CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS REFORM

Subtitle A—Requiring Members of Congress To Reimburse Treasury for Amounts Paid as Settlements and Awards Under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

Sec. 9001. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts paid as settlements and awards under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 in all cases of employment discrimination acts by Members.

Subtitle B—Conflicts of Interests

Sec. 9101. Prohibiting Members of House of Representatives from serving on boards of for-profit entities.
Sec. 9102. Conflict of interest rules for Members of Congress and congressional staff.
Sec. 9103. Exercise of rulemaking powers.

Subtitle C—Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure

Sec. 9201. Short title.
Sec. 9202. Requiring disclosure in certain reports filed with Federal Election Commission of persons who are registered lobbyists.
Sec. 9203. Effective date.

Subtitle D—Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports

Sec. 9301. Short title.
Sec. 9302. Definitions.
Sec. 9303. Establishment of online portal for congressionally mandated reports.
Sec. 9304. Federal agency responsibilities.
Sec. 9305. Removing and altering reports.
Sec. 9306. Rules of construction; inspectors general.
Sec. 9307. Implementation.
Subtitle E—Reports on Outside Compensation Earned by Congressional Employees

Sec. 9401. Reports on outside compensation earned by Congressional employees.

Subtitle F—Severability

Sec. 9501. Severability.

TITLE X—PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY

Sec. 10001. Presidential and Vice Presidential tax transparency.

1 SEC. 3. FINDINGS OF GENERAL CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.

Congress finds that the Constitution of the United States grants explicit and broad authority to protect the right to vote, to regulate elections for Federal office, to prevent and remedy discrimination in voting, and to defend the Nation’s democratic process. Congress enacts the “For the People Act of 2021” pursuant to this broad authority, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Congress finds that it has broad authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of congressional elections under the Elections Clause of the Constitution, article I, section 4, clause 1. The Supreme Court has affirmed that the “substantive scope” of the Elections Clause is “broad”; that “Times, Places, and Manner” are “comprehensive words which embrace authority to provide for a complete code for congressional elections”; and “[t]he power of Congress over the Times, Places and Man-
ner of congressional elections is paramount, and may be exercised at any time, and to any extent which it deems expedient; and so far as it is exercised, and no farther, the regulations effected supersede those of the State which are inconsistent therewith”. Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, 570 U.S. 1, 8–9 (2013) (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). Indeed, “Congress has plenary and paramount jurisdiction over the whole subject” of congressional elections, Ex parte Siebold, 100 U.S. (10 Otto) 371, 388 (1879), and this power “may be exercised as and when Congress sees fit”, and “so far as it extends and conflicts with the regulations of the State, necessarily supersedes them”. Id. At 384. Among other things, Congress finds that the Elections Clause was intended to “vindicate the people’s right to equality of representation in the House”. Wesberry v. Sanders, 376 U.S. 1, 16 (1964), and to address partisan gerrymandering, Rucho v. Common Cause, 139 S. Ct. 2484 (2019).

(2) Congress also finds that it has both the authority and responsibility, as the legislative body for the United States, to fulfill the promise of article IV, section 4, of the Constitution, which states: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this
Union a Republican Form of Government[.]”. Congress finds that its authority and responsibility to enforce the Guarantee Clause is particularly strong given that Federal courts have not enforced this clause because they understood that its enforcement is committed to Congress by the Constitution.

(3)(A) Congress also finds that it has broad authority pursuant to section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to legislate to enforce the provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, including its protections of the right to vote and the democratic process.

(B) Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment protects the fundamental right to vote, which is “of the most fundamental significance under our constitutional structure”. Ill. Bd. of Election v. Socialist Workers Party, 440 U.S. 173, 184 (1979); see United States v. Classic, 313 U.S. 299 (1941) (“Obviously included within the right to choose, secured by the Constitution, is the right of qualified voters within a state to cast their ballots and have them counted . . .”). As the Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed, the right to vote is “preservative of all rights”, Yick Wo v. Hopkins, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886). Section 2 of the Fourteenth Amendment also protects the right to vote, granting Congress
additional authority to reduce a State’s representation in Congress when the right to vote is abridged or denied.

(C) As a result, Congress finds that it has the authority pursuant to section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to protect the right to vote. Congress also finds that States and localities have eroded access to the right to vote through restrictions on the right to vote including excessively onerous voter identification requirements, burdensome voter registration procedures, voter purges, limited and unequal access to voting by mail, polling place closures, unequal distribution of election resources, and other impediments.

(D) Congress also finds that “the right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a citizen’s vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise”. Reynolds v. Sims, 377 U.S. 533, 555 (1964). Congress finds that the right of suffrage has been so diluted and debased by means of gerrymandering of districts. Congress finds that it has authority pursuant to section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment to remedy this debasement.
(4)(A) Congress also finds that it has authority to legislate to eliminate racial discrimination in voting and the democratic process pursuant to both section 5 of the Fourteenth Amendment, which grants equal protection of the laws, and section 2 of the Fifteenth Amendment, which explicitly bars denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

(B) Congress finds that racial discrimination in access to voting and the political process persists. Voting restrictions, redistricting, and other electoral practices and processes continue to disproportionately impact communities of color in the United States and do so as a result of both intentional racial discrimination, structural racism, and the ongoing structural socioeconomic effects of historical racial discrimination.

(C) Recent elections and studies have shown that minority communities wait longer in lines to vote, are more likely to have their mail ballots rejected, continue to face intimidation at the polls, are more likely to be disenfranchised by voter purges, and are disproportionately burdened by voter identification and other voter restrictions. Research shows that communities of color are more likely to face
nearly every barrier to voting than their white counterparts.

(D) Congress finds that racial disparities in disenfranchisement due to past felony convictions is particularly stark. In 2020, according to the Sentencing Project, an estimated 5,200,000 Americans could not vote due to a felony conviction. One in 16 African Americans of voting age is disenfranchised, a rate 3.7 times greater than that of non-African Americans. In seven States—Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wyoming—more than one in seven African Americans is disenfranchised, twice the national average for African Americans. Congress finds that felony disenfranchisement was one of the tools of intentional racial discrimination during the Jim Crow era. Congress further finds that current racial disparities in felony disenfranchisement are linked to this history of voter suppression, structural racism in the criminal justice system, and ongoing effects of historical discrimination.

(5)(A) Congress finds that it further has the power to protect the right to vote from denial or abridgment on account of sex, age, or ability to pay
a poll tax or other tax pursuant to the Nineteenth, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments.

(B) Congress finds that electoral practices including voting rights restoration conditions for people with convictions, voter identification requirements, and other restrictions to the franchise burden voters on account of their ability to pay.

(C) Congress further finds that electoral practices including voting restrictions related to college campuses, age restrictions on mail voting, and similar practices burden the right to vote on account of age.

SEC. 4. STANDARDS FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW.

(a) In General.—For any action brought for declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge, whether facially or as-applied, the constitutionality or lawfulness of any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act or any rule or regulation promulgated under this Act, the following rules shall apply:

(1) The action shall be filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and an appeal from the decision of the district court may be taken to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. These courts, and the Supreme Court of the United States on a writ of cer-
torari (if such writ is issued), shall have exclusive
jurisdiction to hear such actions.

(2) The party filing the action shall concur-
rently deliver a copy the complaint to the Clerk of
the House of Representatives and the Secretary of
the Senate.

(3) It shall be the duty of the United States
District Court for the District of Columbia and the
Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Cir-
cuit to advance on the docket and to expedite to the
greatest possible extent the disposition of the action
and appeal.

(b) CLARIFYING SCOPE OF JURISDICTION.—If an ac-
tion at the time of its commencement is not subject to
subsection (a), but an amendment, counterclaim, cross-
claim, affirmative defense, or any other pleading or motion
is filed challenging, whether facially or as-applied, the con-
stitutionality or lawfulness of this Act or any amendment
made by this Act or any rule or regulation promulgated
under this Act, the district court shall transfer the action
to the District Court for the District of Columbia, and
the action shall thereafter be conducted pursuant to sub-
section (a).

(c) INTERVENTION BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—In
any action described in subsection (a), any Member of the
House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or Senate shall have the right to intervene either in support of or opposition to the position of a party to the case regarding the constitutionality of the provision. To avoid duplication of efforts and reduce the burdens placed on the parties to the action, the court in any such action may make such orders as it considers necessary, including orders to require interveners taking similar positions to file joint papers or to be represented by a single attorney at oral argument.

DIVISION A—VOTING

TITLE I—ELECTION ACCESS

SEC. 1000. SHORT TITLE; STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) Short Title.—This title may be cited as the “Voter Empowerment Act of 2021”.

(b) Statement of Policy.—It is the policy of the United States that—

(1) the ability of all eligible citizens of the United States to access and exercise their constitutional right to vote in a free, fair, and timely manner must be vigilantly enhanced, protected, and maintained; and

(2) the integrity, security, and accountability of the voting process must be vigilantly protected, maintained, and enhanced in order to protect and
preserve electoral and participatory democracy in the United States.

Subtitle A—Voter Registration Modernization

SEC. 1000A. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021”.

PART 1—PROMOTING INTERNET REGISTRATION

SEC. 1001. REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF INTERNET FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) Requiring Availability of Internet for Registration.—The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 6 the following new section:

“SEC. 6A. INTERNET REGISTRATION.

“(a) Requiring Availability of Internet for Online Registration.—Each State, acting through the chief State election official, shall ensure that the following services are available to the public at any time on the official public websites of the appropriate State and local election officials in the State, in the same manner and subject to the same terms and conditions as the services provided by voter registration agencies under section 7(a):

“(1) Online application for voter registration.
“(2) Online assistance to applicants in applying
to register to vote.

“(3) Online completion and submission by ap-
plicants of the mail voter registration application
form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commis-
sion pursuant to section 9(a)(2), including assist-
ance with providing a signature as required under
subsection (c).

“(4) Online receipt of completed voter registra-
tion applications.

“(b) ACCEPTANCE OF COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.—
A State shall accept an online voter registration applica-
tion provided by an individual under this section, and en-
sure that the individual is registered to vote in the State,
if—

“(1) the individual meets the same voter reg-
istration 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 Commis-
sion pursuant to section 9(a)(2); and

“(2) the individual meets the requirements of
subsection (c) to provide a signature in electronic
form (but only in the case of applications submitted
during or after the second year in which this section is in effect in the State).

“(c) Signature Requirements.—

“(1) In general.—For purposes of this section, an individual meets the requirements of this subsection as follows:

“(A) In the case of an individual who has a signature on file with a State agency, including the State motor vehicle authority, that is required to provide voter registration services under this Act or any other law, the individual consents to the transfer of that electronic signature.

“(B) If subparagraph (A) does not apply, the individual submits with the application an electronic copy of the individual’s handwritten signature through electronic means.

“(C) If subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B) do not apply, the individual executes a computerized mark in the signature field on an online voter registration application, in accordance with reasonable security measures established by the State, but only if the State accepts such mark from the individual.
“(2) Treatment of individuals unable to meet requirement.—If an individual is unable to meet the requirements of paragraph (1), the State shall—

“(A) permit the individual to complete all other elements of the online voter registration application;

“(B) permit the individual to provide a signature at the time the individual requests a ballot in an election (whether the individual requests the ballot at a polling place or requests the ballot by mail); and

“(C) if the individual carries out the steps described in subparagraph (A) and subparagraph (B), ensure that the individual is registered to vote in the State.

“(3) Notice.—The State shall ensure that individuals applying to register to vote online are notified of the requirements of paragraph (1) and of the treatment of individuals unable to meet such requirements, as described in paragraph (2).

“(d) Confirmation and Disposition.—

“(1) Confirmation of receipt.—

“(A) In general.—Upon the online submission of a completed voter registration appli-
cation by an individual under this section, the appropriate State or local election official shall provide the individual a notice confirming the State’s receipt of the application and providing instructions on how the individual may check the status of the application.

“(B) Method of notification.—The appropriate State or local election official shall provide the notice required under subparagraph (A) though the online submission process and—

“(i) in the case of an individual who has provided the official with an electronic mail address, by electronic mail; and

“(ii) at the option of the individual, by text message.

“(2) Notice of disposition.—

“(A) In general.—Not later than 7 days after the appropriate State or local election official has approved or rejected an application submitted by an individual under this section, the official shall provide the individual a notice of the disposition of the application.

“(B) Method of notification.—The appropriate State or local election official shall
provide the notice required under subparagraph
(A) by regular mail and—

“(i) in the case of an individual who
has provided the official with an electronic
mail address, by electronic mail; and

“(ii) at the option of the individual,
by text message.

“(e) Provision of Services in Nonpartisan
Manner.—The services made available under subsection
(a) shall be provided in a manner that ensures that—

“(1) the online application does not seek to in-
fluence an applicant’s political preference or party
registration; and

“(2) there is no display on the website pro-
moting any political preference or party allegiance,
except that nothing in this paragraph may be con-
strued to prohibit an applicant from registering to
vote as a member of a political party.

“(f) Protection of Security of Information.—
In meeting the requirements of this section, the State shall
establish appropriate technological security measures to
prevent to the greatest extent practicable any unauthor-
ized access to information provided by individuals using
the services made available under subsection (a).
“(g) Accessibility of Services.—A state shall ensure that the services made available under this section are made available to individuals with disabilities to the same extent as services are made available to all other individuals.

“(h) Nondiscrimination Among Registered Voters Using Mail and Online Registration.—In carrying out this Act, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, or any other Federal, State, or local law governing the treatment of registered voters in the State or the administration of elections for public office in the State, a State shall treat a registered voter who registered to vote online in accordance with this section in the same manner as the State treats a registered voter who registered to vote by mail.”.

(b) Special Requirements for Individuals Using Online Registration.—

(1) Treatment as individuals registering to vote by mail for purposes of first-time voter identification requirements.—Section 303(b)(1)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “by mail” and inserting “by mail or online under section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993”.

1  "(g) Accessibility of Services.—A state shall en-
2 sure that the services made available under this section 
3 are made available to individuals with disabilities to the 
4 same extent as services are made available to all other in-
5 dividuals.
6  "(h) Nondiscrimination Among Registered 
7 Voters Using Mail and Online Registration.—In 
8 carrying out this Act, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, 
9 or any other Federal, State, or local law governing the 
10 treatment of registered voters in the State or the adminis-
11 tration of elections for public office in the State, a State 
12 shall treat a registered voter who registered to vote online 
13 in accordance with this section in the same manner as the 
14 State treats a registered voter who registered to vote by 
15 mail.”.

(b) Special Requirements for Individuals 
Using Online Registration.—

(1) Treatment as individuals registering 
to vote by mail for purposes of first-time 
voter identification requirements.—Section 
303(b)(1)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 
(52 U.S.C. 21083(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking 
“by mail” and inserting “by mail or online under 
section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 
1993”.

1  "(g) Accessibility of Services.—A state shall en-
2 sure that the services made available under this section 
3 are made available to individuals with disabilities to the 
4 same extent as services are made available to all other in-
5 dividuals.
6  "(h) Nondiscrimination Among Registered 
7 Voters Using Mail and Online Registration.—In 
8 carrying out this Act, the Help America Vote Act of 2002, 
9 or any other Federal, State, or local law governing the 
10 treatment of registered voters in the State or the adminis-
11 tration of elections for public office in the State, a State 
12 shall treat a registered voter who registered to vote online 
13 in accordance with this section in the same manner as the 
14 State treats a registered voter who registered to vote by 
15 mail.”.

(b) Special Requirements for Individuals 
Using Online Registration.—

(1) Treatment as individuals registering 
to vote by mail for purposes of first-time 
voter identification requirements.—Section 
303(b)(1)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 
(52 U.S.C. 21083(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking 
“by mail” and inserting “by mail or online under 
section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 
1993”.
(2) Requiring signature for first-time voters in jurisdiction.—Section 303(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21083(b)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS USING ONLINE REGISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall, in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner, require an individual to meet the requirements of sub-paragraph (B) if—

“(i) the individual registered to vote in the State online under section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993; and

“(ii) the individual has not previously voted in an election for Federal office in the State.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—An individual meets the requirements of this subparagraph if—

“(i) in the case of an individual who votes in person, the individual provides the
appropriate State or local election official
with a handwritten signature; or

“(ii) in the case of an individual who
votes by mail, the individual submits with
the ballot a handwritten signature.

“(C) INAPPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph
(A) does not apply in the case of an individual
who is—

“(i) entitled to vote by absentee ballot
under the Uniformed and Overseas Cit-
zens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C.
20302 et seq.);

“(ii) provided the right to vote other-
wise than in person under section
3(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Voting Accessibility
for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (52
U.S.C. 20102(b)(2)(B)(ii)); or

“(iii) entitled to vote otherwise than
in person under any other Federal law.”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO
EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 303(d)(2)(A) of such
Act (52 U.S.C. 21083(d)(2)(A)) is amended by
striking “Each State” and inserting “Except as pro-
vided in subsection (b)(5), each State”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
(1) **Timing of registration.**—Section 8(a)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C);

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

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

“(D) in the case of online registration through the official public website of an election official under section 6A, if the valid voter registration application is submitted online not later than the lesser of 28 days, or the period provided by State law, before the date of the election (as determined by treating the date on which the application is sent electronically as the date on which it is submitted); and”.

(2) **Informing applicants of eligibility requirements and penalties.**—Section 8(a)(5) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(5)) is amended by striking “and 7” and inserting “6A, and 7”.

**SEC. 1002. USE OF INTERNET TO UPDATE REGISTRATION INFORMATION.**

(a) **In general.**—
(1) Updates to information contained on computerized statewide voter registration list.—Section 303(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) Use of Internet by registered voters to update information.—

“(A) In general.—The appropriate State or local election official shall ensure that any registered voter on the computerized list may at any time update the voter’s registration information, including the voter’s address and electronic mail address, online through the official public website of the election official responsible for the maintenance of the list, so long as the voter attests to the contents of the update by providing a signature in electronic form in the same manner required under section 6A(e) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

“(B) Processing of updated information by election officials.—If a registered voter updates registration information under subparagraph (A), the appropriate State or local election official shall—
“(i) revise any information on the computerized list to reflect the update made by the voter; and

“(ii) if the updated registration information affects the voter’s eligibility to vote in an election for Federal office, ensure that the information is processed with respect to the election if the voter updates the information not later than the lesser of 7 days, or the period provided by State law, before the date of the election.

“(C) CONFIRMATION AND DISPOSITION.—

“(i) CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT.— Upon the online submission of updated registration information by an individual under this paragraph, the appropriate State or local election official shall send the individual a notice confirming the State’s receipt of the updated information and providing instructions on how the individual may check the status of the update.

“(ii) NOTICE OF DISPOSITION.—Not later than 7 days after the appropriate State or local election official has accepted or rejected updated information submitted
by an individual under this paragraph, the
official shall send the individual a notice of
the disposition of the update.

“(iii) Method of notification.—
The appropriate State or local election offi-
cial shall send the notices required under
this subparagraph by regular mail and—

“(I) in the case of an individual
who has requested that the State pro-
vide voter registration and voting in-
formation through electronic mail, by
electronic mail; and

“(II) at the option of the indi-
vidual, by text message.”.

(2) Conforming amendment relating to
effective date.—Section 303(d)(1)(A) of such
Act (52 U.S.C. 21083(d)(1)(A)) is amended by
striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “sub-
paragraph (B) and subsection (a)(6)”.

(b) Ability of Registrant To Use Online Up-
date To Provide Information On Residence.—Sec-
tion 8(d)(2)(A) of the National Voter Registration Act of
1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(d)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by inserting after “re-
turn the card” the following: “or update the reg-
istrant’s information on the computerized Statewide voter registration list using the online method provided under section 303(a)(6) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002”; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “returned,” and inserting the following: “returned or if the registrant does not update the registrant’s information on the computerized Statewide voter registration list using such online method,”.

SEC. 1003. PROVISION OF ELECTION INFORMATION BY ELECTRONIC MAIL TO INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED TO VOTE.

(a) Including Option on Voter Registration Application To Provide E-Mail Address and Receive Information.—

(1) In general.—Section 9(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(5) shall include a space for the applicant to provide (at the applicant’s option) an electronic mail address, together with a statement that, if the applicant so requests, instead of using regular mail the appropriate State and local election officials shall provide to the applicant, through electronic mail sent to that address, the same voting information (as defined in section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) which the officials would provide to the applicant through regular mail.”.

(2) Prohibiting use for purposes unrelated to official duties of election officials.—Section 9 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Prohibiting use of electronic mail addresses for other than official purposes.—The chief State election official shall ensure that any electronic mail address provided by an applicant under subsection (b)(5) is used only for purposes of carrying out official duties of election officials and is not transmitted by any State or local election official (or any agent of such an official, including a contractor) to any person who does not require the address to carry out such official duties
(b) Requiring Provision of Information by Election Officials.—Section 302(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) Provision of other information by electronic mail.—If an individual who is a registered voter has provided the State or local election official with an electronic mail address for the purpose of receiving voting information (as described in section 9(b)(5) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993), the appropriate State or local election official, through electronic mail transmitted not later than 7 days before the date of the election for Federal office involved, shall provide the individual with information on how to obtain the following information by electronic means:

“(A)(i) If the individual is assigned to vote in the election at a specific polling place—

“(I) the name and address of the polling place; and

“(II) the hours of operation for the polling place.
“(ii) If the individual is not assigned to vote in the election at a specific polling place—

“(I) the name and address of locations at which the individual is eligible to vote; and

“(II) the hours of operation for those locations.

“(B) A description of any identification or other information the individual may be required to present at the polling place or a location described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) to vote in the election.”.

SEC. 1004. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT REGARDING NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SHOW ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE.

Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsection:

“(j) Requirement for State To Register Applicants Providing Necessary Information To Show Eligibility To Vote.—For purposes meeting the requirement of subsection (a)(1) that an eligible applicant
is registered to vote in an election for Federal office within
the deadlines required under such subsection, the State
shall consider an applicant to have provided a ‘valid voter
registration form’ if—

“(1) the applicant has substantially completed
the application form and attested to the statement
required by section 9(b)(2); and

“(2) in the case of an applicant who registers
to vote online in accordance with section 6A, the ap-
plicant provides a signature in accordance with sub-
section (c) of such section.”.

SEC. 1005. PROHIBITING STATE FROM REQUIRING APPLI-
CANTS TO PROVIDE MORE THAN LAST 4 DIG-
ITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

(a) FORM INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION FOR
MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER’S LICENSE.—Section
5(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the National Voter Registration Act of
1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504(e)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by strik-
ing the semicolon at the end and inserting the following:

“, and to the extent that the application requires the appli-
cant to provide a Social Security number, may not require
the applicant to provide more than the last 4 digits of such
number;”.

(b) NATIONAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—
Section 9(b)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)(1)) is
amended by striking the semicolon at the end and insert-
ing the following: “, and to the extent that the form re-
quires the applicant to provide a Social Security number,
the form may not require the applicant to provide more
than the last 4 digits of such number;”.

SEC. 1006. APPLICATION OF RULES TO CERTAIN EXEMPT
STATES.

Section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503) is amended by adding at the end
the following new subsection:

“(c) APPLICATION OF INTERNET VOTER REGISTRA-
TION RULES.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), the fol-
lowing provisions shall apply to a State described in para-
graph (2) thereof:

“(1) Section 6A (as added by section 1001(a)
of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021).

“(2) Section 8(a)(1)(D) (as added by section
1001(c)(1) of the Voter Registration Modernization
Act of 2021).

“(3) Section 8(a)(5) (as amended by section
1001(c)(2) of Voter Registration Modernization Act
of 2021), but only to the extent such provision re-
lates to section 6A.
“(4) Section 8(j) (as added by section 1004 of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021), but only to the extent such provision relates to section 6A.”.

SEC. 1007. REPORT ON DATA COLLECTION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on local, State, and Federal personally identifiable information data collections efforts, the cyber security resources necessary to defend such efforts from online attacks, and the impact of a potential data breach of local, State, or Federal online voter registration systems.

SEC. 1008. PERMITTING VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION FORM TO SERVE AS APPLICATION FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT.

Section 5(c)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (D);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) at the option of the applicant, shall serve as an application to vote by absentee bal-
lot in the next election for Federal office held in the State and in each subsequent election for Federal office held in the State.”.

SEC. 1009. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amendments made by this part (other than the amendments made by section 1004) shall take effect January 1, 2022.

(b) Waiver.—If a State certifies to the Election Assistance Commission not later than January 1, 2022, that the State will not meet the deadline described in subsection (a) because it would be impracticable to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet such deadline, subsection (a) shall apply to the State as if the reference in such subsection to “January 1, 2022” were a reference to “January 1, 2024”.

PART 2—AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION

SEC. 1011. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Short Title.—This part may be cited as the “Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2021”.

(b) Findings and Purpose.—

(1) Findings.—Congress finds that—

(A) the right to vote is a fundamental right of citizens of the United States;
(B) it is the responsibility of the State and Federal Governments to ensure that every eligible citizen is registered to vote;

(C) existing voter registration systems can be inaccurate, costly, inaccessible and confusing, with damaging effects on voter participation in elections for Federal office and disproportionate impacts on young people, persons with disabilities, and racial and ethnic minorities; and

(D) voter registration systems must be updated with 21st Century technologies and procedures to maintain their security.

(2) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this part—

(A) to establish that it is the responsibility of government at every level to ensure that all eligible citizens are registered to vote in elections for Federal office;

(B) to enable the State and Federal Governments to register all eligible citizens to vote with accurate, cost-efficient, and up-to-date procedures;

(C) to modernize voter registration and list maintenance procedures with electronic and internet capabilities; and
(D) to protect and enhance the integrity,
accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of the
electoral process for all eligible citizens.

SEC. 1012. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) Requiring States to Establish and Operate Automatic Registration System.—

(1) In General.—The chief State election official of each State shall establish and operate a system of automatic registration for the registration of eligible individuals to vote for elections for Federal office in the State, in accordance with the provisions of this part.

(2) Definition.—The term “automatic registration” means a system that registers an individual to vote in elections for Federal office in a State, if eligible, by electronically transferring the information necessary for registration from government agencies to election officials of the State so that, unless the individual affirmatively declines to be registered, the individual will be registered to vote in such elections.

(b) Registration of Voters Based on New Agency Records.—The chief State election official shall—
(1) not later than 15 days after a contributing agency has transmitted information with respect to an individual pursuant to section 1013, ensure that the individual is registered to vote in elections for Federal office in the State if the individual is eligible to be registered to vote in such elections; and

(2) not later than 120 days after an individual is registered under this part, send written notice to the individual, in addition to other means of notice established by this part, of the individual’s voter registration status.

(c) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE.—A State may not refuse to treat an individual as an eligible individual for purposes of this part on the grounds that the individual is less than 18 years of age at the time a contributing agency receives information with respect to the individual, so long as the individual is at least 16 years of age at such time. Nothing in the previous sentence may be construed to require a State to permit an individual who is under 18 years of age at the time of an election for Federal office to vote in the election.

(d) CONTRIBUting AGENCY DEFINED.—In this part, the term “contributing agency” means, with respect to a State, an agency listed in section 1013(e).
SEC. 1013. CONTRIBUTING AGENCY ASSISTANCE IN REGISTRATION.

(a) In General.—In accordance with this part, each contributing agency in a State shall assist the State’s chief election official in registering to vote all eligible individuals served by that agency.

(b) Requirements for Contributing Agencies.—

(1) Instructions on Automatic Registration.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, with each application for service or assistance, and with each related recertification, renewal, or change of address, or, in the case of a covered institution of higher education, upon initial enrollment of an in-State student, each contributing agency (other than a contributing agency described in subsection (e)(1)(B)(ii)) that (in the normal course of its operations) requests individuals to affirm United States citizenship (either directly or as part of the overall application for service or assistance or enrollment) shall inform each such individual who is a citizen of the United States of the following:

(A) Unless that individual declines to register to vote, or is found ineligible to vote, the individual will be registered to vote or, if appli-
cable, the individual’s registration will be updated.

(B) The substantive qualifications of an elector in the State as listed in the mail voter registration application form for elections for Federal office prescribed pursuant to section 9 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, the consequences of false registration, and the individual should decline to register if the individual does not meet all those qualifications.

(C) In the case of a State in which affiliation or enrollment with a political party is required in order to participate in an election to select the party’s candidate in an election for Federal office, the requirement that the individual must affiliate or enroll with a political party in order to participate in such an election.

(D) Voter registration is voluntary, and neither registering nor declining to register to vote will in any way affect the availability of services or benefits, nor be used for other purposes.

(2) OPPORTUNITY TO DECLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, each contributing agency shall ensure that
each application for service or assistance, and each
related recertification, renewal, or change of address,
cannot be completed until the individual is given the
opportunity to decline to be registered to vote.

(3) INFORMATION TRANSMITTAL.—Each con-
tributing agency shall electronically transmit to the
appropriate State election official the following infor-
mation for each individual described in paragraph
(1) who did not decline to be registered to vote:

(A) The individual’s given name(s) and
surname(s).

(B) The individual’s date of birth.

(C) The individual’s residential address.

(D) Information showing that the indi-
vidual is a citizen of the United States.

(E) The date on which information per-
taining to that individual was collected or last
updated.

(F) If available, the individual’s signature
in electronic form.

(G) Except in the case in which the con-
tributing agency is a covered institution of
higher education, in the case of a State in
which affiliation or enrollment with a political
party is required in order to participate in an
election to select the party’s candidate in an election for Federal office, information regarding the individual’s affiliation or enrollment with a political party, but only if the individual provides such information.

(H) Any additional information listed in the mail voter registration application form for elections for Federal office prescribed pursuant to section 9 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, including any valid driver’s license number or the last 4 digits of the individual’s social security number, if the individual provided such information.

(4) Provision of information regarding participation in primary elections.—In the case of a State in which affiliation or enrollment with a political party is required in order to participate in an election to select the party’s candidate in an election for Federal office, if the information transmitted under paragraph (3)(G) for an individual does not include information regarding the individual’s affiliation or enrollment with a political party, the chief State election official shall—
(A) notify the individual that such affiliation or enrollment is required to participate in primary elections; and

(B) provide an opportunity for the individual to update their registration with a party affiliation or enrollment.

(5) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this section shall be read to require a contributing agency to transmit to an election official the information described in paragraph (3) for an individual who is ineligible to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, except to the extent required to pre-register citizens between 16 and 18 years of age.

(e) ALTERNATE PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With each application for service or assistance, and with each related recertification, renewal, or change of address, a contributing agency described in paragraph (2) shall—

(A) complete the requirements of section 7(a)(6) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)(6));

(B) ensure that each applicant’s transaction with the agency cannot be completed until the applicant has indicated whether the
applicant wishes to register to vote or declines to register to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State; and

(C) for each individual who wishes to register to vote, transmit that individual’s information in accordance with subsection (b)(3).

(2) Contributing Agencies Described.—
The following contributing agencies are described in this paragraph:

(A) Any contributing agency (other than a contributing agency that is a covered institution of higher education) that in the normal course of its operations does not request individuals applying for service or assistance to affirm United States citizenship (either directly or as part of the overall application for service or assistance).

(B) A contributing agency described in subsection (e)(1)(B)(ii).

(d) Required Availability of Automatic Registration Opportunity With Each Application for Service or Assistance.—Each contributing agency shall offer each individual, with each application for service or assistance, and with each related recertification, renewal, or change of address, or in the case of an institu-
tion of higher education, upon initial enrollment of a stu-
dent, the opportunity to register to vote as prescribed by
this section without regard to whether the individual pre-
viously declined a registration opportunity.

(e) CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES.—

(1) STATE AGENCIES.—In each State, each of
the following agencies shall be treated as a contrib-
uting agency:

(A) Each agency in a State that is re-
quired by Federal law to provide voter registra-
tion services, including the State motor vehicle
authority and voter registration agencies under
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

(B) Each agency in a State that admin-
isters a program pursuant to—

(i) title III of the Social Security Act
(42 U.S.C. 501 et seq.);

(ii) title XIX of the Social Security
Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.); or

(iii) the Patient Protection and Af-
fordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148).

(C) Each State agency primarily respon-
sible for regulating the private possession of
firearms.
(D) Each State agency primarily responsible for maintaining identifying information for students enrolled at public secondary schools, including, where applicable, the State agency responsible for maintaining the education data system described in section 6201(e)(2) of the America COMPETES Act (20 U.S.C. 9871(e)(2)).

(E) In the case of a State in which an individual disenfranchised by a criminal conviction may become eligible to vote upon completion of a criminal sentence or any part thereof, or upon formal restoration of rights, the State agency responsible for administering that sentence, or part thereof, or that restoration of rights.

(F) Any other agency of the State which is designated by the State as a contributing agency.

(2) Federal Agencies.—In each State, each of the following agencies of the Federal Government shall be treated as a contributing agency with respect to individuals who are residents of that State (except as provided in subparagraph (C)): 
(A) The Social Security Administration, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Defense Manpower Data Center of the Department of Defense, the Employee and Training Administration of the Department of Labor, and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(B) The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, but only with respect to individuals who have completed the naturalization process.

(C) In the case of an individual who is a resident of a State in which an individual disenfranchised by a criminal conviction under Federal law may become eligible to vote upon completion of a criminal sentence or any part thereof, or upon formal restoration of rights, the Federal agency responsible for administering that sentence or part thereof (without regard to whether the agency is located in the same State in which the individual is a resident), but only with respect to individuals who have completed the criminal sentence or any part thereof.
(D) Any other agency of the Federal government which the State designates as a contributing agency, but only if the State and the head of the agency determine that the agency collects information sufficient to carry out the responsibilities of a contributing agency under this section.

(3) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each covered institution of higher education shall be treated as a contributing agency in the State in which the institution is located with respect to in-State students.

(B) PROCEDURES FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Notwithstanding section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g; commonly referred to as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974”) or any other provision of law, each covered institution of higher education shall comply with the requirements of subsection (b) with respect to each in-State student. In complying with such requirements, an institution of higher education—
(i) may use information provided in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid described in section 483 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1090) to collect information described in paragraph (3) of such subsection (b) for purposes of transmitting such information to the appropriate State election official pursuant to such paragraph;

(ii) shall not be required to prevent or delay students from enrolling in a course of study or otherwise impede the completion of the enrollment process;

(iii) shall not request information on the affiliation or enrollment with a political party of a student in accordance with subsection (b)(3)(G); and

(iv) shall not withhold, delay, or impede the provision of Federal financial aid provided under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.).

(C) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to require an institution of higher education to request each student affirm
whether or not the student is a United States citizen or otherwise collect information with respect to citizenship.

(4) Publication.—Not later than 180 days prior to the date of each election for Federal office held in the State, the chief State election official shall publish on the public website of the official an updated list of all contributing agencies in that State.

(5) Public Education.—The chief State election official of each State, in collaboration with each contributing agency, shall take appropriate measures to educate the public about voter registration under this section.

(6) Permitting state Medicaid agencies to share information with election officials for voter registration purposes.—Section 1902(a)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) the provision to an appropriate State election official, in accordance with
subsection (c) of section 1013 of the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2021, of information described in subsection (b)(3) of such section with respect to an applicant or recipient; and”.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “covered institution of higher education” means an institution of higher education that—

(A) has a program participation agreement in effect with the Secretary of Education under section 487 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094);

(B) is located in a State to which section 4(b)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503(b)(1)) does not apply.

(2) IN-STATE STUDENT.—The term “in-State student”—

(A) means a student enrolled in a covered institution of higher education who—

(i) for purposes related to in-State tuition, financial aid eligibility, or other similar purposes, resides in the State; or
(ii) the institution otherwise knows
maintains permanent residence in the
State; and

(B) includes a student described in clause
(i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) who is enrolled
in a program of distance education, as defined
in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of

SEC. 1014. VOTER PROTECTION AND SECURITY IN AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION.

(a) Protections for Errors in Registration.—
An individual shall not be prosecuted under any Federal
or State law, adversely affected in any civil adjudication
concerning immigration status or naturalization, or sub-
ject to an allegation in any legal proceeding that the indi-
vidual is not a citizen of the United States on any of the
following grounds:

(1) The individual notified an election office of
the individual’s automatic registration to vote under
this part.

(2) The individual is not eligible to vote in elec-
tions for Federal office but was automatically reg-
istered to vote under this part.

(3) The individual was automatically registered
to vote under this part at an incorrect address.
(4) The individual declined the opportunity to register to vote or did not make an affirmation of citizenship, including through automatic registration, under this part.

(b) LIMITS ON USE OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION.—The automatic registration of any individual or the fact that an individual declined the opportunity to register to vote or did not make an affirmation of citizenship (including through automatic registration) under this part may not be used as evidence against that individual in any State or Federal law enforcement proceeding, and an individual’s lack of knowledge or willfulness of such registration may be demonstrated by the individual’s testimony alone.

(c) PROTECTION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY.—Nothing in subsections (a) or (b) may be construed to prohibit or restrict any action under color of law against an individual who—

(1) knowingly and willfully makes a false statement to effectuate or perpetuate automatic voter registration by any individual; or

(2) casts a ballot knowingly and willfully in violation of State law or the laws of the United States.

(d) CONTRIBUTING AGENCIES’ PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—Nothing in this part authorizes a contrib-
uting agency to collect, retain, transmit, or publicly disclose any of the following, except as necessary to comply with title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (52 U.S.C. 20701 et seq.):

(1) An individual’s decision to decline to register to vote or not to register to vote.

(2) An individual’s decision not to affirm his or her citizenship.

(3) Any information that a contributing agency transmits pursuant to section 1013(b)(3), except in pursuing the agency’s ordinary course of business.

(c) Election Officials’ Protection of Information.—

(1) Public disclosure prohibited.—

(A) In general.—Subject to subparagraph (B), with respect to any individual for whom any State election official receives information from a contributing agency, the State election officials shall not publicly disclose any of the following:

(i) The identity of the contributing agency.

(ii) Any information not necessary to voter registration.
(iii) Any voter information otherwise shielded from disclosure under State law or section 8(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)).

(iv) Any portion of the individual’s social security number.

(v) Any portion of the individual’s motor vehicle driver’s license number.

(vi) The individual’s signature.

(vii) The individual’s telephone number.

(viii) The individual’s email address.

(B) Special rule for individuals registered to vote.—The prohibition on public disclosure in subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the telephone number or email address of any individual for whom any State election official receives information from a contributing agency and who, on the basis of such information, is registered to vote in the State under this part.

(2) Voter record changes.—Each State shall maintain for at least 2 years and shall make available for public inspection (and, where available,
photocopying at a reasonable cost), including in electronic form and through electronic methods, all records of changes to voter records, including removals, the reasons for removals, and updates.

(3) DATABASE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in consultation with State and local election officials, shall, after providing the public with notice and the opportunity to comment—

(A) establish standards governing the comparison of data for voter registration list maintenance purposes, identifying as part of such standards the specific data elements, the matching rules used, and how a State may use the data to determine and deem that an individual is ineligible under State law to vote in an election, or to deem a record to be a duplicate or outdated;

(B) ensure that the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph are uniform and nondiscriminatory and are applied in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner;
(C) not later than 45 days after the deadline for public notice and comment, publish the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph on the Director’s website and make those standards available in written form upon request; and

(D) ensure that the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph are maintained and updated in a manner that reflects innovations and best practices in the security of database management.

(4) **Security policy.**—

(A) **In general.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall, after providing the public with notice and the opportunity to comment, publish privacy and security standards for voter registration information not later than 45 days after the deadline for public notice and comment. The standards shall require the chief State election official of each State to adopt a policy that shall specify—

(i) each class of users who shall have authorized access to the computerized
statewide voter registration list, specifying for each class the permission and levels of access to be granted, and setting forth other safeguards to protect the privacy, security, and accuracy of the information on the list; and

(ii) security safeguards to protect personal information transmitted through the information transmittal processes of section 1013, the online system used pursuant to section 6A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (as added by section 1001), any telephone interface, the maintenance of the voter registration database, and any audit procedure to track access to the system.

(B) MAINTENANCE AND UPDATING.—The Director shall ensure that the standards developed pursuant to this paragraph are maintained and updated in a manner that reflects innovations and best practices in the privacy and security of voter registration information.

(5) STATE COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS.—
(A) CERTIFICATION.—The chief State election official of the State shall annually file with the Election Assistance Commission a statement certifying to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology that the State is in compliance with the standards referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4). A State may meet the requirement of the previous sentence by filing with the Commission a statement which reads as follows: “_________ hereby certifies that it is in compliance with the standards referred to in paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 1014(e) of the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2021.” (with the blank to be filled in with the name of the State involved).

(B) PUBLICATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The chief State election official of a State shall publish on the official’s website the policies and procedures established under this section, and shall make those policies and procedures available in written form upon public request.

(C) FUNDING DEPENDENT ON CERTIFICATION.—If a State does not timely file the certification required under this paragraph, it shall
not receive any payment under this part for the upcoming fiscal year.

(D) Compliance of states that require changes to state law.—In the case of a State that requires State legislation to carry out an activity covered by any certification submitted under this paragraph, for a period of not more than 2 years the State shall be permitted to make the certification notwithstanding that the legislation has not been enacted at the time the certification is submitted, and such State shall submit an additional certification once such legislation is enacted.

(f) Restrictions on use of information.—No person acting under color of law may discriminate against any individual based on, or use for any purpose other than voter registration, election administration, juror selection, or enforcement relating to election crimes, any of the following:

(1) Voter registration records.

(2) An individual’s declination to register to vote or complete an affirmation of citizenship under section 1013(b).

(3) An individual’s voter registration status.
(g) Prohibition on the Use of Voter Registration Information for Commercial Purposes.—Information collected under this part shall not be used for commercial purposes. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit the transmission, exchange, or dissemination of information for political purposes, including the support of campaigns for election for Federal, State, or local public office or the activities of political committees (including committees of political parties) under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

SEC. 1015. PAYMENTS AND GRANTS.

(a) In General.—The Election Assistance Commission shall make grants to each eligible State to assist the State in implementing the requirements of this part (or, in the case of an exempt State, in implementing its existing automatic voter registration program or expanding its automatic voter registration program in a manner consistent with the requirements of this part).

(b) Eligibility; Application.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

(1) a description of the activities the State will carry out with the grant;
(2) an assurance that the State shall carry out such activities without partisan bias and without promoting any particular point of view regarding any issue; and

(3) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(c) Amount of Grant; Priorities.—The Commission shall determine the amount of a grant made to an eligible State under this section. In determining the amounts of the grants, the Commission shall give priority to providing funds for those activities which are most likely to accelerate compliance with the requirements of this part (or, in the case of an exempt State, which are most likely to enhance the ability of the State to automatically register individuals to vote through its existing automatic voter registration program), including—

(1) investments supporting electronic information transfer, including electronic collection and transfer of signatures, between contributing agencies and the appropriate State election officials;

(2) updates to online or electronic voter registration systems already operating as of the date of the enactment of this Act;
(3) introduction of online voter registration systems in jurisdictions in which those systems did not previously exist; and

(4) public education on the availability of new methods of registering to vote, updating registration, and correcting registration.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

(A) $500,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

(B) such sums as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

(2) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authority of this subsection shall remain available without fiscal year limitation until expended.

SEC. 1016. TREATMENT OF EXEMPT STATES.

(a) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENTS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this part does not apply with respect to an exempt State.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The following provisions of this part apply with respect to an exempt State:

(1) Section 1015 (relating to payments and grants).

(2) Section 1017(e) (relating to enforcement).
(3) Section 1017(f) (relating to relation to other laws).

SEC. 1017. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(a) ACCESSIBILITY OF REGISTRATION SERVICES.—Each contributing agency shall ensure that the services it provides under this part are made available to individuals with disabilities to the same extent as services are made available to all other individuals.

(b) TRANSMISSION THROUGH SECURE THIRD PARTY PERMITTED.—Nothing in this part shall be construed to prevent a contributing agency from contracting with a third party to assist the agency in meeting the information transmittal requirements of this part, so long as the data transmittal complies with the applicable requirements of this part, including the privacy and security provisions of section 1014.

(c) NONPARTISAN, NONDISCRIMINATORY PROVISION OF SERVICES.—The services made available by contributing agencies under this part and by the State under section 1014 shall be made in a manner consistent with paragraphs (4), (5), and (6)(C) of section 7(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)).

(d) NOTICES.—Each State may send notices under this part via electronic mail if the individual has provided an electronic mail address and consented to electronic mail
communications for election-related materials. All notices
sent pursuant to this part that require a response must
offer the individual notified the opportunity to respond at
no cost to the individual.

(e) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 11 of the National
Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510), relat-
ing to civil enforcement and the availability of private
rights of action, shall apply with respect to this part in
the same manner as such section applies to such Act.

(f) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Except as pro-
vided, nothing in this part may be construed to authorize
or require conduct prohibited under, or to supersede, re-
strict, or limit the application of any of the following:

(1) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
10301 et seq.).

(2) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Ab-
sentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

(3) The National Voter Registration Act of
1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

(4) The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52
U.S.C. 20901 et seq.).

(5) The Americans with Disabilities Act of
1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

SEC. 1018. DEFINITIONS.

In this part, the following definitions apply:
(1) The term “chief State election official” means, with respect to a State, the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(2) The term “Commission” means the Election Assistance Commission.

(3) The term “exempt State” means a State which, under law which is in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, operates a system of automatic registration (as defined in section 1012(a)(2)) at the motor vehicle authority of the State or a Permanent Dividend Fund of the State under which an individual is provided the opportunity to decline registration during the transaction or by way of a notice sent by mail or electronically after the transaction.

(4) The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
SEC. 1019. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this part and the amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to a State and contributing agencies within a State—

(1) beginning January 1, 2023, for State motor vehicle authorities; and

(2) beginning January 1, 2025, for all other contributing agencies.

(b) Waiver.—

(1) Deadline for State Motor Vehicle Authorities.—If a State certifies to the Commission not later than January 1, 2023, that the State will not meet the deadline described in subsection (a)(1) because it would be impracticable to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet such deadline, subsection (a)(1) shall apply to the State as if the reference in such subsection to “January 1, 2023” were a reference to “January 1, 2025”.

(2) Deadline for All Other Contributing Agencies.—If a State certifies to the Commission not later than January 1, 2025, that the State will not meet the deadline described in subsection (a)(2) because it would be impracticable to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure
to meet such deadline, subsection (a)(2) shall apply
to the State as if the reference in such subsection
to “January 1, 2025” were a reference to “January
1, 2028”.

PART 3—SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

SEC. 1031. SAME DAY REGISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America
Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as
sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 303 the following
new section:

“SEC. 304. SAME DAY REGISTRATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) REGISTRATION.—Each State shall permit
any eligible individual on the day of a Federal elec-
tion and on any day when voting, including early
voting, is permitted for a Federal election—

“(A) to register to vote in such election at
the polling place using a form that meets the
requirements under section 9(b) of the National
Voter Registration Act of 1993 (or, if the indi-
vidual is already registered to vote, to revise
any of the individual’s voter registration infor-
mation); and
“(B) to cast a vote in such election.

“(2) Exception.—The requirements under paragraph (1) shall not apply to a State in which, under a State law in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this section, there is no voter registration requirement for individuals in the State with respect to elections for Federal office.

“(b) Eligible Individual.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible individual’ means, with respect to any election for Federal office, an individual who is otherwise qualified to vote in that election.

“(c) Ensuring Availability of Forms.—The State shall ensure that each polling place has copies of any forms an individual may be required to complete in order to register to vote or revise the individual’s voter registration information under this section.

“(d) Effective Date.—

“(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (2), each State shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section for the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2022 and for any subsequent election for Federal office.

“(2) Special rules for elections before November 2026.—
“(A) Elections prior to November 2024 general election.—A State shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this section for the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2022 and subsequent elections for Federal office occurring before the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office in November 2024 if at least one location for each 15,000 registered voters in each jurisdiction in the State meets such requirements.

“(B) November 2024 general election.—If a State certifies to the Commission not later than November 5, 2024, that the State will not be in compliance with the requirements of this section for the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2024 because it would be impracticable to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet such requirements, the State shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this section for such election if at least one location for each 15,000 registered voters in each jurisdiction in the State meets such requirements.”.
(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “sections 301, 302, and 303” and inserting “subtitle A of title III”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Same day registration.”.

PART 4—CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS

SEC. 1041. CONDITIONS ON REMOVAL OF REGISTRANTS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS ON BASIS OF INTERSTATE CROSS-CHECKS.

(a) MINIMUM INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR REMOVAL UNDER CROSS-CHECK.—Section 8(c)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:
“(B) To the extent that the program carried out by a State under subparagraph (A) to systematically remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters uses information matched in an interstate cross-check, in addition to any other conditions imposed under this Act on the authority of the State to remove the name of the voter from such a list, the State may not remove the name of the voter from such a list unless—

“(i) the State matched the voter’s full name (including the voter’s middle name, if any) and date of birth, and the last 4 digits of the voter’s social security number, in the interstate cross-check; or

“(ii) the State matched documentation from the ERIC system that the voter is no longer a resident of the State.

“(C) In this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘interstate cross-check’ means the transmission of information from an election official in one State to an election official of another State; and

“(ii) the term ‘ERIC system’ means the system operated by the Electronic Registration Information Center to share voter registration information and voter identification information among participating States.”.
(b) Requiring Completion of Cross-checks Not Later Than 6 Months Prior to Election.—Sub-paragraph (A) of section 8(c)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)) is amended by striking “not later than 90 days” and inserting the following: “not later than 90 days (or, in the case of a program in which the State uses inter-state cross-checks, not later than 6 months”).

(e) Conforming Amendment.—Subparagraph (D) of section 8(c)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), is amended by striking “Subparagraph (A)” and inserting “This paragraph”.

(d) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to elections held on or after the expiration of the 6-month period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

PART 5—OTHER INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE VOTER REGISTRATION

SEC. 1051. BIENNIAL REPORTS ON VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS.

(a) Biennial Reports.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each even-numbered year, each State shall submit to the Election Assistance Commission a report containing the following categories of information for the preceding 2 years:
(1) The number of individuals who were registered under part 2.

(2) The number of voter registration application forms completed by individuals that were transmitted by motor vehicle authorities in the State (pursuant to section 5(e) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993) and voter registration agencies in the State (as designated under section 7 of such Act) to the chief State election official of the State, broken down by each such authority and agency.

(3) The number of such individuals whose voter registration application forms were accepted and who were registered to vote in the State and the number of such individuals whose forms were rejected and who were not registered to vote in the State, broken down by each such authority and agency.

(4) The number of change of address forms and other forms of information indicating that an individual’s identifying information has been changed that were transmitted by such motor vehicle authorities and voter registration agencies to the chief State election official of the State, broken down by each
such authority and agency and the type of form transmitted.

(5) The number of individuals on the Statewide computerized voter registration list (as established and maintained under section 303 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002) whose voter registration information was revised by the chief State election official as a result of the forms transmitted to the official by such motor vehicle authorities and voter registration agencies (as described in paragraph (3)), broken down by each such authority and agency and the type of form transmitted.

(6) The number of individuals who requested the chief State election official to revise voter registration information on such list, and the number of individuals whose information was revised as a result of such a request.

(b) Breakdown of Information.—In preparing the report under this section, the State shall, for each category of information described in subsection (a), include a breakdown by race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the individuals whose information is included in the category, to the extent that information on the race, ethnicity, age, and gender of such individuals is available to the State.
(c) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—In preparing and submitting a report under this section, the chief State election official shall ensure that no information regarding the identification of any individual is revealed.

(d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 10 days after receiving a report under subsection (a), the Election Assistance Commission shall transmit such report to Congress.

(e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, a “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but does not include any State in which, under a State law in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, there is no voter registration requirement for individuals in the State with respect to elections for Federal office.

(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Congress that for any State participating in the Election Administration and Voting Survey administered by the Election Assistance Commission, the Commission should use the information submitted in the report under subsection (a) as part of the State’s participation in the survey.
SEC. 1052. ENSURING PRE-ELECTION REGISTRATION DEADLINES ARE CONSISTENT WITH TIMING OF LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

(a) In General.—Section 8(a)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)) is amended by striking “30 days” each place it appears and inserting “28 days”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

SEC. 1053. USE OF POSTAL SERVICE HARD COPY CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM TO REMIND INDIVIDUALS TO UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION.

(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Postmaster General shall modify any hard copy change of address form used by the United States Postal Service so that such form contains a reminder that any individual using such form should update the individual’s voter registration as a result of any change in address.

(b) Application.—The requirement in subsection (a) shall not apply to any electronic version of a change of address form used by the United States Postal Service.
SEC. 1054. GRANTS TO STATES FOR ACTIVITIES TO EN- 
COURAGE INVOLVEMENT OF MINORS IN 
ELECTION ACTIVITIES. 

(a) Grants.—

(1) In general.—The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Commission”) shall make grants to eligible States to enable such States to carry out a plan to increase the involvement of individuals under 18 years of age in public election activities in the State.

(2) Contents of plans.—A State’s plan under this subsection shall include—

(A) methods to promote the use of pre-registra tion processes;

(B) modifications to the curriculum of sec ondary schools in the State to promote civic en gagement; and

(C) such other activities to encourage the involvement of young people in the electoral process as the State considers appropriate.

(b) Eligibility.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the State submits to the Com mission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

(1) a description of the State’s plan under sub section (a);
(2) a description of the performance measures and targets the State will use to determine its success in carrying out the plan; and

(3) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(e) Period of Grant; Report.—

(1) Period of Grant.—A State receiving a grant under this section shall use the funds provided by the grant over a 2-year period agreed to between the State and the Commission.

(2) Report.—Not later than 6 months after the end of the 2-year period agreed to under paragraph (1), the State shall submit to the Commission a report on the activities the State carried out with the funds provided by the grant, and shall include in the report an analysis of the extent to which the State met the performance measures and targets included in its application under subsection (b)(2).

(d) State Defined.—In this section, the term “State” means each of the several States and the District of Columbia.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section $25,000,000, to remain available until expended.
SEC. 1055. AUTHORIZING THE DISSEMINATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION DISPLAYS FOLLOWING NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish a process for authorizing the chief State of a State to disseminate voter registration information at the conclusion of any naturalization ceremony in such State, which may involve a display or exhibit.

SEC. 1056. REQUIRING STATES TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE VOTER PRIVACY PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 305 and 306 as sections 306 and 307, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 304 the following new section:

"SEC. 305. VOTER PRIVACY PROGRAMS."

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall establish and operate a privacy program to enable victims of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, and trafficking to have personally identifiable information that State or local election officials maintain with respect to an individual voter registration status for purposes of elections for Federal office in the State, including addresses, be kept confidential."
“(b) NOTICE.—Each State shall notify residents of that State of the information that State and local election officials maintain with respect to an individual voter registration status for purposes of elections for Federal office in the State, how that information is shared or sold and with whom, what information is automatically kept confidential, what information is needed to access voter information online, and the privacy programs that are available.

“(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each State shall make information about the program established under subsection (a) available on a publicly accessible website.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:


“(2) The term ‘trafficking’ means an act or practice described in paragraph (11) or (12) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section on and after January 1, 2023.”.
(b) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(e), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 305 and 306 as relating to sections 306 and 307, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 304 the following new item:

“Sec. 305. Voter privacy programs.”.

SEC. 1057. INCLUSION OF VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION WITH CERTAIN LEASES AND VOUCHERS FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED RENTAL HOUSING AND MORTGAGE APPLICATIONS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Director.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection.

(2) Federal Project-Based Rental Assistance.—The term “Federal project-based rental assistance” means project-based rental assistance provided under—

(A) section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f);

(B) section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

(C) section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013);
(D) title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.), including voucher assistance under section 542 of such title (42 U.S.C. 1490r);

(E) subtitle D of title VIII of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.);

(F) title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.);

(G) the Housing Trust Fund under section 1338 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4588); or

(H) subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.).

(3) Owner.—The term “owner” has the meaning given the term in section 8(f) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(f)).

(4) Public housing; public housing agency.—The terms “public housing” and “public housing agency” have the meanings given those terms in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).
(5) **Residential Mortgage Loan.**—The term “residential mortgage loan” includes any loan that is secured by a first or subordinate lien on residential real property, including individual units of condominiums and cooperatives, designed principally for the occupancy of from 1- to 4- families.

(b) **Development of Uniform Statement.**—The Director, in coordination with the Election Assistance Commission, shall develop a uniform statement designed to provide recipients of the statement pursuant to this section of how the recipient can register to vote and the voting rights of the recipient under law.

(c) **Leases and Vouchers for Federally Assisted Rental Housing.**—

(1) **In General.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall require—

(A) each public housing agency to provide a copy of the uniform statement developed pursuant to subsection (b) to each lessee of a dwelling unit in public housing administered by the agency—

(i) together with the lease for the dwelling unit, at the same time the lease is provided to the lessee; and
(ii) together with any income verification form, at the same time the form is provided to the lessee;

(B) each public housing agency that administers rental assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher program under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)), including the program under paragraph (13) of such section 8(o), to provide a copy of the uniform statement developed pursuant to subsection (b) to each assisted family or individual—

(i) together with the voucher for the assistance, at the time the voucher is issued for the family or individual; and

(ii) together with any income verification form, at the same time the form is provided to the applicant or assisted family or individual; and

(C) each owner of a dwelling unit assisted with Federal project-based rental assistance to provide a copy of the uniform statement developed pursuant to subsection (b) to provide to the lessee of the dwelling unit—
(i) together with the lease for the dwelling unit, at the same time the form is provided to the lessee; and

(ii) together with any income verification form, at the same time the form is provided to the applicant or tenant.

(2) RURAL HOUSING.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall administer the requirement under paragraph (1)(C) with respect to Federal project-based rental assistance described in subsection (a)(1)(D).

(d) APPLICATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOANS.—The Director shall require each creditor that receives an application (within the meaning of such term as used in the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.)) for a residential mortgage loan to provide a copy of the uniform statement developed pursuant to subsection (b) in written form to the applicant for the residential mortgage loan not later than 5 business days after the date of the application.

(e) OPTIONAL COMPLETION OF APPLICATION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require any individual to complete an application for voter registration.

(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the
Director may issue such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section.

PART 6—AVAILABILITY OF HAVA REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS

SEC. 1061. AVAILABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS UNDER HAVA TO COVER COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH NEW REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—Section 251(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21001(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3)” and inserting “as otherwise provided in this subsection”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) CERTAIN VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3), a State may use a requirements payment to carry out any of the requirements of the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021, including the requirements of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 which are imposed pursuant to the amendments made to such Act by the Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2021.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 254(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21004(a)(1)) is amended by strik-
ing “section 251(a)(2)” and inserting “section 251(b)(2)”.

(c) **Effective Date.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year.

**PART 7—PROHIBITING INTERFERENCE WITH VOTER REGISTRATION**

**SEC. 1071. PROHIBITING HINDERING, INTERFERING WITH, OR PREVENTING VOTER REGISTRATION.**

(a) **In General.**—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

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§ 612. Hindering, interfering with, or preventing registering to vote

“(a) **Prohibition.**—It shall be unlawful for any person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, to corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from registering to vote or to corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from aiding another person in registering to vote.

“(b) **Attempt.**—Any person who attempts to commit any offense described in subsection (a) shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense that the person attempted to commit.
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“(c) Penalty.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“612. Hindering, interfering with, or preventing registering to vote.”.

(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to elections held on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that no person may be found to have violated section 612 of title 18, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), on the basis of any act occurring prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1072. Establishment of Best Practices.

(a) Best Practices.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall develop and publish recommendations for best practices for States to use to deter and prevent violations of section 612 of title 18, United States Code (as added by section 1071), and section 12 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20511) (relating to the unlawful interference with registering to vote, or voting, or attempting to register to vote or vote), including practices to provide for the posting of relevant infor-
1 information at polling places and voter registration agencies
2 under such Act, the training of poll workers and election
3 officials, and relevant educational materials. For purposes
4 of this subsection, the term “State” includes the District
5 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam,
6 American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and
7 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
8
9 (b) INCLUSION IN VOTER INFORMATION REQUIRE-
10 MENTS.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act
11 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082(b)(2)) is amended—
12
13 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
14 graph (E);
15
16 (2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
17 paragraph (F) and inserting “; and”; and
18
19 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 paragraph:
21
22 "(G) information relating to the prohibi-
23 tions of section 612 of title 18, United States
24 Code, and section 12 of the National Voter
25 Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20511)
26 (relating to the unlawful interference with reg-
27istering to vote, or voting, or attempting to reg-
28ister to vote or vote), including information on
29 how individuals may report allegations of viola-
30 tions of such prohibitions.”.
PART 8—VOTER REGISTRATION EFFICIENCY ACT

SEC. 1081. SHORT TITLE.

This part may be cited as the “Voter Registration Efficiency Act”.

SEC. 1082. REQUIRING APPLICANTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSES IN NEW STATE TO INDICATE WHETHER STATE SERVES AS RESIDENCE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

(a) Requirements for Applicants for Licenses.—Section 5(d) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Any change” and inserting “(1) Any change”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) A State motor vehicle authority shall require each individual applying for a motor vehicle driver’s license in the State—

“(i) to indicate whether the individual resides in another State or resided in another State prior to applying for the license, and, if so, to identify the State involved; and

“(ii) to indicate whether the individual intends for the State to serve as the indi-
individual’s residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office.

“(B) If pursuant to subparagraph (A)(ii) an individual indicates to the State motor vehicle authority that the individual intends for the State to serve as the individual’s residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office, the authority shall notify the motor vehicle authority of the State identified by the individual pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), who shall notify the chief State election official of such State that the individual no longer intends for that State to serve as the individual’s residence for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office.”.

(b) Effective Date.—

(1) In general.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to a State beginning January 1, 2023.

(2) Waiver.—If a State certifies to the Election Assistance Commission not later than January 1, 2023, that the State will not meet the deadline described in paragraph (1) because it would be im-
practicable to do so and includes in the certification
the reasons for the failure to meet such deadline,
paragraph (1) shall apply to the State as if the ref-
erence in such paragraph to “January 1, 2023”
were a reference to “January 1, 2025”.

PART 9—PROVIDING VOTER REGISTRATION IN-
FORMATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUD-
ENTS

SEC. 1091. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING VOTER REG-
ISTRATION INFORMATION TO SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS PRIOR TO GRADUATION.

(a) Pilot Program.—The Election Assistance Com-
mision (hereafter in this part referred to as the “Commis-
sion”) shall carry out a pilot program under which the
Commission shall provide funds during the one-year period
beginning after the date of the enactment of this part to
eligible local educational agencies for initiatives to provide
information on registering to vote in elections for public
office to secondary school students in grade 12.

(b) Eligibility.—A local educational agency is eli-
ble to receive funds under the pilot program under this
part if the agency submits to the Commission, at such
time and in such form as the Commission may require,
an application containing—
(1) a description of the initiatives the agency intends to carry out with the funds;

(2) a description of how the agency will prioritize access to such initiatives for schools that serve—

(A) the highest numbers or percentages of students counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6333(c)); and

(B) the highest percentages of students who are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) (which, in the case of a high school, may be calculated using comparable data from the schools that feed into the high school), as compared to other public schools in the jurisdiction of the agency;

(3) an estimate of the costs associated with such initiatives; and

(4) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(e) PRIORITY FOR SCHOOLS RECEIVING TITLE I FUNDS.—In selecting eligible local educational agencies to receive funds under the pilot program under this part, the
Commission shall give priority to local educational agencies that receive funds under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.).

(d) Consultation With Election Officials.—A local educational agency receiving funds under the pilot program shall consult with the State and local election officials who are responsible for administering elections for public office in the area served by the agency in developing the initiatives the agency will carry out with the funds.

(e) Definitions.—In this part, the terms “local educational agency” and “secondary school” have the meanings given such terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

SEC. 1092. REPORTS.

(a) Reports by Recipients of Funds.—Not later than the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the receipt of the funds, each local educational agency receiving funds under the pilot program under this part shall submit a report to the Commission describing the initiatives carried out with the funds and analyzing their effectiveness.

(b) Report by Commission.—Not later than the expiration of the 60-day period which begins on the date the Commission receives the final report submitted by a
local educational agency under subsection (a), the Com-
mission shall submit a report to Congress on the pilot pro-
gram under this part.

SEC. 1093. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
as may be necessary to carry out this part.

PART 10—VOTER REGISTRATION OF MINORS

SEC. 1094. ACCEPTANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLI-
CATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18
YEARS OF AGE.

(a) Acceptance of Applications.—Section 8 of
the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
20507), as amended by section 1004, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-
section (l); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (j) the fol-
lowing new subsection:

“(k) Acceptance of Applications From Individ-
uals Under 18 Years of Age.—

“(1) In general.—A State may not refuse to
accept or process an individual’s application to reg-
ister to vote in elections for Federal office on the
grounds that the individual is under 18 years of age
at the time the individual submits the application, so
long as the individual is at least 16 years of age at such time.

“(2) NO EFFECT ON STATE VOTING AGE REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to require a State to permit an individual who is under 18 years of age at the time of an election for Federal office to vote in the election.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

Subtitle B—Access to Voting for Individuals With Disabilities

SEC. 1101. REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES TO PROMOTE ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a) and section 1056(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 306 and 307 as sections 307 and 308, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 305 the following new section:
SEC. 306. ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) Treatment of Applications and Ballots.—Each State shall—

(1) ensure that absentee registration forms, absentee ballot applications, and absentee ballots that are available electronically are accessible (as defined in section 307);

(2) permit individuals with disabilities to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in elections for Federal office;

(3) accept and process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application and absentee ballot application from an individual with a disability if the application is received by the appropriate State election official within the deadline for the election which is applicable under Federal law;

(4) in addition to any other method of registering to vote or applying for an absentee ballot in the State, establish procedures—

(A) for individuals with disabilities to request by mail and electronically voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications with respect to elections for Federal office in accordance with subsection (e);
“(B) for States to send by mail and electronically (in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the individual under subparagraph (C)) voter registration applications and absentee ballot applications requested under subparagraph (A) in accordance with subsection (c)); and

“(C) by which such an individual can designate whether the individual prefers that such voter registration application or absentee ballot application be transmitted by mail or electronically;

“(5) in addition to any other method of transmitting blank absentee ballots in the State, establish procedures for transmitting by mail and electronically blank absentee ballots to individuals with disabilities with respect to elections for Federal office in accordance with subsection (d); and

“(6) if the State declares or otherwise holds a runoff election for Federal office, establish a written plan that provides absentee ballots are made available to individuals with disabilities in a manner that gives them sufficient time to vote in the runoff election.
“(b) Designation of Single State Office to Provide Information on Registration and Absentee Ballot Procedures for Voters With Disabilities in State.—

“(1) In general.—Each State shall designate a single office which shall be responsible for providing information regarding voter registration procedures, absentee ballot procedures, and in-person voting procedures to be used by individuals with disabilities with respect to elections for Federal office to all individuals with disabilities who wish to register to vote or vote in any jurisdiction in the State.

“(2) Responsibilities.—Each State shall, through the office designated in paragraph (1)—

“(A) provide information to election officials—

“(i) on how to set up and operate accessible voting systems; and

“(ii) regarding the accessibility of voting procedures, including guidance on compatibility with assistive technologies such as screen readers and ballot marking devices;

“(B) integrate information on accessibility, accommodations, disability, and older individ-
als into regular training materials for poll
workers and election administration officials;

“(C) train poll workers on how to make
polling places accessible for individuals with dis-
abilities and older individuals;

“(D) promote the hiring of individuals with
disabilities and older individuals as poll workers
and election staff; and

“(E) publicly post the results of any audits
to determine the accessibility of polling places
no later than 6 months after the completion of
the audit.

“(c) Designation Of Means Of Electronic Com-
munication for Individuals With Disabilities To
Request and for States to Send Voter Registry-
Applications and Absentee Ballot Applica-
tions, and for Other Purposes Related to Voting
Information.—

“(1) In general.—Each State shall, in addi-
tion to the designation of a single State office under
subsection (b), designate not less than 1 means of
accessible electronic communication—

“(A) for use by individuals with disabilities
who wish to register to vote or vote in any ju-
risdiction in the State to request voter registra-
tion applications and absentee ballot applica-
tions under subsection (a)(4);

“(B) for use by States to send voter reg-
istration applications and absentee ballot appli-
cations requested under such subsection; and

“(C) for the purpose of providing related
voting, balloting, and election information to in-
dividuals with disabilities.

“(2) Clarification regarding provision of
multiple means of electronic communica-
tion.—A State may, in addition to the means of
electronic communication so designated, provide
multiple means of electronic communication to indi-
viduals with disabilities, including a means of elec-
tronic communication for the appropriate jurisdici-
tion of the State.

“(3) Inclusion of designated means of
electronic communication with informa-
tional and instructional materials that ac-
company balloting materials.—Each State shall
include a means of electronic communication so des-
ignated with all informational and instructional ma-
terials that accompany balloting materials sent by
the State to individuals with disabilities.
“(4) Transmission if no preference indicated.—In the case where an individual with a disability does not designate a preference under subsection (a)(4)(C), the State shall transmit the voter registration application or absentee ballot application by any delivery method allowable in accordance with applicable State law, or if there is no applicable State law, by mail.

“(d) Transmission of blank absentee ballots by mail and electronically.—

“(1) In general.—Each State shall establish procedures—

“(A) to securely transmit blank absentee ballots by mail and electronically (in accordance with the preferred method of transmission designated by the individual with a disability under subparagraph (B)) to individuals with disabilities for an election for Federal office; and

“(B) by which the individual with a disability can designate whether the individual prefers that such blank absentee ballot be transmitted by mail or electronically.

“(2) Transmission if no preference indicated.—In the case where an individual with a disability does not designate a preference under para-
graph (1)(B), the State shall transmit the ballot by any delivery method allowable in accordance with applicable State law, or if there is no applicable State law, by mail.

“(3) Application of Methods to Track Delivery to and Return of Ballot by Individual Requesting Ballot.—Under the procedures established under paragraph (1), the State shall apply such methods as the State considers appropriate, such as assigning a unique identifier to the ballot envelope, to ensure that if an individual with a disability requests the State to transmit a blank absentee ballot to the individual in accordance with this subsection, the voted absentee ballot which is returned by the individual is the same blank absentee ballot which the State transmitted to the individual.

“(e) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this section may be construed to allow a voter’s ballot selections to be transmitted over the internet or to allow for the electronic submission of a marked ballot.

“(f) Individual With a Disability Defined.—In this section, an ‘individual with a disability’ means an individual with an impairment that substantially limits any major life activities and who is otherwise qualified to vote in elections for Federal office.
“(g) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after January 1, 2022.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Issuance of Voluntary Guidance by Election Assistance Commission.—

(1) Timing of Issuance.—Section 311(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (2);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3) and inserting “; and”;

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

“(4) in the case of the recommendations with respect to section 306, January 1, 2022.”.

(2) Redesignation.—

(A) In General.—Title III of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended by redesignating sections 311 and 312 as sections 321 and 322, respectively.

(B) Conforming Amendment.—Section 322(a) of such Act, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended by striking “section 312” and inserting “section 322”.
(c) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents
of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c) and section
1056(b), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
tions 306 and 307 as relating to sections 307 and
308, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
tion 305 the following new item:

“Sec. 306. Access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabil-
ities.”.

SEC. 1102. ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE
ACCESSIBLE ELECTION WEBSITES.

(a) In General.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help
America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as
amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), and section
1101(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 307 and 308 as
sections 308 and 309, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 306 the following:

“SEC. 307. ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF ACCES-
SIBLE ELECTION WEBSITES.

“(a) In General.—Not later than January 1, 2023,
each State shall establish a single election website that is
accessible and meets the following requirements:
“(1) LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS.—The website shall provide local election officials, poll workers, and volunteers with—

“(A) guidance to ensure that polling places are accessible for individuals with disabilities and older individuals in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters; and

“(B) online training and resources on—

“(i) how best to promote the access and participation of individuals with disabilities and older individuals in elections for public office; and

“(ii) the voting rights and protections for individuals with disabilities and older individuals under State and Federal law.

“(2) VOTERS.—The website shall provide information about voting, including—

“(A) the accessibility of all polling places within the State, including outreach programs to inform individuals about the availability of accessible polling places;

“(B) how to register to vote and confirm voter registration in the State;
“(C) the location and operating hours of all polling places in the State;

“(D) the availability of aid or assistance for individuals with disabilities and older individuals to cast their vote in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters at polling places;

“(E) the availability of transportation aid or assistance to the polling place for individuals with disabilities or older individuals;

“(F) the rights and protections under State and Federal law for individuals with disabilities and older individuals to participate in elections; and

“(G) how to contact State, local, and Federal officials with complaints or grievances if individuals with disabilities, older individuals, Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and individuals with limited proficiency in the English language feel their ability to register to vote or vote has been blocked or delayed.

“(b) Partnernship With Outside Technical Organization.—The chief State election official of each State, through the committee of appropriate individuals
under subsection (c)(2), shall partner with an outside technical organization with demonstrated experience in establishing accessible and easy to use accessible election websites to—

“(1) update an existing election website to make it fully accessible in accordance with this section; or

“(2) develop an election website that is fully accessible in accordance with this section.

“(c) State Plan.—

“(1) Development.—The chief State election official of each State shall, through a committee of appropriate individuals as described in paragraph (2), develop a State plan that describes how the State and local governments will meet the requirements under this section.

“(2) Committee Membership.—The committee shall comprise at least the following individuals:

“(A) The chief election officials of the four most populous jurisdictions within the State.

“(B) The chief election officials of the four least populous jurisdictions within the State.

“(C) Representatives from two disability advocacy groups, including at least one such
representative who is an individual with a disability.

“(D) Representatives from two older individual advocacy groups, including at least one such representative who is an older individual.

“(E) Representatives from two independent non-governmental organizations with expertise in establishing and maintaining accessible websites.

“(F) Representatives from two independent non-governmental voting rights organizations.


“(d) Partnership To Monitor and Verify Accessibility.—The chief State election official of each eligible State, through the committee of appropriate individuals under subsection (c)(2), shall partner with at least two of the following organizations to monitor and verify the accessibility of the election website and the completeness of the election information and the accuracy of the disability information provided on such website:
“(1) University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Services designated under section 151(a) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15061(a)).

“(2) Centers for Independent Living, as described in part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.).


“(6) State Assistive Technology Act Programs.

“(7) A visual access advocacy organization.

“(8) An organization for the deaf.

“(9) A mental health organization.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section,
“(1) ACCESSIBLE.—The term ‘accessible’ means—

“(A) in the case of the election website under subsection (a) or an electronic communication under section 305—

“(i) that the functions and content of the website or electronic communication, including all text, visual, and aural content, are as accessible to people with disabilities as to those without disabilities;

“(ii) that the functions and content of the website or electronic communication are accessible to individuals with limited proficiency in the English language; and

“(iii) that the website or electronic communication meets, at a minimum, conformance to Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 of the Web Accessibility Initiative (or any successor guidelines); and

“(B) in the case of a facility (including a polling place), that the facility is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities and older individuals, as determined under the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
adopted by the Department of Justice (or any successor standards).

“(2) INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.—The term ‘individual with a disability’ means an individual with a disability, as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102), and who is otherwise qualified to vote in elections for Federal office.

“(3) OLDER INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘older individual’ means an individual who is 60 years of age or older and who is otherwise qualified to vote in elections for Federal office.

“(4) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.”.

(b) VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE.—Section 321(b)(4) such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as added and redesignated by section 1101(b), is amended by striking “section 306” and inserting “sections 306 and 307”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), and section 1101(c), is amended—
SEC. 1103. PROTECTIONS FOR IN-PERSON VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER INDIVIDUALS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), and section 1102(a), is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 308 and 309 as sections 309 and 310, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after section 307 the following:

“Sec. 307. Establishment and maintenance of accessible election websites.”.

“SEC. 308. ACCESS TO VOTING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall—

“(1) ensure all polling places within the State are accessible, as defined in section 306;

“(2) consider procedures to address long wait times at polling places that allow individuals with
disabilities and older individuals alternate options to
cast a ballot in person in an election for Federal of-

c office, such as the option to cast a ballot outside of
the polling place or from a vehicle, or providing an
expedited voting line; and

“(3) consider options to establish ‘mobile poll-
ing sites’ to allow election officials or volunteers to
travel to long-term care facilities and assist residents
who request assistance in casting a ballot in order
to maintain the privacy and independence of voters
in these facilities.

“(b) Clarification.—Nothing in this section may
be construed to alter the requirements under Federal law
that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible
to individuals with disabilities and older individuals.

“(c) Effective Date.—This section shall apply
with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after
January 1, 2024.”.

(2) Voluntary guidance.—Section 321(b)(4)
such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as added and redesignated by section 1101(b) and as amended by sec-
tion 1102, is amended by striking “and 307” and
inserting “, 307, and 308”.

(3) Clerical amendments.—The table of
contents of such Act, as amended by section
1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), and section 1102(c), is amended—

(A) by redesignating the items relating to sections 308 and 309 as relating to sections 309 and 310, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 307 the following new item:

“Sec. 308. Access to voting for individuals with disabilities and older individuals.”.

(b) Revisions to Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.—

(1) Reports to election assistance commission.—Section 3(c) of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (52 U.S.C. 20102(c)) is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “Federal Election Commission” and inserting “Election Assistance Commission”; and

(B) in each of paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking “Federal Election Commission” and inserting “Election Assistance Commission”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3).

(2) Conforming amendments relating to references.—The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (52 U.S.C. 20101 et seq.), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended—
(A) by striking “handicapped and elderly individuals” each place it appears and inserting “individuals with disabilities and older individuals”; 

(B) by striking “handicapped and elderly voters” each place it appears and inserting “individuals with disabilities and older individuals”; 

(C) in section 3(b)(2)(B), by striking “handicapped or elderly voter” and inserting “individual with a disability or older individual”; 

(D) in section 5(b), by striking “handicapped voter” and inserting “individual with a disability”; and 

(E) in section 8—

(i) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) ‘accessible’ has the meaning given that term in section 307 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 1102(a) of the For the People Act of 2021;

“(2) ‘older individual’ has the meaning given that term in such section 307;”; and
(ii) by striking paragraph (4), and inserting the following:

“(4) ‘individual with a disability’ has the meaning given that term in such section 306; and”.

(3) **SHORT TITLE AMENDMENT.—**

(A) **IN GENERAL.—**Section 1 of the “Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act” (Public Law 98–435; 42 U.S.C. 1973ee note) is amended by striking “for the Elderly and Handicapped” and inserting “for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Individuals”.

(B) **REFERENCES.—**Any reference in any other provision of law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the “Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act” shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Voting Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Individuals Act”.

(4) **EFFECTIVE DATE.—**The amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on January 1, 2024, and apply to with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after that date.
SEC. 1104. PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO GUARDIANSHIP.

(a) In General.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), and section 1103(a)(1), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 309 and 310 as sections 310 and 311, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 308 the following:

"SEC. 309. PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS SUBJECT TO GUARDIANSHIP.

"(a) In General.—A State shall not determine that an individual lacks the capacity to vote in an election for Federal office on the ground that the individual is subject to guardianship, unless a court of competent jurisdiction issues a court order finding by clear and convincing evidence that the individual cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process.

"(b) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held on or after January 1, 2022."

(b) Voluntary Guidance.—Section 321(b)(4) such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as added and redesignated by section 1101(b) and as amended by sections 1102 and
1103, is amended by striking “and 308” and inserting “308, and 309”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), and section 1103(a)(3), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 309 and 310 as relating to sections 310 and 311, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 308 the following new item:

“Sec. 309. Access to voting for individuals with disabilities and older individuals.”.

SEC. 1105. EXPANSION AND REAUTHORIZATION OF GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSURE VOTING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) PURPOSES OF PAYMENTS.—Section 261(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21021(b)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) making absentee voting and voting at home accessible to individuals with the full range of disabilities (including impairments involving vision, hearing, mobility, or dexterity) through the implementation of accessible absentee voting systems that work in conjunction with assistive technologies for
which individuals have access at their homes, independent living centers, or other facilities;

“(2) making polling places, including the path of travel, entrances, exits, and voting areas of each polling facility, accessible to individuals with disabilities, including the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters; and

“(3) providing solutions to problems of access to voting and elections for individuals with disabilities that are universally designed and provide the same opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities.”.

(b) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 264(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21024(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) For fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this part.”.

(c) PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Section 264 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21024) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “Any amounts” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (b), any amounts”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Return and Transfer of Certain Funds.—

“(1) Deadline for Obligation and Expenditure.—In the case of any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authority of subsection (a) for a payment to a State or unit of local government for fiscal year 2022 or any succeeding fiscal year, any portion of such amounts which have not been obligated or expended by the State or unit of local government prior to the expiration of the 4-year period which begins on the date the State or unit of local government first received the amounts shall be transferred to the Commission.

“(2) Reallocation of Transferred Amounts.—

“(A) In General.—The Commission shall use the amounts transferred under paragraph (1) to make payments on a pro rata basis to each covered payment recipient described in subparagraph (B), which may obligate and expend such payment for the purposes described in section 261(b) during the 1-year period which begins on the date of receipt.
“(B) COVERED PAYMENT RECIPIENTS DESCRIBED.—In subparagraph (A), a ‘covered payment recipient’ is a State or unit of local government with respect to which—

“(i) amounts were appropriated pursuant to the authority of subsection (a); and

“(ii) no amounts were transferred to the Commission under paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 1106. APPOINTMENTS TO EAC BOARD OF ADVISORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20944(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “37” and inserting “61”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(17) Two members appointed by the National Council on Disability.

“(18) Two members appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Aging.

“(19) Four members from organizations, whose executive leadership team consists of fifty-one percent of individuals with disabilities, representing the interests of voters with disabilities, of whom—
“(A) two members shall be appointed by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, of whom one shall be appointed by the chair and one shall be appointed by the ranking minority member; and

“(B) two members shall be appointed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, of whom one shall be appointed by the chair and one shall be appointed by the ranking minority member.

“(20) Four members from organizations representing the interests of older voters, of whom—

“(A) two members shall be appointed by the Committee on House Administration, of whom one shall be appointed by the chair and one shall be appointed by the ranking minority member; and

“(B) two members shall be appointed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, of whom one shall be appointed by the chair and one shall be appointed by the ranking minority member.

“(21) Twelve members who are nationally recognized subject matter experts regarding election integrity, having specializations to include election cy-
bersecurity, authentication, accessibility, transparency, verification, and auditing, and who are not full-time election officials, of whom—

“(A) two members shall be appointed by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency;

“(B) two members shall be appointed by the National Science Foundation;

“(C) two members shall be appointed by the Institute for Defense Analyses;

“(D) two members shall be appointed by the Association for Computing Machinery;

“(E) two members shall be appointed by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers;

“(F) one member shall be appointed by the Center for Internet Security; and

“(G) one member shall be the Director of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, or the Director’s designee.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2022.
SEC. 1107. FUNDING FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SYSTEMS.

(a) INCLUSION OF SYSTEM SERVING AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.—Section 291(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21061(a)) is amended by striking “of each State” and inserting “of each State and the eligible system serving the American Indian consortium (within the meaning of section 509(c)(1)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794e(c)(1)(B)))”.

(b) GRANT AMOUNT.—Section 291(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21061(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “as set forth in subsections (e)(3)” and inserting “as set forth in subsections (e)(1)(B) (regardless of the fiscal year), (e)(3)”; and

(2) by striking “except that” and all that follows and inserting “except that the amount of the grants to systems referred to in subsection (e)(3)(B) of that section shall not be less than $70,000 and the amount of the grants to systems referred to in subsections (e)(1)(B) and (e)(4)(B) of that section shall not be less than $35,000.”.

(c) DEFINITION.—Section 291 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21061) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(d) State.—In this section, the term ‘State’ means—

“(1) a State as defined in section 901; and

“(2) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

SEC. 1108. PILOT PROGRAMS FOR ENABLING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO REGISTER TO VOTE PRIVATELY AND INDEPENDENTLY AT RESIDENCES.

(a) Establishment of Pilot Programs.—The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter referred to as the “Commission”) shall, subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, make grants to eligible States to conduct pilot programs under which individuals with disabilities may use electronic means (including the internet and telephones utilizing assistive devices) to register to vote and to request and receive absentee ballots in a manner which permits such individuals to do so privately and independently at their own residences.

(b) Reports.—

(1) In general.—A State receiving a grant for a year under this section shall submit a report to the Commission on the pilot programs the State carried out with the grant with respect to elections for public office held in the State during the year.
(2) **DEADLINE.**—A State shall submit a report under paragraph (1) not later than 90 days after the last election for public office held in the State during the year.

(c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—A State is eligible to receive a grant under this section if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing such information and assurances as the Commission may require.

(d) **TIMING.**—The Commission shall make the first grants under this section for pilot programs which will be in effect with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2022, or, at the option of a State, with respect to other elections for public office held in the State in 2022.

(e) **STATE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**SEC. 1109. GAO ANALYSIS AND REPORT ON VOTING ACCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

(a) **ANALYSIS.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an analysis after each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office with respect to the following:
(1) In relation to polling places located in houses of worship or other facilities that may be exempt from accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act—

   (A) efforts to overcome accessibility challenges posed by such facilities; and

   (B) the extent to which such facilities are used as polling places in elections for Federal office.

(2) Assistance provided by the Election Assistance Commission, Department of Justice, or other Federal agencies to help State and local officials improve voting access for individuals with disabilities during elections for Federal office.

(3) When accessible voting machines are available at a polling place, the extent to which such machines—

   (A) are located in places that are difficult to access;

   (B) malfunction; or

   (C) fail to provide sufficient privacy to ensure that the ballot of the individual cannot be seen by another individual.

(4) The process by which Federal, State, and local governments track compliance with accessibility
requirements related to voting access, including
methods to receive and address complaints.

(5) The extent to which poll workers receive
training on how to assist individuals with disabil-
ities, including the receipt by such poll workers of
information on legal requirements related to voting
rights for individuals with disabilities.

(6) The extent and effectiveness of training pro-
vided to poll workers on the operation of accessible
voting machines.

(7) The extent to which individuals with a de-
velopmental or psychiatric disability experience
greater barriers to voting, and whether poll worker
training adequately addresses the needs of such indi-
viduals.

(8) The extent to which State or local govern-
ments employ, or attempt to employ, individuals
with disabilities to work at polling sites.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months
after the date of a regularly scheduled general elec-
tion for Federal office, the Comptroller General shall
submit to the appropriate congressional committees
a report with respect to the most recent regularly
scheduled general election for Federal office that contains the following:

(A) The analysis required by subsection (a).

(B) Recommendations, as appropriate, to promote the use of best practices used by State and local officials to address barriers to accessibility and privacy concerns for individuals with disabilities in elections for Federal office.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

Subtitle C—Prohibiting Voter Caging

SEC. 1201. VOTER CAGING AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE CHALLENGES PROHIBITED.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—
(1) the term “voter caging document” means—

(A) a non-forwardable document that is returned to the sender or a third party as undelivered or undeliverable despite an attempt to deliver such document to the address of a registered voter or applicant; or

(B) any document with instructions to an addressee that the document be returned to the sender or a third party but is not so returned, despite an attempt to deliver such document to the address of a registered voter or applicant, unless at least two Federal election cycles have passed since the date of the attempted delivery;

(2) the term “voter caging list” means a list of individuals compiled from voter caging documents; and

(3) the term “unverified match list” means a list produced by matching the information of registered voters or applicants for voter registration to a list of individuals who are ineligible to vote in the registrar’s jurisdiction, by virtue of death, conviction, change of address, or otherwise; unless one of the pieces of information matched includes a signature, photograph, or unique identifying number en-
suring that the information from each source refers to the same individual.

(b) Prohibition Against Voter Caging.—No State or local election official shall prevent an individual from registering or voting in any election for Federal office, or permit in connection with any election for Federal office a formal challenge under State law to an individual’s registration status or eligibility to vote, if the basis for such decision is evidence consisting of—

(1) a voter caging document or voter caging list;
(2) an unverified match list;
(3) an error or omission on any record or paper relating to any application, registration, or other act requisite to voting, if such error or omission is not material to an individual’s eligibility to vote under section 2004(a)(2)(B) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(a)(2)(B)); or
(4) any other evidence so designated for purposes of this section by the Election Assistance Commission, except that the election official may use such evidence if it is corroborated by independent evidence of the individual’s ineligibility to register or vote.
(c) Requirements for Challenges by Persons Other Than Election Officials.—

(1) Requirements for challenges.—No person, other than a State or local election official, shall submit a formal challenge to an individual’s eligibility to register to vote in an election for Federal office or to vote in an election for Federal office unless that challenge is supported by personal knowledge with respect to each individual challenged regarding the grounds for ineligibility which is—

(A) documented in writing; and

(B) subject to an oath or attestation under penalty of perjury that the challenger has a good faith factual basis to believe that the individual who is the subject of the challenge is ineligible to register to vote or vote in that election, except a challenge which is based on the age, race, ethnicity, or national origin of the individual who is the subject of the challenge may not be considered to have a good faith factual basis for purposes of this paragraph.

(2) Prohibition on challenges on or near date of election.—No person, other than a State or local election official, shall be permitted—
(A) to challenge an individual’s eligibility to vote in an election for Federal office on Election Day on grounds that could have been made in advance of such day, or

(B) to challenge an individual’s eligibility to register to vote in an election for Federal office or to vote in an election for Federal office less than 10 days before the election unless the individual registered to vote less than 20 days before the election.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to carry out this section.

(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A person who is aggrieved by a violation of this section may provide written notice of the violation to—

(I) in the case of a violation of subsection (b), the chief election official of the State involved; and

(II) in the case of a violation of subsection (c), the Attorney General.
(ii) RELIEF.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), if the violation is not corrected within 90 days after receipt of a notice under paragraph (1), or within 20 days after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person may, in a civil action, obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

(iii) EXCEPTION.—If the violation occurred within 30 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person need not provide notice under paragraph (1) before bringing a civil action to obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

(2) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Whoever knowingly challenges the eligibility of one or more individuals to register or vote or knowingly causes the eligibility of such individuals to be challenged in violation of this section with the intent that one or more eligible voters be disqualified, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 1
year, or both, for each such violation. Each violation shall be a separate offense.

(c) No Effect on Related Laws.—Nothing in this section is intended to override the protections of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) or to affect the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).

SEC. 1202. DEVELOPMENT AND ADOPTION OF BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING VOTER CAGING.

(a) Best Practices.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall develop and publish for the use of States recommendations for best practices to deter and prevent violations of section 1201, including practices to provide for the posting of relevant information at polling places and voter registration agencies, the training of poll workers and election officials, and relevant educational measures. For purposes of this subsection, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(b) Inclusion in Voting Information Requirements.—Section 302(b)(2) of the Help America Vote Act
of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082(b)(2)), as amended by section 1072(b), is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-

graph (F);

(2) by striking the period at the end of sub-

paragraph (G) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-

paragraph:

“(H) information relating to the prohibi-

tion against voter caging and other questionable

challenges (as set forth in section 1201 of the

For the People Act of 2021), including informa-
tion on how individuals may report allegations
of violations of such prohibition.”.

Subtitle D—Prohibiting Deceptive
Practices and Preventing Voter
Intimidation

SEC. 1301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Deceptive Prac-
tices and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2021”.

SEC. 1302. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN

FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

(a) Prohibition.—Subsection (b) of section 2004 of

the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)) is amended—
(1) by striking “No person” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No person”; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) FALSE STATEMENTS REGARDING FEDERAL ELECTIONS.—

“(A) PROHIBITION.—No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall, within 60 days before an election described in paragraph (5), by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, communicate or cause to be communicated information described in subparagraph (B), or produce information described in subparagraph (B) with the intent that such information be communicated, if such person—

“(i) knows such information to be materially false; and

“(ii) has the intent to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in an election described in paragraph (5).
“(B) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—Information is described in this subparagraph if such information is regarding—

“(i) the time, place, or manner of holding any election described in paragraph (5); or

“(ii) the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility for any such election, including—

“(I) any criminal, civil, or other legal penalties associated with voting in any such election; or

“(II) information regarding a voter’s registration status or eligibility.

“(3) FALSE STATEMENTS REGARDING PUBLIC ENDORSEMENTS.—

“(A) PROHIBITION.—No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall, within 60 days before an election described in paragraph (5), by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, communicate, or cause to be communicated, a materially false statement about an endorsement, if such person—
“(i) knows such statement to be false;

and

“(ii) has the intent to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in an election described in paragraph (5).

“(B) Definition of ‘materially false’.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a statement about an endorsement is ‘materially false’ if, with respect to an upcoming election described in paragraph (5)—

“(i) the statement states that a specifically named person, political party, or organization has endorsed the election of a specific candidate for a Federal office described in such paragraph; and

“(ii) such person, political party, or organization has not endorsed the election of such candidate.

“(4) Hindering, interfering with, or preventing voting or registering to vote.—No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to
vote in an election described in paragraph (5), in-
cluding by operating a polling place or ballot box
that falsely purports to be an official location estab-
lished for such an election by a unit of government.

“(5) ELECTION DESCRIBED.—An election de-
scribed in this paragraph is any general, primary,
runoff, or special election held solely or in part for
the purpose of nominating or electing a candidate
for the office of President, Vice President, Presi-
dential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of
the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Com-
missioner from a Territory or possession.”.

(b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section
2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(c))
is amended—

(A) by striking “Whenever any person”

and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever any person”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new

paragraph:

“(2) CIVIL ACTION.—Any person aggrieved by a
violation of this section may institute a civil action
for preventive relief, including an application in a
United States district court for a permanent or tem-
porary injunction, restraining order, or other order.
In any such action, the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party a reasonable attorney’s fee as part of the costs.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101) is amended—

(A) in subsection (e), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”; and

(B) in subsection (g), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)”.

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—

(1) DECEPTIVE ACTS.—Section 594 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “Whoever” and inserting the following:

“(a) INTIMIDATION.—Whoever”;

(B) in subsection (a), as inserted by subparagraph (A), by striking “at any election” and inserting “at any general, primary, runoff, or special election”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(b) DECEPTIVE ACTS.—
“(1) False statements regarding federal elections.—

“(A) Prohibition.—It shall be unlawful for any person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, within 60 days before an election described in subsection (e), by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, to communicate or cause to be communicated information described in subparagraph (B), or produce information described in subparagraph (B) with the intent that such information be communicated, if such person—

“(i) knows such information to be materially false; and

“(ii) has the intent to impede or prevent another person from exercising the right to vote in an election described in subsection (e).

“(B) Information described.—Information is described in this subparagraph if such information is regarding—

“(i) the time or place of holding any election described in subsection (e); or
“(ii) the qualifications for or restrictions on voter eligibility for any such election, including—

“(I) any criminal, civil, or other legal penalties associated with voting in any such election; or

“(II) information regarding a voter’s registration status or eligibility.

“(2) Penalty.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

“(c) Hindering, Interfering With, or Preventing Voting or Registering To Vote.—

“(1) Prohibition.—It shall be unlawful for any person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, to corruptly hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to vote in an election described in subsection (e).

“(2) Penalty.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

“(d) Attempt.—Any person who attempts to commit any offense described in subsection (a), (b)(1), or (c)(1)
shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense that the person attempted to commit.

“(e) Election Described.—An election described in this subsection is any general, primary, runoff, or special election held solely or in part for the purpose of nominating or electing a candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Senator, Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.”.

(2) Modification of Penalty for Voter Intimidation.—Section 594(a) of title 18, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by striking “fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year” and inserting “fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years”.

(3) Sentencing Guidelines.—

(A) Review and Amendment.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Sentencing Commission, pursuant to its authority under section 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in accordance with this section, shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines and policy statements applicable to
persons convicted of any offense under section 594 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this section.

(B) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States Sentencing Commission may amend the Federal Sentencing Guidelines in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note) as though the authority under that section had not expired.

(4) PAYMENTS FOR REFRAINING FROM VOTING.—Subsection (c) of section 11 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10307) is amended by striking “either for registration to vote or for voting” and inserting “for registration to vote, for voting, or for not voting”.

SEC. 1303. CORRECTIVE ACTION.

(a) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Attorney General receives a credible report that materially false information has been or is being communicated in violation of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 2004(b) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as added by section 1302(a), and if the Attorney General determines that State and local election officials have not
taken adequate steps to promptly communicate accurate information to correct the materially false information, the Attorney General shall, pursuant to the written procedures and standards under subsection (b), communicate to the public, by any means, including by means of written, electronic, or telephonic communications, accurate information designed to correct the materially false information.

(2) COMMUNICATION OF CORRECTIVE INFORMATION.—Any information communicated by the Attorney General under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall—

(i) be accurate and objective;

(ii) consist of only the information necessary to correct the materially false information that has been or is being communicated; and

(iii) to the extent practicable, be by a means that the Attorney General determines will reach the persons to whom the materially false information has been or is being communicated; and

(B) shall not be designed to favor or disfavor any particular candidate, organization, or political party.
(b) Written Procedures and Standards for Taking Corrective Action.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall publish written procedures and standards for determining when and how corrective action will be taken under this section.

(2) Inclusion of Appropriate Deadlines.—The procedures and standards under paragraph (1) shall include appropriate deadlines, based in part on the number of days remaining before the upcoming election.

(3) Consultation.—In developing the procedures and standards under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall consult with the Election Assistance Commission, State and local election officials, civil rights organizations, voting rights groups, voter protection groups, and other interested community organizations.

(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle.

SEC. 1304. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) In general.—Not later than 180 days after each general election for Federal office, the Attorney Gen-
eral shall submit to Congress a report compiling all allegations received by the Attorney General of deceptive practices described in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of section 2004(b) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as added by section 1302(a), relating to the general election for Federal office and any primary, runoff, or a special election for Federal office held in the 2 years preceding the general election.

(b) CONTENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a description of each allegation of a deceptive practice described in subsection (a), including the geographic location, racial and ethnic composition, and language minority-group membership of the persons toward whom the alleged deceptive practice was directed;

(B) the status of the investigation of each allegation described in subparagraph (A);

(C) a description of each corrective action taken by the Attorney General under section 4(a) in response to an allegation described in subparagraph (A);
(D) a description of each referral of an allegation described in subparagraph (A) to other Federal, State, or local agencies;

(E) to the extent information is available, a description of any civil action instituted under section 2004(c)(2) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(c)(2)), as added by section 1302(b), in connection with an allegation described in subparagraph (A); and

(F) a description of any criminal prosecution instituted under section 594 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1302(c), in connection with the receipt of an allegation described in subparagraph (A) by the Attorney General.

(2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall not include in a report submitted under subsection (a) any information protected from disclosure by rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or any Federal criminal statute.

(B) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN OTHER INFORMATION.—The Attorney General may determine that the following information shall not be
included in a report submitted under subsection (a):

(i) Any information that is privileged.

(ii) Any information concerning an ongoing investigation.

(iii) Any information concerning a criminal or civil proceeding conducted under seal.

(iv) Any other nonpublic information that the Attorney General determines the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to infringe on the rights of any individual or adversely affect the integrity of a pending or future criminal investigation.

(c) REPORT MADE PUBLIC.—On the date that the Attorney General submits the report under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall also make the report publicly available through the internet and other appropriate means.

Subtitle E—Democracy Restoration

SEC. 1401. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Democracy Restoration Act of 2021”.

SEC. 1402. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:
(1) The right to vote is the most basic constitutive act of citizenship. Regaining the right to vote reintegrates individuals with criminal convictions into free society, helping to enhance public safety.

(2) Article I, section 4, of the Constitution grants Congress ultimate supervisory power over Federal elections, an authority which has repeatedly been upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

(3) Basic constitutional principles of fairness and equal protection require an equal opportunity for citizens of the United States to vote in Federal elections. The right to vote may not be abridged or denied by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, gender, or previous condition of servitude. The 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th Amendments to the Constitution empower Congress to enact measures to protect the right to vote in Federal elections. The 8th Amendment to the Constitution provides for no excessive bail to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

(4) There are 3 areas in which discrepancies in State laws regarding criminal convictions lead to unfairness in Federal elections—
(A) the lack of a uniform standard for voting in Federal elections leads to an unfair disparity and unequal participation in Federal elections based solely on where a person lives;

(B) laws governing the restoration of voting rights after a criminal conviction vary throughout the country and persons in some States can easily regain their voting rights while in other States persons effectively lose their right to vote permanently; and

(C) State disenfranchisement laws disproportionately impact racial and ethnic minorities.

(5) State disenfranchisement laws vary widely. Two States (Maine and Vermont) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico do not disenfranchise individuals with criminal convictions at all. In 2020, the District of Columbia re-enfranchised its citizens who are under the supervision of the Federal Bureau of Prisons. In 30 States, individuals with convictions may not vote while they are on parole and 28 of those States disenfranchise individuals on felony probation as well. In 11 States, a conviction can result in lifetime disenfranchisement.
(6) Several States deny the right to vote to individuals convicted of certain misdemeanors.

(7) In 2020, an estimated 5,200,000 citizens of the United States, or about 1 in 44 adults in the United States, could not vote as a result of a felony conviction. Of the 5,200,000 citizens barred from voting then, only 24 percent were in prison. By contrast, 75 percent of persons disenfranchised then resided in their communities while on probation or parole or after having completed their sentences. Approximately 2,200,000 citizens who had completed their sentences were disenfranchised due to restrictive State laws. As of November 2018, the lifetime ban for persons with certain felony convictions was eliminated through a Florida ballot initiative. As a result, as many as 1,400,000 people are now eligible to have their voting rights restored. In 4 States—Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee—more than 7 percent of the total population is disenfranchised.

(8) In those States that disenfranchise individuals post-sentence, the right to vote can be regained in theory, but in practice this possibility is often granted in a non-uniform and potentially discriminatory manner. Disenfranchised individuals sometimes
must either obtain a pardon or an order from the Governor or an action by the parole or pardon board, depending on the offense and State. Individuals convicted of a Federal offense often have additional barriers to regaining voting rights.

(9) Many felony disenfranchisement laws today derive directly from post-Civil War efforts to stifle the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. Between 1865 and 1880, at least 14 states—Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas—enacted or expanded their felony disenfranchisement laws. One of the primary goals of these laws was to prevent African Americans from voting. Of the states that enacted or expanded their felony disenfranchisement laws during this post-Civil War period, at least 11 continue to preclude persons on felony probation or parole from voting.

(10) Latino citizens are also disproportionately disenfranchised based upon their disproportionate representation in the criminal justice system. In recent years, Latinos have been imprisoned at 2.5 times the rate of Whites. More than 2 percent of the voting-age Latino population, or 560,000 Latinos,
are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction. In 34 states Latinos are disenfranchised at a higher rate than the general population. In 11 states 4 percent or more of Latino adults are disenfranchised due to a felony conviction (Alabama, 4 percent; Arizona, 7 percent; Arkansas, 4 percent; Idaho, 4 percent; Iowa, 4 percent; Kentucky, 6 percent; Minnesota, 4 percent; Mississippi, 5 percent; Nebraska, 6 percent; Tennessee, 11 percent; Wyoming, 4 percent), twice the national average for Latinos.

(11) Disenfranchising citizens who have been convicted of a criminal offense and who are living and working in the community serves no compelling State interest and hinders their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

(12) State disenfranchisement laws can suppress electoral participation among eligible voters by discouraging voting among family and community members of disenfranchised persons. Future electoral participation by the children of disenfranchised parents may be impacted as well. Models of successful re-entry for persons convicted of a crime emphasize the importance of community ties, feeling vested and integrated, and prosocial attitudes. Individuals with criminal convictions who succeed in avoiding re-
Recidivism are typically more likely to see themselves as law-abiding members of the community. Restoration of voting rights builds those qualities and facilitates reintegration into the community. That is why allowing citizens with criminal convictions who are living in a community to vote is correlated with a lower likelihood of recidivism. Restoration of voting rights thus reduces violence and protects public safety.

(13) The United States is one of the only Western democracies that permits the permanent denial of voting rights for individuals with felony convictions.

(14) The Eighth Amendment’s prohibition on cruel and unusual punishments “guarantees individuals the right not to be subjected to excessive sanctions.” (Roper v. Simmons, 543 U.S. 551, 560 (2005)). That right stems from the basic precept of justice “that punishment for crime should be graduated and proportioned to [the] offense.” Id. (quoting Weems v. United States, 217 U.S. 349, 367 (1910)). As the Supreme Court has long recognized, “[t]he concept of proportionality is central to the Eighth Amendment.” (Graham v. Florida, 560 U.S. 48, 59 (2010)). Many State disenfranchisement
laws are grossly disproportional to the offenses that lead to disenfranchisement and thus violate the bar on cruel and unusual punishments. For example, a number of states mandate lifetime disenfranchisement for a single felony conviction or just two felony convictions, even where the convictions were for non-violent offenses. In numerous other States, disenfranchisement can last years or even decades while individuals remain on probation or parole, often only because a person cannot pay their legal financial obligations. These kinds of extreme voting bans run afoul of the Eighth Amendment.

(15) The Twenty-Fourth Amendment provides that the right to vote “shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State by reason of failure to pay any poll tax or other tax.”. Section 2 of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment gives Congress the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation. Court fines and fees that individuals must pay to have their voting rights restored constitute an “other tax” for purposes of the Twenty-Fourth Amendment. At least five States explicitly require the payment of fines and fees before individuals with felony convictions can have their voting rights restored. More than 20 other states effectively
tie the right to vote to the payment of fines and fees, by requiring that individuals complete their probation or parole before their rights are restored. In these States, the non-payment of fines and fees is a basis on which probation or parole can be extended. Moreover, these states sometimes do not record the basis on which an individual’s probation or parole was extended, making it impossible to determine from the State’s records whether non-payment of fines and fees is the reason that an individual remains on probation or parole. For these reasons, the only way to ensure that States do not deny the right to vote based solely on non-payment of fines and fees is to prevent States from conditioning voting rights on the completion of probation or parole.

SEC. 1403. RIGHTS OF CITIZENS.

The right of an individual who is a citizen of the United States to vote in any election for Federal office shall not be denied or abridged because that individual has been convicted of a criminal offense unless such individual is serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution or facility at the time of the election.
SEC. 1404. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may, in a civil action, obtain such declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to remedy a violation of this subtitle.

(b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who is aggrieved by a violation of this subtitle may provide written notice of the violation to the chief election official of the State involved.

(2) RELIEF.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), if the violation is not corrected within 90 days after receipt of a notice under paragraph (1), or within 20 days after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person may, in a civil action, obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

(3) EXCEPTION.—If the violation occurred within 30 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person need not provide notice to the chief election official of the State under paragraph (1) before bringing a civil action to obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.
SEC. 1405. NOTIFICATION OF RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS.

(a) State Notification.—

(1) Notification.—On the date determined under paragraph (2), each State shall—

(A) notify in writing any individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense under the law of that State that such individual—

(i) has the right to vote in an election for Federal office pursuant to the Democracy Restoration Act of 2021; and

(ii) may register to vote in any such election; and

(B) provide such individual with any materials that are necessary to register to vote in any such election.

(2) Date of Notification.—

(A) Felony Conviction.—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a felony, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which the individual—

(i) is sentenced to serve only a term of probation; or

(ii) is released from the custody of that State (other than to the custody of
another State or the Federal Government to serve a term of imprisonment for a felony conviction).

(B) MISDEMEANOR CONVICTION.—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which such individual is sentenced by a State court.

(b) FEDERAL NOTIFICATION.—

(1) NOTIFICATION.—Any individual who has been convicted of a criminal offense under Federal law—

(A) shall be notified in accordance with paragraph (2) that such individual—

(i) has the right to vote in an election for Federal office pursuant to the Democracy Restoration Act of 2021; and

(ii) may register to vote in any such election; and

(B) shall be provided with any materials that are necessary to register to vote in any such election.

(2) DATE OF NOTIFICATION.—
(A) **Felony Conviction.**—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a felony, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given—

(i) in the case of an individual who is sentenced to serve only a term of probation, by the Assistant Director for the Office of Probation and Pretrial Services of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts on the date on which the individual is sentenced; or

(ii) in the case of any individual committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, by the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, during the period beginning on the date that is 6 months before such individual is released and ending on the date such individual is released from the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

(B) **Misdemeanor Conviction.**—In the case of such an individual who has been convicted of a misdemeanor, the notification required under paragraph (1) shall be given on the date on which such individual is sentenced by a court established by an Act of Congress.
SEC. 1406. DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subtitle:

(1) CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION OR FACILITY.—The term “correctional institution or facility” means any prison, penitentiary, jail, or other institution or facility for the confinement of individuals convicted of criminal offenses, whether publicly or privately operated, except that such term does not include any residential community treatment center (or similar public or private facility).

(2) ELECTION.—The term “election” means—

(A) a general, special, primary, or runoff election;

(B) a convention or caucus of a political party held to nominate a candidate;

(C) a primary election held for the selection of delegates to a national nominating convention of a political party; or

(D) a primary election held for the expression of a preference for the nomination of persons for election to the office of President.

(3) FEDERAL OFFICE.—The term “Federal office” means the office of President or Vice President of the United States, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress of the United States.
(4) PROBATION.—The term “probation” means probation, imposed by a Federal, State, or local court, with or without a condition on the individual involved concerning—

(A) the individual’s freedom of movement;

(B) the payment of damages by the individual;

(C) periodic reporting by the individual to an officer of the court; or

(D) supervision of the individual by an officer of the court.

SEC. 1407. RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.

(a) STATE LAWS RELATING TO VOTING RIGHTS.—Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to prohibit the States from enacting any State law which affords the right to vote in any election for Federal office on terms less restrictive than those established by this subtitle.

(b) CERTAIN FEDERAL ACTS.—The rights and remedies established by this subtitle—

(1) are in addition to all other rights and remedies provided by law, and

(2) shall not supersede, restrict, or limit the application of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) or the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).
SEC. 1408. FEDERAL PRISON FUNDS.

No State, unit of local government, or other person may receive or use, to construct or otherwise improve a prison, jail, or other place of incarceration, any Federal funds unless that person has in effect a program under which each individual incarcerated in that person’s jurisdiction who is a citizen of the United States is notified, upon release from such incarceration, of that individual’s rights under section 1403.

SEC. 1409. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall apply to citizens of the United States voting in any election for Federal office held after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle F—Promoting Accuracy, Integrity, and Security Through Voter-Verifiable Permanent Paper Ballot

SEC. 1501. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2021”.

SEC. 1502. PAPER BALLOT AND MANUAL COUNTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) PAPER BALLOT REQUIREMENT.—
“(A) VOTER-VERIFIABLE PAPER BALLOTS.—

“(i) PAPER BALLOT REQUIREMENT.—

(I) The voting system shall require the use of an individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballot of the voter’s vote selections that shall be marked by the voter and presented to the voter for physical verification before the voter’s ballot is preserved in accordance with clause (ii), and which shall be counted by hand or other counting device or read by a ballot tabulation device. For purposes of this subclause, the term ‘individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballot’ means a paper ballot marked by the voter by hand or a paper ballot marked through the use of a nontabulating ballot marking device or system, so long as the voter shall have the option at every in-person voting location to mark by hand a printed ballot that includes all relevant contests and candidates.

“(II) The voting system shall provide the voter with an opportunity to correct any error on the paper ballot before the
permanent voter-verifiable paper ballot is preserved in accordance with clause (ii).

“(III) The voting system shall not preserve the voter-verifiable paper ballots in any manner that makes it possible, at any time after the ballot has been cast, to associate a voter with the record of the voter’s vote selections.

“(IV) The voting system shall prevent, through mechanical means or through independently verified protections, the modification or addition of vote selections on a printed or marked ballot at any time after the voter has been provided an opportunity to correct errors on the ballot pursuant to subclause (II).

“(ii) PRESERVATION AS OFFICIAL RECORD.—The individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballot used in accordance with clause (i) shall constitute the official ballot and shall be preserved and used as the official ballot for purposes of any recount or audit conducted with respect to any election for Federal office in which the voting system is used.
“(iii) Manual counting requirements for recounts and audits.—(I)
Each paper ballot used pursuant to clause (i) shall be suitable for a manual audit, and such ballots, or at least those ballots the machine could not count, shall be counted by hand in any recount or audit conducted with respect to any election for Federal office.

“(II) In the event of any inconsistencies or irregularities between any electronic vote tallies and the vote tallies determined by counting by hand the individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballots used pursuant to clause (i), and subject to subparagraph (B), the individual, durable, voter-verifiable paper ballots shall be the true and correct record of the votes cast.

“(iv) Application to all ballots.—The requirements of this subparagraph shall apply to all ballots cast in elections for Federal office, including ballots cast by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters under the Uniformed
and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act
and other absentee voters.

“(v) Sense of Congress.—It is the
sense of Congress that as innovation oc-
curs in the election infrastructure sector,
Congress should ensure that this Act and
other Federal requirements for voting sys-
tems are updated to keep pace with best
practices and recommendations for security
and accessibility.

“(B) Special rule for treatment of
disputes when paper ballots have been
shown to be compromised.—

“(i) In general.—In the event
that—

“(I) there is any inconsistency
between any electronic vote tallies and
the vote tallies determined by count-
ing by hand the individual, durable,
voter-verifiable paper ballots used pur-
suant to subparagraph (A)(i) with re-
spect to any election for Federal of-
ce; and

“(II) it is demonstrated by clear
and convincing evidence (as deter-
mined in accordance with the applicable standards in the jurisdiction involved) in any recount, audit, or contest of the result of the election that the paper ballots have been compromised (by damage or mischief or otherwise) and that a sufficient number of the ballots have been so compromised that the result of the election could be changed,

the determination of the appropriate remedy with respect to the election shall be made in accordance with applicable State and Federal law, except that the electronic tally shall not be used as the exclusive basis for determining the official certified result.

“(ii) Rule for consideration of ballots associated with each voting machine.—For purposes of clause (i), only the paper ballots deemed compromised, if any, shall be considered in the calculation of whether or not the result of the election could be changed due to the compromised paper ballots.”.
(b) Conforming Amendment Clarifying Applicability of Alternative Language Accessibility.—

Section 301(a)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(4)) is amended by inserting "(including the paper ballots required to be used under paragraph (2))" after "voting system".

(c) Other Conforming Amendments.—Section 301(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking "counted" and inserting "counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)";

(2) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking "counted" and inserting "counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)";

(3) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking "counted" each place it appears and inserting "counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)"; and

(4) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "counted" and inserting "counted, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3)".
SEC. 1503. ACCESSIBILITY AND BALLOT VERIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The voting system shall—

“(i) be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters;

“(ii)(I) ensure that individuals with disabilities and others are given an equivalent opportunity to vote, including with privacy and independence, in a manner that produces a voter-verifiable paper ballot; and

“(II) satisfy the requirement of clause (i) through the use at in-person polling locations of a sufficient number (not less than one) of voting systems equipped to
serve individuals with and without disabilities, including nonvisual and enhanced visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, and nonmanual and enhanced manual accessibility for the mobility and dexterity impaired; and

“(iii) if purchased with funds made available under title II on or after January 1, 2007, meet the voting system standards for disability access (as outlined in this paragraph).

“(B) MEANS OF MEETING REQUIREMENTS.—A voting system may meet the requirements of subparagraph (A)(i) and paragraph (2)(A) by—

“(i) allowing the voter to privately and independently verify the permanent paper ballot through the presentation, in accessible form, of the printed or marked vote selections from the same printed or marked information that would be used for any vote tabulation or auditing;

“(ii) allowing the voter to privately and independently verify and cast the per-
manent paper ballot without requiring the voter to manually handle the paper ballot;

“(iii) marking ballots that are identical in size, ink, and paper stock to those ballots that would either be marked by hand or be marked by a ballot marking device made generally available to voters; and

“(iv) combining ballots produced by any ballot marking devices reserved for individuals with disabilities with ballots that have either been marked by voters by hand or marked by ballot marking devices made generally available to voters, in a way that prevents identification of the ballots that were cast using any ballot marking device that was reserved for individuals with disabilities.

“(C) SUFFICIENT NUMBER.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), the sufficient number of voting systems for any in-person polling location shall be determined based on guidance from the Attorney General, in consultation with the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board established under section 502(a)(1) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29
U.S.C. 792(a)(1)) (commonly referred to as the United States Access Board) and the Commission.”.

(b) Specific Requirement of Study, Testing, and Development of Accessible Voting Options.—

(1) Study and reporting.—Subtitle C of title II of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 247 as section 248; and

(B) by inserting after section 246 the following new section:

“SEC. 247. STUDY AND REPORT ON ACCESSIBLE VOTING OPTIONS.

“(a) Grants to Study and Report.—The Commission, in coordination with the Access Board and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, shall make grants to not fewer than 2 eligible entities to study, test, and develop—

“(1) accessible and secure remote voting systems;

“(2) voting, verification, and casting devices to enhance the accessibility of voting and verification for individuals with disabilities; or
“(3) both of the matters described in paragraph (1) and (2).

“(b) Eligibility.—An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this part if it submits to the Commission (at such time and in such form as the Commission may require) an application containing—

“(1) a certification that the entity shall complete the activities carried out with the grant not later than January 1, 2024; and

“(2) such other information and certifications as the Commission may require.

“(c) Availability of Technology.—Any technology developed with the grants made under this section shall be treated as non-proprietary and shall be made available to the public, including to manufacturers of voting systems.

“(d) Coordination With Grants for Technology Improvements.—The Commission shall carry out this section so that the activities carried out with the grants made under subsection (a) are coordinated with the research conducted under the grant program carried out by the Commission under section 271, to the extent that the Commission determine necessary to provide for the advancement of accessible voting technology.
“(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.”.

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(A) by redesignating the item relating to section 247 as relating to section 248; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 246 the following new item:

“Sec. 247. Study and report on accessible voting options.”.

(c) Clarification of Accessibility Standards Under Voluntary Voting System Guidance.—In adopting any voluntary guidance under subtitle B of title III of the Help America Vote Act with respect to the accessibility of the paper ballot verification requirements for individuals with disabilities, the Election Assistance Commission shall include and apply the same accessibility standards applicable under the voluntary guidance adopted for accessible voting systems under such subtitle.

(d) Permitting Use of Funds for Protection and Advocacy Systems To Support Actions To Enforce Election-Related Disability Access.—Section 292(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21062(a)) is amended by striking “; except that” and all that follows and inserting a period.
SEC. 1504. DURABILITY AND READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS.

Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(7) DURABILITY AND READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS.—

“(A) DURABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PAPER BALLOTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—All voter-verifiable paper ballots required to be used under this Act shall be marked or printed on durable paper.

“(ii) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, paper is ‘durable’ if it is capable of withstanding multiple counts and recounts by hand without compromising the fundamental integrity of the ballots, and capable of retaining the information marked or printed on them for the full duration of a retention and preservation period of 22 months.

“(B) READABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PAPER BALLOTS MARKED BY BALLOT MARKING DEVICE.—All voter-verifiable paper ballots completed by the voter through the use of a ballot
marking device shall be clearly readable by the voter without assistance (other than eyeglasses or other personal vision enhancing devices) and by a ballot tabulation device or other device equipped for individuals with disabilities.”.

SEC. 1505. STUDY AND REPORT ON OPTIMAL BALLOT DESIGN.

(a) Study.—The Election Assistance Commission shall conduct a study of the best ways to design ballots used in elections for public office, including paper ballots and electronic or digital ballots, to minimize confusion and user errors.

(b) Report.—Not later than January 1, 2022, the Election Assistance Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 1506. PAPER BALLOT PRINTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by section 1504, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) Printing requirements for ballots.—To the extent practical, all paper ballots used in an election for Federal office shall be printed in the United States on paper manufactured in the United States.”.
SEC. 1507. BALLOT MARKING DEVICE CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by sections 1504 and 1506, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) Prohibition of use of wireless communications devices in systems or devices.—No system or device upon which ballot marking devices or ballot tabulation devices are configured, upon which ballots are marked by voters (except as necessary for individuals with disabilities to use ballot marking devices that meet the accessibility requirements of paragraph (3)), or upon which votes are cast, tabulated, or aggregated shall contain, use, or be accessible by any wireless, power-line, or concealed communication device.

“(10) Prohibiting connection of system to the internet.—No system or device upon which ballot marking devices or ballot tabulation devices are configured, upon which ballots are marked by voters, or upon which votes are cast, tabulated, or aggregated shall be connected to the internet or any non-local computer system via telephone or other communication network at any time.”.
SEC. 1508. EFFECTIVE DATE FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS.

Section 301(d) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section on and after January 1, 2006.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), the requirements of this section which are first imposed on a State or jurisdiction pursuant to the amendments made by the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2021 shall apply with respect to voting systems used for any election for Federal office held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

“(B) DELAY FOR JURISDICTIONS USING CERTAIN PAPER RECORD PRINTERS OR CERTAIN SYSTEMS USING OR PRODUCING VOTER-VERIFIABLE PAPER RECORDS IN 2020.—

“(i) DELAY.—In the case of a jurisdiction described in clause (ii), subparagraph (A) shall apply to a voting system in
the jurisdiction as if the reference in such subparagraph to ‘2022’ were a reference to ‘the applicable year’, but only with respect to the following requirements of this section:

“(I) Paragraph (2)(A)(i)(I) of subsection (a) (relating to the use of voter-verifiable paper ballots).

“(II) Paragraph (7) of subsection (a) (relating to durability and readability requirements for ballots).

“(ii) JURISDICTIONS DESCRIBED.—A jurisdiction described in this clause is a jurisdiction—

“(I) which used voter-verifiable paper record printers attached to direct recording electronic voting machines, or which used other voting systems that used or produced paper records of the vote verifiable by voters but that are not in compliance with paragraphs (2)(A)(i)(I) and (7) of subsection (a) (as amended or added by the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2021), for
the administration of the regularly
scheduled general election for Federal
office held in November 2020; and

“(II) which will continue to use
such printers or systems for the ad-
ministration of elections for Federal
office held in years before the applica-
ble year.

“(iii) APPLICABLE YEAR.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as
provided in subclause (II), the term
‘applicable year’ means 2026.

“(II) EXTENSION.—If a State or
jurisdiction certifies to the Commis-
sion not later than January 1, 2026,
that the State or jurisdiction will not
meet the requirements described in
subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) by
such date because it would be imprac-
tical to do so and includes in the cer-
tification the reasons for the failure to
meet the deadline, the term ‘applica-
ble year’ means 2030.

“(iv) MANDATORY AVAILABILITY OF
PAPER BALLOTS AT POLLING PLACES
USING GRANDFATHERED PRINTERS AND SYSTEMS.—

“(I) REQUIRING BALLOTS TO BE OFFERED AND PROVIDED.—The appropriate election official at each polling place that uses a printer or system described in clause (ii)(I) for the administration of elections for Federal office shall offer each individual who is eligible to cast a vote in the election at the polling place the opportunity to cast the vote using a blank printed paper ballot which the individual may mark by hand and which is not produced by the direct recording electronic voting machine or other such system. The official shall provide the individual with the ballot and the supplies necessary to mark the ballot, and shall ensure (to the greatest extent practicable) that the waiting period for the individual to cast a vote is the lesser of 30 minutes or the average waiting period for an individual who
does not agree to cast the vote using such a paper ballot under this clause.

“(II) Treatment of Ballot.— Any paper ballot which is cast by an individual under this clause shall be counted and otherwise treated as a regular ballot for all purposes (including by incorporating it into the final unofficial vote count (as defined by the State) for the precinct) and not as a provisional ballot, unless the individual casting the ballot would have otherwise been required to cast a provisional ballot.

“(III) Posting of Notice.— The appropriate election official shall ensure there is prominently displayed at each polling place a notice that describes the obligation of the official to offer individuals the opportunity to cast votes using a printed blank paper ballot. The notice shall take into consideration factors including the linguistic preferences of voters in the jurisdiction.
“(IV) Training of election officials.—The chief State election official shall ensure that election officials at polling places in the State are aware of the requirements of this clause, including the requirement to display a notice under subclause (III), and are aware that it is a violation of the requirements of this title for an election official to fail to offer an individual the opportunity to cast a vote using a blank printed paper ballot.

“(V) Period of applicability.—The requirements of this clause apply only during the period in which the delay is in effect under clause (i).

“(C) Delay for certain jurisdictions using voting systems with wireless communication devices or internet connections.—

“(i) Delay.—In the case of a jurisdiction described in clause (ii), subparagraph (A) shall apply to a voting system in the jurisdiction as if the reference in such
subparagraph to ‘2022’ were a reference to ‘the applicable year’, but only with respect to the following requirements of this section.

“(I) Paragraph (9) of subsection (a) (relating to prohibition of wireless communication devices)

“(II) Paragraph (10) of subsection (a) (relating to prohibition of connecting systems to the internet)

“(ii) JURISDICTIONS DESCRIBED.—A jurisdiction described in this clause is a jurisdiction—

“(I) which used a voting system which is not in compliance with paragraphs (9) or (10) of subsection (a) (as amended or added by the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2021) for the administration of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020; and

“(II) which will continue to use such printers or systems for the administration of elections for Federal
office held in years before the applicable year.

“(iii) APPLICABLE YEAR.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the term ‘applicable year’ means 2026.

“(II) EXTENSION.—If a State or jurisdiction certifies to the Commission not later than January 1, 2026, that the State or jurisdiction will not meet the requirements described in subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i) by such date because it would be impractical to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet the deadline, the term ‘applicable year’ means 2030.”.

Subtitle G—Provisional Ballots

SEC. 1601. REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS; ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM AND NONDISCRIMINATORY STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (f); and
(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsections:

“(d) COUNTING OF Provisional Ballots.—

“(1) In General.—For purposes of subsection (a)(4), if a provisional ballot is cast within the same county in which the voter is registered or otherwise eligible to vote, then notwithstanding the precinct or polling place at which a provisional ballot is cast within the county, the appropriate election official of the jurisdiction in which the individual is registered or otherwise eligible to vote shall count each vote on such ballot for each election in which the individual who cast such ballot is eligible to vote.

“(2) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a State or jurisdiction from counting a provisional ballot which is cast in a different county within the State than the county in which the voter is registered or otherwise eligible to vote.

“(3) Effective Date.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.

“(e) Uniform and Nondiscriminatory Standards.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with the requirements of this section, each State shall establish uniform and nondiscriminatory standards for the issuance, handling, and counting of provisional ballots.

“(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 302(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21082(f)), as redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by striking “Each State” and inserting “Except as provided in subsections (d)(3) and (e)(2), each State”.

Subtitle H—Early Voting

SEC. 1611. EARLY VOTING.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), and section 1104(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 310 and 311 as sections 311 and 312, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 309 the following new section:
“SEC. 310. EARLY VOTING.

“(a) Requiring Voting Prior to Date of Election.—Each State shall allow individuals to vote in an election for Federal office during an early voting period which occurs prior to the date of the election, in a manner that allows the individual to receive, complete, and cast their ballot in-person.

“(b) Minimum Early Voting Requirements.—

“(1) In general.—

“(A) Length of period.—The early voting period required under this subsection with respect to an election shall consist of a period of consecutive days (including weekends) which begins on the 15th day before the date of the election (or, at the option of the State, on a day prior to the 15th day before the date of the election) and ends no earlier than the second day before the date of the election.

“(B) Hours for early voting.—Each polling place which allows voting during an early voting period under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) allow such voting for no less than 10 hours on each day during the period;

“(ii) have uniform hours each day for which such voting occurs; and
“(iii) allow such voting to be held for some period of time prior to 9:00 a.m (local time) and some period of time after 5:00 p.m. (local time).

“(2) Requirements for vote-by-mail jurisdictions.—In the case of a jurisdiction that sends every registered voter a ballot by mail—

“(A) paragraph (1) shall not apply;

“(B) such jurisdiction shall allow eligible individuals to vote during an early voting period that ensures voters are provided the greatest opportunity to cast ballots ahead of election day and which includes at least one consecutive Saturday and Sunday; and

“(C) each polling place which allows voting during an early voting period under subparagraph (B) shall allow such voting—

“(i) during the election office’s regular business hours; and

“(ii) for a period of not less than 8 hours on Saturdays and Sundays included in the early voting period.

“(3) Requirements for small jurisdictions.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a jurisdiction described in subparagraph (B)—

“(i) paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply; and

“(ii) each polling place which allows voting during the early voting period described in paragraph (1)(A) shall allow such voting—

“(I) during the election office’s regular business hours; and

“(II) for a period of not less than 8 hours on Saturdays and Sundays included in the early voting period.

“(B) JURISDICTION DESCRIBED.—A jurisdiction is described in this subparagraph if such jurisdiction—

“(i) had less than 3,000 registered voters at the time of the most recent prior election for Federal office; and

“(ii) consists of a geographic area that is smaller than the jurisdiction of the county in which such jurisdiction is located.

“(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—
“(A) to limit the availability of additional temporary voting sites which provide voters more opportunities to cast their ballots but which do not meet the requirements of this subsection;

“(B) to limit a polling place from being open for additional hours outside of the uniform hours set for the polling location on any day of the early voting period; or

“(C) to limit a State or jurisdiction from offering early voting on the Monday before election day.

“(e) Location of Polling Places.—

“(1) Proximity to Public Transportation.—To the greatest extent practicable, each State and jurisdiction shall ensure that each polling place which allows voting during an early voting period under subsection (b) is located within walking distance of a stop on a public transportation route.

“(2) Availability in Rural Areas.—In the case of a jurisdiction that includes a rural area, the State or jurisdiction shall—

“(A) ensure that polling places which allow voting during an early voting period under sub-
section (b) will be located in such rural areas; and

“(B) ensure that such polling places are located in communities which will provide the greatest opportunity for residents of rural areas to vote during the early voting period.

“(3) COLLEGE CAMPUSES.—In the case of a jurisdiction that includes an institution of higher education, the State or jurisdiction shall—

“(A) ensure that an appropriate number of polling places which allow voting during the early voting period under subsection (b) will be located on the campus of the institution of higher education; and

“(B) ensure that such polling places provide the greatest opportunity for residents of the jurisdiction to vote.

“(d) STANDARDS.—Not later than June 30, 2022, the Commission shall issue voluntary standards for the administration of voting during voting periods which occur prior to the date of a Federal election. Subject to subsection (e), such voluntary standards shall include the nondiscriminatory geographic placement of polling places at which such voting occurs.
“(e) Ballot Processing and Scanning Requirements.—

“(1) In General.—Each State or jurisdiction shall begin processing and scanning ballots cast during in-person early voting for tabulation not later than the date that is 14 days prior to the date of the election involved, except that a State may begin processing and scanning ballots cast during in-person early voting for tabulation after such date if the date on which the State begins such processing and scanning ensures, to the greatest extent practical, that ballots cast before the date of the election are processed and scanned before the date of the election.

“(2) Limitation.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

“(A) to permit a State to tabulate ballots in an election before the closing of the polls on the date of the election unless such tabulation is a necessary component of preprocessing in the State and is performed in accordance with existing State law; or

“(B) to permit an official to make public any results of tabulation and processing before
the closing of the polls on the date of the election.

“(f) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.”.

(b) Conforming Amendments Relating to Issuance of Voluntary Guidance by Election Assistance Commission.—Section 321(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as redesignated and amended by section 1101(b), is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) except as provided in paragraph (4), in the case of the recommendations with respect to any section added by the For the People Act of 2021, June 30, 2022.”.

(c) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), and section 1104(c), is amended—
Subtitle I—Voting by Mail

SEC. 1621. VOTING BY MAIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), and section 1611(a), is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 311 and 312 as sections 312 and 313, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after section 310 the following new section:

“SEC. 311. PROMOTING ABILITY OF VOTERS TO VOTE BY MAIL.

“(a) UNIFORM AVAILABILITY OF ABSENTEE VOTING TO ALL VOTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If an individual in a State is eligible to cast a vote in an election for Federal office, the State may not impose any additional con-
ditions or requirements on the eligibility of the indi-
vidual to cast the vote in such election by absentee
ballot by mail.

“(2) ADMINISTRATION OF VOTING BY MAIL.—

“(A) PROHIBITING IDENTIFICATION RE-
QUIREMENT AS CONDITION OF OBTAINING BAL-
LOT.—A State may not require an individual to
provide any form of identification as a condition
of obtaining an absentee ballot, except that
nothing in this subparagraph may be construed
to prevent a State from requiring—

“(i) identifying information as part of
a voter registration application (including
the voter’s date of birth or the last four
digits of the voter’s social security num-
ber); or

“(ii) a signature of the individual or
similar affirmation as a condition of ob-
taining an absentee ballot.

“(B) PROHIBITING REQUIREMENT TO PRO-
VIDE NOTARIZATION OR WITNESS SIGNATURE
AS CONDITION OF OBTAINING OR CASTING BAL-
LOT.—A State may not require notarization or
witness signature or other formal authentica-
tion (other than voter attestation) as a condi-
tion of obtaining or casting an absentee ballot, except that nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to prohibit a State from enforcing a law which has a witness signature requirement for a ballot where a voter oath is attested to with a mark rather than a voter’s signature.

“(3) No effect on identification requirements for first-time voters registering by mail.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to exempt any individual described in paragraph (1) of section 303(b) from meeting the requirements of paragraph (2) of such section or to exempt an individual described in paragraph (5)(A) of section 303(b) from meeting the requirements of paragraph (5)(B).

“(b) Due process requirements for States requiring signature verification.—

“(1) Requirement.—

“(A) In general.—A State may not impose a signature verification requirement as a condition of accepting and counting a mail-in ballot or absentee ballot submitted by any individual with respect to an election for Federal office unless the State meets the due process requirements described in paragraph (2).
“(B) Signature verification requirement described.—In this subsection, a ‘signature verification requirement’ is a requirement that an election official verify the identification of an individual by comparing the individual’s signature on the mail-in ballot or absentee ballot with the individual’s signature on the official list of registered voters in the State or another official record or other document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters.

“(2) Due process requirements.—

“(A) Notice and opportunity to cure discrepancy in signatures.—If an individual submits a mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot and the appropriate State or local election official determines that a discrepancy exists between the signature on such ballot and the signature of such individual on the official list of registered voters in the State or other official record or document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters, such election official, prior to making a final determination as to the validity of such ballot, shall—
“(i) as soon as practical, but no later than the next business day after such determination is made, make a good faith effort to notify the individual by mail, telephone, and (if available) text message and electronic mail that—

“(I) a discrepancy exists between the signature on such ballot and the signature of the individual on the official list of registered voters in the State or other official record or document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters; and

“(II) if such discrepancy is not cured prior to the expiration of the third day following the State’s deadline for receiving mail-in ballots or absentee ballots, such ballot will not be counted; and

“(ii) cure such discrepancy and count the ballot if, prior to the expiration of the third day following the State’s deadline for receiving mail-in ballots or absentee ballots, the individual provides the official with information to cure such discrepancy,
either in person, by telephone, or by electronic methods.

“(B) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE MISSING SIGNATURE OR OTHER DEFECT.—If an individual submits a mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot without a signature or submits a mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot with another defect which, if left uncured, would cause the ballot to not be counted, the appropriate State or local election official, prior to making a final determination as to the validity of the ballot, shall—

“(i) as soon as practical, but no later than the next business day after such determination is made, make a good faith effort to notify the individual by mail, telephone, and (if available) text message and electronic mail that—

“(I) the ballot did not include a signature or has some other defect; and

“(II) if the individual does not provide the missing signature or cure the other defect prior to the expiration of the third day following the
State’s deadline for receiving mail-in
ballots or absentee ballots, such ballot
will not be counted; and
“(ii) count the ballot if, prior to the
expiration of the third day following the
State’s deadline for receiving mail-in bal-
lots or absentee ballots, the individual pro-
vides the official with the missing signa-
ture on a form proscribed by the State or
cures the other defect.

This subparagraph does not apply with respect
to a defect consisting of the failure of a ballot
to meet the applicable deadline for the accept-
ance of the ballot, as described in subsection
(e).

“(C) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—
“(i) IN GENERAL.—An election official
may not make a determination that a dis-
crepancy exists between the signature on a
mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot and the
signature of the individual who submits the
ballot on the official list of registered vot-
ers in the State or other official record or
other document used by the State to verify
the signatures of voters unless—
“(I) at least 2 election officials make the determination;

“(II) each official who makes the determination has received training in procedures used to verify signatures; and

“(III) of the officials who make the determination, at least one is affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State and at least one is affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the second most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i)(III) shall not apply to any State in which, under a law that is in effect continuously on and after the date of enactment of this section, determinations regarding signature discrepancies are made by election officials who are not affiliated with a political party.
“(3) Report.—

“(A) In general.—Not later than 120 days after the end of a Federal election cycle, each chief State election official shall submit to the Commission a report containing the following information for the applicable Federal election cycle in the State:

“(i) The number of ballots invalidated due to a discrepancy under this subsection.

“(ii) Description of attempts to contact voters to provide notice as required by this subsection.

“(iii) Description of the cure process developed by such State pursuant to this subsection, including the number of ballots determined valid as a result of such process.

“(B) Submission to Congress.—Not later than 10 days after receiving a report under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall transmit such report to Congress.

“(C) Federal election cycle defined.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'Federal election cycle' means, with respect to any regularly scheduled election for
Federal office, the period beginning on the day after the date of the preceding regularly scheduled general election for Federal office and ending on the date of such regularly scheduled general election.

“(4) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

“(A) to prohibit a State from rejecting a ballot attempted to be cast in an election for Federal office by an individual who is not eligible to vote in the election; or

“(B) to prohibit a State from providing an individual with more time and more methods for curing a discrepancy in the individual’s signature, providing a missing signature, or curing any other defect than the State is required to provide under this subsection.

“(c) Applications for absentee ballots.—

“(1) In general.—In addition to such other methods as the State may establish for an individual to apply for an absentee ballot, each State shall permit an individual to submit an application for an absentee ballot online.

“(2) Treatment of websites.—A State shall be considered to meet the requirements of paragraph
(1) if the website of the appropriate State or local election official allows an application for an absentee ballot to be completed and submitted online and if the website permits the individual—

“(A) to print the application so that the individual may complete the application and return it to the official; or

“(B) to request that a paper copy of the application be transmitted to the individual by mail or electronic mail so that the individual may complete the application and return it to the official.

“(3) ENSURING DELIVERY PRIOR TO ELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If an individual who is eligible to vote in an election for Federal office submits an application for an absentee ballot in the election and such application is received by the appropriate State or local election official not later than the date that is 5 days before the applicable date, the election official shall ensure that the ballot and related voting materials are promptly mailed to the individual.

“(B) APPLICATIONS RECEIVED CLOSE TO ELECTION DAY.—If an individual who is eligible
to vote in an election for Federal office submits an application for an absentee ballot in the election and such application is received by the appropriate State or local election official after the date described in subparagraph (A) but not later than the applicable date, the election official shall, to the greatest extent practical, ensure that the ballot and related voting materials are mailed to the individual within 1 business day of the receipt of the application.

“(C) Applicable date.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘applicable date’ means, with respect to any election for Federal office, the date that is 7 days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) before the date of the election.

“(D) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude a State or local jurisdiction from allowing for the acceptance and processing of absentee ballot applications submitted or received after the applicable date.

“(4) Application for all future elections.—At the option of an individual, a State shall treat the individual’s application to vote by absentee ballot by mail in an election for Federal office as an
application for an absentee ballot by mail in all subsequent Federal elections held in the State.

“(d) Accessibility for Individuals With Disabilities.—Each State shall ensure that all absentee ballot applications, absentee ballots, and related voting materials in elections for Federal office are accessible to individuals with disabilities in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including with privacy and independence) as for other voters.

“(e) Uniform Deadline for Acceptance of Mailed Ballots.—

“(1) In general.—A State or local election official may not refuse to accept or process a ballot submitted by an individual by mail with respect to an election for Federal office in the State on the grounds that the individual did not meet a deadline for returning the ballot to the appropriate State or local election official if—

“(A) the ballot is postmarked or otherwise indicated by the United States Postal Service to have been mailed on or before the date of the election, or has been signed by the voter on or before the date of the election; and

“(B) the ballot is received by the appropriate election official prior to the expiration of
the 7-day period which begins on the date of
the election.

“(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a State
from having a law that allows for counting of ballots
in an election for Federal office that are received
through the mail after the date that is 7 days after
the date of the election.

“(f) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF RETURNING BAL-
LOTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to permitting
an individual to whom a ballot in an election was
provided under this section to return the ballot to an
election official by mail, each State shall permit the
individual to cast the ballot by delivering the ballot
at such times and to such locations as the State may
establish, including—

“(A) permitting the individual to deliver
the ballot to a polling place within the jurisdict-
ion in which the individual is registered or oth-
erwise eligible to vote on any date on which vot-
ing in the election is held at the polling place;
and

“(B) permitting the individual to deliver
the ballot to a designated ballot drop-off loca-
tion, a tribally designated building, or the office of a State or local election official.

“(2) Permitting voters to designate other person to return ballot.—A State—

“(A) shall permit a voter to designate any person to return a voted and sealed absentee ballot to the post office, a ballot drop-off location, tribally designated building, or election office so long as the person designated to return the ballot does not receive any form of compensation based on the number of ballots that the person has returned and no individual, group, or organization provides compensation on this basis; and

“(B) may not put any limit on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return to the post office, a ballot drop-off location, tribally designated building, or election office.

“(g) Ballot Processing and Scanning Requirements.—

“(1) In general.—Each State or jurisdiction shall begin processing and scanning ballots cast by mail for tabulation not later than the date that is 14 days prior to the date of the election involved, except
that a State may begin processing and scanning ballots cast by mail for tabulation after such date if the date on which the State begins such processing and scanning ensures, to the greatest extent practical, that ballots cast before the date of the election are processed and scanned before the date of the election.

“(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

“(A) to permit a State to tabulate ballots in an election before the closing of the polls on the date of the election unless such tabulation is a necessary component of preprocessing in the State and is performed in accordance with existing State law; or

“(B) to permit an official to make public any results of tabulation and processing before the closing of the polls on the date of the election.

“(h) PROHIBITING CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO VOTING MATERIALS.—

“(1) DISTRIBUTION OF ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS BY THIRD PARTIES.—A State may not prohibit any person from providing an application
for an absentee ballot in the election to any individual who is eligible to vote in the election.

“(2) UNSOLICITED PROVISION OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS BY ELECTION OFFICIALS.—A State may not prohibit an election official from providing an unsolicited application to register to vote in an election for Federal office to any individual who is eligible to register to vote in the election.

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority of States to conduct elections for Federal office through the use of polling places at which individuals cast ballots.

“(j) NO EFFECT ON BALLOTS SUBMITTED BY ABSENT MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTERS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the treatment of any ballot submitted by an individual who is entitled to vote by absentee ballot under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

“(k) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section
section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), section 1104(c), and section 1611(c), is amended—

(A) by redesignating the items relating to sections 311 and 312 as relating to sections 312 and 313, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 310 the following new item:

“Sec. 311. Promoting ability of voters to vote by mail.”.

(b) SAME-DAY PROCESSING OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 3407. Same-day processing of ballots

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Postal Service shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that any ballot carried by the Postal Service is processed by and cleared from any postal facility or post office on the same day that the ballot is received by that facility or post office.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

“(1) the term ‘ballot’ means any ballot transmitted by a voter by mail in an election for Federal office, but does not include any ballot covered by section 3406; and
“(2) the term ‘election for Federal office’ means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.”.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3407. Same-day processing of ballots.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to absentee ballots relating to an election for Federal office occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE VERIFICATION METHODS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS.—The National Institute of Standards, in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, shall develop standards for the use of alternative methods which could be used in place of signature verification requirements for purposes of verifying the identification of an individual voting by mail-in or absentee ballot in elections for Federal office.

(2) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—The National Institute of Standards shall solicit comments
from the public in the development of standards
under paragraph (1).

(3) DEADLINE.—Not later than 2 years after
the date of the enactment of this Act, the National
Institute of Standards shall publish the standards
developed under paragraph (1).

SEC. 1622. BALOTTING MATERIALS TRACKING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—Subtitle A of title III of
the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C.
21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), sec-
tion 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), sec-
tion 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), and
section 1621(a), is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 312 and 313
as sections 313 and 314, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after section 311 the fol-
lowing new section:

“SEC. 312. BALLOT MATERIALS TRACKING PROGRAM.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each State shall carry out a
program to track and confirm the receipt of mail-in ballots
and absentee ballots in an election for Federal office under
which the State or local election official responsible for the
receipt of such voted ballots in the election carries out pro-
cedures to track and confirm the receipt of such ballots,
and makes information on the receipt of such ballots available to the individual who cast the ballot.

“(b) MEANS OF CARRYING OUT PROGRAM.—A State may meet the requirements of subsection (a)—

“(1) through a program—

“(A) which is established by the State;

“(B) under which the State or local election official responsible for the receipt of voted mail-in ballots and voted absentee ballots in the election—

“(i) carries out procedures to track and confirm the receipt of such ballots; and

“(ii) makes information on the receipt of such ballots available to the individual who cast the ballot; and

“(C) which meets the requirements of subsection (c); or

“(2) through the ballot materials tracking service established under section 1622(b) of the For the People Act of 2021.

“(c) STATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of this subsection are as follows:

“(1) INFORMATION ON WHETHER VOTE WAS ACCEPTED.—The information referred to under sub-
section (b)(1)(B)(ii) with respect to the receipt of
mail-in ballot or an absentee ballot shall include in-
formation regarding whether the vote cast on the
ballot was accepted, and, in the case of a vote which
was rejected, the reasons therefor.

“(2) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—Informa-
tion on whether a ballot was accepted or rejected
shall be available within 1 business day of the State
accepting or rejecting the ballot.

“(3) ACCESSIBILITY OF INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
under subparagraph (B), the information pro-
vided under the program shall be available by
means of online access using the internet site of
the State or local election office.

“(B) USE OF TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE
NUMBER BY OFFICIALS WITHOUT INTERNET
SITE.—In the case of a State or local election
official whose office does not have an internet
site, the program shall require the official to es-
establish a toll-free telephone number that may be
used by an individual who cast an absentee bal-
lot to obtain the information required under
subsection (b)(1)(B).
“(d) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2024 and each succeeding election for Federal office.”.

(2) Conforming Amendments.—Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)) is amended by striking subsection (h) and redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h).

(b) Balloting Materials Tracking Service.—

(1) In General.—Not later than January 1, 2024, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Chair of the Election Assistance Commission, the Postmaster General, the Director of the General Services Administration, the Presidential designee, and State election officials, shall establish a balloting materials tracking service to be used by State and local jurisdictions to inform voters on the status of voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, absentee ballots, and mail-in ballots.

(2) Information Tracked.—The balloting materials tracking service established under paragraph (1) shall provide to a voter the following information with respect to that voter:
(A) In the case of balloting materials sent by mail, tracking information from the United States Postal Service and the Presidential designee on balloting materials sent to the voter and, to the extent feasible, returned by the voter.

(B) The date on which any request by the voter for an application for voter registration or an absentee ballot was received.

(C) The date on which any such requested application was sent to the voter.

(D) The date on which any such completed application was received from the voter and the status of such application.

(E) The date on which any mail-in ballot or absentee ballot was sent to the voter.

(F) The date on which any mail-in ballot or absentee ballot was received by the voter.

(G) The date on which the post office processes the ballot.

(H) The date on which post office delivered the ballot to the election office.

(I) Whether such ballot was accepted and counted, and in the case of any ballot not
counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted.

The information described in subparagraph (I) shall be available not later than 1 day after a determination is made on whether or not to accept and count the ballot.

(3) Method of Providing Information.— The balloting materials tracking service established under paragraph (1) shall allow voters the option to receive the information described in paragraph (2) through email (or other electronic means) or through the mail.

(4) Prohibition on Fees.— The Director may not charge any fee to a State or jurisdiction for use of the balloting materials tracking service in connection with any Federal, State, or local election.

(5) Presidential Designee.— For purposes of this subsection, the term “Presidential designee” means the Presidential designee under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 30201).

(6) Authorization of Appropriations.— There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director such sums as are necessary for purposes of carrying out this subsection.
(c) Reimbursement for Costs Incurred by States in Establishing Program.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

“PART 7—PAYMENTS TO REIMBURSE STATES FOR COSTS INCURRED IN ESTABLISHING PROGRAM TO TRACK AND CONFIRM RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS

“SEC. 297. PAYMENTS TO STATES.

“(a) Payments for Costs of Program.—In accordance with this section, the Commission shall make a payment to a State to reimburse the State for the costs incurred in establishing the absentee ballot tracking program under section 312(b)(1) (including costs incurred prior to the date of the enactment of this part).

“(b) Certification of Compliance and Costs.—

“(1) Certification required.—In order to receive a payment under this section, a State shall submit to the Commission a statement containing—

“(A) a certification that the State has established an absentee ballot tracking program with respect to elections for Federal office held in the State; and
“(B) a statement of the costs incurred by

the State in establishing the program.

“(2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The amount of a

dayment made to a State under this section shall be

equal to the costs incurred by the State in estab-
lishing the absentee ballot tracking program, as set

forth in the statement submitted under paragraph

(1), except that such amount may not exceed the

product of—

“(A) the number of jurisdictions in the

State which are responsible for operating the

program; and

“(B) $3,000.

“(3) LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PAYMENTS RE-

ceived.—A State may not receive more than one

payment under this part.

“SEC. 297A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) Authorization.—There are authorized to be

appropriated to the Commission for fiscal year 2022 and

each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary

for payments under this part.

“(b) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any

amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under

this section shall remain available until expended.”
(d) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents
of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), 1056(b), section
1101(c), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), section
1104(c), section 1611(c), and section 1621(a), is amend-
ed—

(1) by adding at the end of the items relating
to subtitle D of title II the following:

"PART 7—Payments to Reimburse States for Costs Incurred in Estab-
lishing Program to Track and Confirm Receipt of Absentee
Ballots"

"Sec. 297. Payments to states.
"Sec. 297A. Authorization of appropriations.");

(2) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
tions 312 and 313 as relating to sections 313 and
314, respectively; and

(3) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
tion 311 the following new item:

"Sec. 312. Absentee ballot tracking program.");

SEC. 1623. ELECTION MAIL AND DELIVERY IMPROVE-
MENTS.

(a) Postmark Required for Ballots.—

(1) In General.—Chapter 34 of title 39,
United States Code, as amended by section 1621(b),
is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§3408. Postmark required for ballots

"(a) In General.—In the case of any absentee bal-
lot carried by the Postal Service, the Postal Service shall
indicate on the ballot envelope, using a postmark or otherwise—

“(1) the fact that the ballot was carried by the Postal Service; and

“(2) the date on which the ballot was mailed.

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

“(1) the term ‘absentee ballot’ means any ballot transmitted by a voter by mail in an election for Federal office, but does not include any ballot covered by section 3406; and

“(2) the term ‘election for Federal office’ means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.’’.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, as amended by section 1621(b), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3408. Postmark required for ballots.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to absentee ballots relating to an election for Federal office occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

(b) GREATER VISIBILITY FOR BALLOTS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), and section 1622(a), is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 313 and 314 as sections 314 and 315, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after section 312 the following new section:

“SEC. 313. BALLOT VISIBILITY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State or local election official shall—

“(1) affix Tag 191, Domestic and International Mail-In Ballots (or any successor tag designated by the United States Postal Service), to any tray or sack of official ballots relating to an election for Federal office that is destined for a domestic or international address;

“(2) use the Official Election Mail logo to designate official ballots relating to an election for Federal office that is destined for a domestic or international address; and

“(3) if an intelligent mail barcode is utilized for any official ballot relating to an election for Federal
office that is destined for a domestic or international address, ensure the specific ballot service type identifier for such mail is visible.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of this section shall apply to elections for Federal office occurring on and after January 1, 2022.”.

(2) VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE.—Section 321(b)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as added and redesignated by section 1101(b) and as amended by sections 1102, 1103 and 1104, is amended by striking “and 309” and inserting “309, and 313”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(e), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), section 1104(c), section 1611(c), section 1621(a), and section 1622(a), is amended—

(A) by redesignating the items relating to sections 313 and 314 as relating to sections 314 and 315; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 312 the following new item:

“Sec. 313. Ballot visibility.”.

SEC. 1624. CARRIAGE OF ELECTION MAIL.

(a) TREATMENT OF ELECTION MAIL.—
(1) Treatment as first-class mail; free postage.—Chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, as amended by section 1623(a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 3409. Domestic election mail; restriction of operational changes prior to elections"

“(a) Definition.—In this section, the term ‘election mail’ means—

“(1) a blank or completed voter registration application form, voter registration card, or similar materials, relating to an election for Federal office;

“(2) a blank or completed absentee and other mail-in ballot application form, and a blank or completed absentee or other mail-in ballot, relating to an election for Federal office, and

“(3) other materials relating to an election for Federal office that are mailed by a State or local election official to an individual who is registered to vote.

“(b) Carriage of election mail.—Election mail (other than balloting materials covered under section 3406 (relating to the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act), individually or in bulk, shall be carried—
“(1) in accordance with the service standards established for first-class mail under section 3691; and

“(2) free of postage.

“(c) Restriction of Operational Changes.—During the 120-day period which ends on the date of an election for Federal office, the Postal Service may not carry out any new operational change that would restrict the prompt and reliable delivery of election mail. This subsection applies to operational changes which include—

“(1) removing or eliminating any mail collection box without immediately replacing it; and

“(2) removing, decommissioning, or any other form of stopping the operation of mail sorting machines, other than for routine maintenance.

“(d) Election Mail Coordinator.—The Postal Service shall appoint an Election Mail Coordinator at each area office and district office to facilitate relevant information sharing with State, territorial, local, and Tribal election officials in regards to the mailing of election mail.”.

(2) Reimbursement of Postal Service for Revenue Forgone.—Section 2401(c) of title 39, United States Code, is amended by striking “sections 3217 and 3403 through 3406” and inserting “sections 3217, 3403 through 3406, and 3409”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

The table of sections for chapter 34 of title 39, United States Code, as amended by section 1623(a), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3409. Domestic election mail; restriction of operational changes prior to elections.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to election mail relating to an election for Federal office occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

Subtitle J—Absent Uniformed Services Voters and Overseas Voters

SEC. 1701. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON AVAILABILITY AND TRANSMISSION OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

Section 102(c) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) REPORTS ON AVAILABILITY, TRANSMISSION, AND RECEIPT OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS.—

“(1) PRE-ELECTION REPORT ON ABSENTEE BALLOT AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 55 days before any regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State shall submit a report to the Attorney General certifying that absentee ballots for the election are or will be available for trans-
mission to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters by not later than 46 days before the election. The report shall be in a form prescribed by the Attorney General and shall require the State to certify specific information about ballot availability from each unit of local government which will administer the election.

“(2) Pre-election report on absentee ballots transmitted.—

“(A) In general.—Not later than 43 days before any election for Federal office held in a State, the chief State election official of such State shall submit a report containing the information in subparagraph (B) to the Attorney General.

“(B) Information reported.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall consist of the following:

“(i) The total number of absentee ballots validly requested by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters whose requests were received by the 47th day before the election by each unit of local government within the State that will transmit absentee ballots.
“(ii) The total number of ballots transmitted to such voters by the 46th day before the election by each unit of local government within the State that will administer the election.

“(iii) Specific information about any late transmitted ballots.

“(C) REQUIREMENT TO SUPPLEMENT INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.—If the report under subparagraph (A) has incomplete information on any items required to be included in the report, the chief State election official shall make all reasonable efforts to expeditiously supplement the report with complete information.

“(D) FORMAT.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall be in a format prescribed by the Attorney General in consultation with the chief State election officials of each State.

“(3) POST-ELECTION REPORT ON NUMBER OF ABSENTEE BALLOTS TRANSMITTED AND RECEIVED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, each State and unit of local government which administered the election shall (through the State, in the case of a unit of local government) sub-
mit a report to the Election Assistance Commission
on the combined number of absentee ballots trans-
mitted to absent uniformed services voters and over-
seas voters for the election and the combined num-
ber of such ballots which were returned by such vot-
ers and cast in the election, and shall make such re-
port available to the general public that same day.”.

SEC. 1702. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF CIVIL PENALTIES AND PRI-
VATE RIGHTS OF ACTION.—Section 105 of the Uniformed
and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C.
20307) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 105. ENFORCEMENT.

“(a) ACTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may
bring civil action in an appropriate district court for
such declaratory or injunctive relief as may be nec-
essary to carry out this title.

“(2) PENALTY.—In a civil action brought under
paragraph (1), if the court finds that the State, a
local election official, or unit of local government vi-o-
lated any provision of this title, it may, to vindicate
the public interest, assess a civil penalty against the
State, local election official, or unit of local govern-
ment—
“(A) in an amount not to exceed $110,000 for each such violation, in the case of a first violation; or

“(B) in an amount not to exceed $220,000 for each such violation, for any subsequent violation.

“(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress an annual report on any civil action brought under paragraph (1) during the preceding year.

“(b) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—A person who is aggrieved by a violation of this title by a State, a local election official, or unit of local government may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declaratory or injunctive relief as may be necessary to carry out this title.

“(c) STATE AS ONLY NECESSARY DEFENDANT.—In any action brought under this section, the only necessary party defendant is the State, and it shall not be a defense to any such action that a local election official or a unit of local government is not named as a defendant, notwithstanding that a State has exercised the authority described in section 576 of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act to delegate to another jurisdiction in the
1 State any duty or responsibility which is the subject of
an action brought under this section.

“(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
tion shall be construed to prohibit an election official or
a unit of local government from being named as a defend-
ant.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
this section shall apply with respect to violations alleged
to have occurred on or after the date of the enactment
of this Act.

SEC. 1703. TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS; REPEAL OF
WAIVER PROVISION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (8) of section 102(a)
of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting
Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(8) transmit a validly requested absentee bal-
lot to an absent uniformed services voter or overseas
voter by the date and in the manner determined
under subsection (g);”.

(b) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND
REPEAL OF WAIVER PROVISION.—Subsection (g) of sec-
tion 102 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(g)) is amended
to read as follows:

“(g) BALLOT TRANSMISSION REQUIREMENTS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an absentee ballot is received at least 47 days before an election for Federal office, the following rules shall apply:

“(A) TRANSMISSION DEADLINE.—The State shall transmit the absentee ballot not later than 46 days before the election.

“(B) SPECIAL RULES IN CASE OF FAILURE TO TRANSMIT ON TIME.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A) and the absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter did not request electronic ballot transmission pursuant to subsection (f), the State shall transmit such ballot by express delivery.

“(ii) EXTENDED FAILURE.—If the State fails to transmit any absentee ballot by the 41st day before the election, in addition to transmitting the ballot as provided in clause (i), the State shall—

“(I) in the case of absentee ballots requested by absent uniformed
services voters with respect to regularly scheduled general elections, notify such voters of the procedures established under section 103A for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots; and

“(II) in any other case, provide for the return of such ballot by express delivery.

“(iii) Cost of express delivery.—In any case in which express delivery is required under this subparagraph, the cost of such express delivery—

“(I) shall not be paid by the voter; and

“(II) if determined appropriate by the chief State election official, may be required by the State to be paid by a local jurisdiction.

“(iv) Exception.—Clause (ii)(II) shall not apply when an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter indicates the preference to return the late sent absentee ballot by electronic transmission in
a State that permits return of an absentee ballot by electronic transmission.

“(v) Enforcement.—A State’s compliance with this subparagraph does not bar the Attorney General from seeking additional remedies necessary to fully resolve or prevent ongoing, future, or systematic violations of this provision or to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

“(C) Special procedure in event of disaster.—If a disaster (hurricane, tornado, earthquake, storm, volcanic eruption, landslide, fire, flood, or explosion), or an act of terrorism prevents the State from transmitting any absentee ballot by the 46th day before the election as required by subparagraph (A), the chief State election official shall notify the Attorney General as soon as practicable and take all actions necessary, including seeking any necessary judicial relief, to ensure that affected absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters are provided a reasonable opportunity to receive and return their absentee ballots in time to be counted.
“(2) Requests received after 47th day
before election.—For purposes of subsection
(a)(8), in the case in which a valid request for an
absentee ballot is received less than 47 days but not
less than 30 days before an election for Federal of-
office, the State shall transmit the absentee ballot
within one business day of receipt of the request.”.

SEC. 1704. USE OF SINGLE ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICA-
TION FOR SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS.

(a) In general.—Section 104 of the Uniformed and
Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20306)
is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 104. TREATMENT OF BALLOT REQUESTS.

“(a) In general.—If a State accepts and processes
an official post card form (prescribed under section 101)
submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or over-
seas voter for simultaneous voter registration and absen-
tee ballot application (in accordance with section
102(a)(4)) and the voter requests that the application be
considered an application for an absentee ballot for each
subsequent election for Federal office held in the State
through the end of the calendar year following the next
regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the
State shall provide an absentee ballot to the voter for each
such subsequent election.
"(b) Exception for Voters Changing Registration.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a voter registered to vote in a State for any election held after the voter notifies the State that the voter no longer wishes to be registered to vote in the State or after the State determines that the voter has registered to vote in another State or is otherwise no longer eligible to vote in the State.

“(c) Prohibition of Refusal of Application on Grounds of Early Submission.—A State may not refuse to accept or to process, with respect to any election for Federal office, any otherwise valid voter registration application or absentee ballot application (including the postcard form prescribed under section 101) submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter on the grounds that the voter submitted the application before the first date on which the State otherwise accepts or processes such applications for that election which are submitted by absentee voters who are not members of the uniformed services or overseas citizens.”.

(b) Requirement for Revision to Postcard Form.—

(1) In general.—The Presidential designee shall ensure that the official postcard form prescribed under section 101(b)(2) of the Uniformed
and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301(b)(2)) enables a voter using the form to—

(A) request an absentee ballot for each election for Federal office held in a State through the end of the calendar year following the next regularly scheduled general election for Federal office; or

(B) request an absentee ballot for a specific election or elections for Federal office held in a State during the period described in subparagraph (A).

(2) PRESIDENTIAL DESIGNEE.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “Presidential designee” means the individual designated under section 101(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301(a)).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to voter registration and absentee ballot applications which are submitted to a State or local election official on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 1705. EXTENDING GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR VOTING PURPOSES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF ABSENT MILITARY PERSONNEL.

Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302), as amended by section 1622, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(i) GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS OF ABSENT MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERVICE.—For the purposes of voting in any election for any Federal office or any State or local office, a spouse or dependent of an individual who is an absent uniformed services voter described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 107(1) shall not, solely by reason of that individual’s absence and without regard to whether or not such spouse or dependent is accompanying that individual—

“(1) be deemed to have lost a residence or domicile in that State, without regard to whether or not that individual intends to return to that State;

“(2) be deemed to have acquired a residence or domicile in any other State; or

“(3) be deemed to have become a resident in or a resident of any other State.”.
SEC. 1706. TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS TO CONFORM TO 2009 MOVE ACT AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE FEDERAL WRITE-IN ABSENTEE BALLOT.

(a) In General.—Section 102(a)(3) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)(3)) is amended by striking “general elections” and inserting “general, special, primary, and runoff elections”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 103 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20303) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking “general”; and

(2) in the heading thereof, by striking “GENERAL”.

SEC. 1707. TREATMENT OF POST CARD REGISTRATION REQUESTS.

Section 102 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302), as amended by sections 1622 and 1705, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) Treatment of Post Card Registrations.—A State shall not remove any absent uniformed services voter or overseas voter who has registered to vote using the official post card form (prescribed under section 101) from the official list of registered voters except in accordance with subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of section 8(a)(3)
of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507).”.

SEC. 1708. APPLICABILITY TO COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Paragraphs (6) and (8) of section 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20310) are each amended by striking “and American Samoa” and inserting “American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

SEC. 1709. ELIMINATION OF 14-DAY TIME PERIOD BETWEEN GENERAL ELECTION AND RUNOFF ELECTION FOR FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND GUAM.

Section 2 of the Act entitled “An Act to provide that the unincorporated territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands shall each be represented in Congress by a Delegate to the House of Representatives”, approved April 10, 1972 (48 U.S.C. 1712), is amended—

(1) by striking “(a) The Delegate” and inserting “The Delegate”;

(2) by striking “on the fourteenth day following such an election” in the fourth sentence of subsection (a); and

(3) by striking subsection (b).
SEC. 1710. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REPORT ON VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT.

Not later than 1 year of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress a report on the impact of wide-spread mail-in voting on the ability of active duty military servicemembers to vote, how quickly their votes are counted, and whether higher volumes of mail-in votes makes it harder for such individuals to vote in elections for Federal elections.

SEC. 1711. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section 1702(b) and section 1704(b), the amendments made by this subtitle shall apply with respect to elections occurring on or after January 1, 2022.

Subtitle K—Poll Worker Recruitment and Training

SEC. 1801. GRANTS TO STATES FOR POLL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING.

(a) Grants by Election Assistance Commission.—

(1) In general.—The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter referred to as the “Commission”) shall, subject to the availability of appropriations provided to carry out this section, make a grant to each eligible State for recruiting and train-
ing individuals to serve as poll workers on dates of
elections for public office.

(2) USE OF COMMISSION MATERIALS.—In car-
rying out activities with a grant provided under this
section, the recipient of the grant shall use the man-
ual prepared by the Commission on successful prac-
tices for poll worker recruiting, training, and reten-
tion as an interactive training tool, and shall develop
training programs with the participation and input
of experts in adult learning.

(3) ACCESS AND CULTURAL CONSIDER-
ATIONS.—The Commission shall ensure that the
manual described in paragraph (2) provides training
in methods that will enable poll workers to provide
access and delivery of services in a culturally com-
petent manner to all voters who use their services,
including those with limited English proficiency, di-
verse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, disabilities,
and regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or gen-
der identity. These methods must ensure that each
voter will have access to poll worker services that are
delivered in a manner that meets the unique needs
of the voter.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY.—
(1) APPLICATION.—Each State that desires to receive a payment under this section shall submit an application for the payment to the Commission at such time and in such manner and containing such information as the Commission shall require.

(2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought;

(B) provide assurances that the funds provided under this section will be used to supplement and not supplant other funds used to carry out the activities;

(C) provide assurances that the State will furnish the Commission with information on the number of individuals who served as poll workers after recruitment and training with the funds provided under this section;

(D) provide assurances that the State will dedicate poll worker recruitment efforts with respect to—

(i) youth and minors, including by recruiting at institutions of higher education and secondary education; and
(ii) diversity, including with respect to race, ethnicity, and disability; and

(E) provide such additional information and certifications as the Commission determines to be essential to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant made to a State under this section shall be equal to the product of—

(A) the aggregate amount made available for grants to States under this section; and

(B) the voting age population percentage for the State.

(2) VOTING AGE POPULATION PERCENTAGE DEFINED.—In paragraph (1), the “voting age population percentage” for a State is the quotient of—

(A) the voting age population of the State (as determined on the basis of the most recent information available from the Bureau of the Census); and

(B) the total voting age population of all States (as determined on the basis of the most recent information available from the Bureau of the Census).
(d) Reports to Congress.—

(1) Reports by recipients of grants.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which the final grant is made under this section, each recipient of a grant shall submit a report to the Commission on the activities conducted with the funds provided by the grant.

(2) Reports by commission.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the final grant is made under this section, the Commission shall submit a report to Congress on the grants made under this section and the activities carried out by recipients with the grants, and shall include in the report such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate.

(e) Funding.—

(1) Continuing availability of amount appropriated.—Any amount appropriated to carry out this section shall remain available without fiscal year limitation until expended.

(2) Administrative expenses.—Of the amount appropriated for any fiscal year to carry out this section, not more than 3 percent shall be available for administrative expenses of the Commission.
SEC. 1802. STATE DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Subtitle L—Enhancement of Enforcement

SEC. 1811. ENHANCEMENT OF ENFORCEMENT OF HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

(a) Complaints; Availability of Private Right of Action.—Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Attorney General” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(b) Filing of Complaints by Aggrieved Persons.—A person who is aggrieved by a violation of title III which has occurred, is occurring, or is about to occur may file a written, signed, notarized complaint with the Attorney General describing the violation and requesting the Attorney General to take appropriate action under this section. The Attorney General shall immediately provide a copy of a complaint filed under the previous sentence
to the entity responsible for administering the State-based administrative complaint procedures described in section 402(a) for the State involved.

“(c) Availability of Private Right of Action.—Any person who is authorized to file a complaint under subsection (b) (including any individual who seeks to enforce the individual’s right to a voter-verifiable paper ballot, the right to have the voter-verifiable paper ballot counted in accordance with this Act, or any other right under title III) may file an action under section 1979 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (42 U.S.C. 1983) to enforce the uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements under subtitle A of title III.

“(d) No Effect on State Procedures.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the availability of the State-based administrative complaint procedures required under section 402 to any person filing a complaint under this subsection.”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to violations occurring with respect to elections for Federal office held in 2022 or any succeeding year.
Subtitle M—Federal Election

Integrity

SEC. 1821. PROHIBITION ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 319 the following new section:

"CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES BY CHIEF STATE ELECTION ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

"Sec. 319A. (a) Prohibition.—It shall be unlawful for a chief State election administration official to take an active part in political management or in a political campaign with respect to any election for Federal office over which such official has supervisory authority.

"(b) Chief State Election Administration Official.—The term ‘chief State election administration official’ means the highest State official with responsibility for the administration of Federal elections under State law.

"(c) Active Part in Political Management or in a Political Campaign.—The term ‘active part in political management or in a political campaign’ means—
“(1) holding any position (including any unpaid or honorary position) with an authorized committee of a candidate, or participating in any decision making of an authorized committee of a candidate;

“(2) the use of official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election for Federal office;

“(3) the solicitation, acceptance, or receipt of a contribution from any person on behalf of a candidate for Federal office; and

“(4) any other act which would be prohibited under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 7323(b) of title 5, United States Code, if taken by an individual to whom such paragraph applies (other than any prohibition on running for public office).

“(d) Exception in Case of Recusal From Administration of Elections Involving Official or Immediate Family Member.—

“(1) In general.—This section does not apply to a chief State election administration official with respect to an election for Federal office in which the official or an immediate family member of the official is a candidate, but only if—
“(A) such official recuses himself or herself from all of the official’s responsibilities for the administration of such election; and

“(B) the official who assumes responsibility for supervising the administration of the election does not report directly to such official.

“(2) Immediate family member defined.—In paragraph (1), the term ‘immediate family member’ means, with respect to a candidate, a father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law.”.

(b) Effective date.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office held after December 2021.

Subtitle N—Promoting Voter Access Through Election Administration Improvements

PART 1—PROMOTING VOTER ACCESS

SEC. 1901. TREATMENT OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(a) Treatment of certain institutions as voter registration agencies under National Voter Registration Act of 1993.—Section 7(a) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506(a)) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (2)—

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

(B) by striking the period at the end of
subparagraph (B) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new
subparagraph:

“(C) each institution of higher education
which has a program participation agreement in
effect with the Secretary of Education under
section 487 of the Higher Education Act of
1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094), other than an institu-
tion which is treated as a contributing agency
under section 1013 of the For the People Act
of 2021.”; and

(2) in paragraph (6)(A), by inserting “or, in
the case of an institution of higher education, upon
initial enrollment of a student,” after “assistance,”.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF INSTITUTIONS UNDER
HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—Section 487(a)(23)
1094(a)(23)) is amended to read as follows:

“(23)(A) The institution will make every rea-
sonable effort to—
“(i) distribute voter registration applications for elections for Federal office using a form that meets the requirements of section 9(b) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20508), which may include sharing a direct, guided link to such application, to each student enrolled at the institution who has not been automatically registered to vote by the institution in accordance with section 1013 of the For the People Act of 2021, including students who do not qualify as an in-State student as defined in section 1013(f)(2) of the For the People Act of 2021;

“(ii) provide clear guidance that each student enrolled at the institution should—

“(I) register in the State in which the student is eligible to vote in the next election if registration is required, which may include informing students from another State of the ability to vote in the State of the institution in which the students are enrolled and physically in attendance, in accordance with applicable State law; and

“(II) in the case of a student who has already registered to vote in a State de-
scribed in subclause (I), update the student’s existing voter registration if the student’s address has changed recently or since the last election in which the student was eligible to vote;

“(iii) periodically share credible, non-partisan resources (to be identified in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission) to help students determine where and how they are eligible to vote, which may include resources from State and local election officials on voter registration and voting requirements, including voter registration deadlines, residency requirements, voter identification requirements, and absentee voting options, as applicable; and

“(iv) in distributing voting materials (as defined in section 203(b)(3) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503(b)(3)) that are produced by a covered State or political subdivision described in subsection 203(b)(2) of such Act, ensure to the greatest extent practicable that—

“(I) such voting materials are provided in accordance with section 203 of that Act (52 U.S.C. 10503); and
“(II) all materials and information made available electronically under this paragraph—

“(aa) are accessible to individuals with disabilities; and

“(bb) are compliant with the most recent Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, or successor guidelines.

“(B) An institution shall be considered to have satisfied the requirements of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (A) if—

“(i) with respect to each student enrolled in the institution who is not exclusively enrolled in distance education at the institution and who has not already been registered to vote by the institution in accordance with section 1013 of the For the People Act of 2021, including students who do not qualify as an in-State student as defined in section 1013(f)(2) of such Act—

“(I) the institution, not less than 30 days in advance of the deadline for registering to vote within the State for the next scheduled statewide Federal
or State primary election and not less than 30 days in advance of the deadline for registering to vote within the State for the next scheduled statewide Federal or State general election—

“(aa) distributes voter registration applications to such students; or

“(bb) electronically transmits a message to each such student that is devoted exclusively to voter registration and contains a voter registration application acceptable for use in the State in which the institution is located, or an internet address where such voter registration application can be accessed or downloaded;

“(II) during a period that an institution requires or encourages such students to remain off-campus due to a national, State, or local public health or other emergency for an extended period of time, resulting in a
significant disruption to such stu-
dents' ability to vote in person, as ap-
licable, the institution additionally—

“(aa) requests that the State provide the institution with absentee ballot applications, as applicable, or that the State share the official State website or online portal through which eligible voters can directly request an absentee ballot;

“(bb) distributes to each such student an absentee ballot application requested from the State under item (aa) or the official State website or online portal through which eligible voters can directly request an absentee ballot, with instructions that the form, website, or online portal should be used only by students eligible to vote in the State;

“(cc) notifies such students of—
“(AA) applicable deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot; and

“(BB) additional options for early and in-person voting and voting on Election Day, as applicable; and

“(dd) shares credible, non-partisan resources (to be identified in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission) to help students who are registered in another State to apply for absentee ballots in such State, which may include resources from State and local election officials; and

“(III) the institution ensures that an appropriate staff person or office has been designated as a Campus Vote Coordinator, who shall—

“(aa) ensure compliance in accordance with this paragraph at the institution;
“(bb) be publicly designated as the Campus Vote Coordinator, including the Campus Vote Coordinator’s contact information, on the website of the institution; and

“(cc) upon request, provide to students residency requirements for voting, including the ability of students from other States to vote in the State of the institution in which they are enrolled and physically in attendance, in accordance with applicable State law; and

“(ii) with respect to each student enrolled exclusively in distance education or correspondence programs, the institution—

“(I)(aa) transmits a message devoted exclusively to voter registration that refers such students to a centralized voter registration website or platform by providing the Internet address or other method to access such website or platform, that—
“(AA) provides applicable voter registration application and voting information for all States; and

“(BB) is hosted by a website operated by the Federal, State or local government;

“(bb) transmits such message not less than twice in each calendar year; and

“(cc) maintains information on the institution’s website containing credible, nonpartisan resources to help students determine where and how they are eligible to vote, or a link to such resources, and boosts awareness of such information on the institution’s social media platforms; or

“(II) provides information to such students in the same manner as the institution provides information to students not enrolled exclusively in distance education under clause (i)(I).

“(C) The institution will substantially comply with the requirements that apply to the in-
stitution under section 7 of the National Voter
Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506) or
section 1013 of the For the People Act of 2021,
as the case may be.

“(D) In this paragraph—

“(i) the term ‘voter registration appli-
cation’ means the mail voter registration
application form for elections for Federal
office prescribed pursuant to section 9 of
the National Voter Registration Act of
1993 (52 U.S.C. 20508);

“(ii) the term ‘absentee ballot’ means
any ballot cast by any means other than in
person and for which the State requires an
application;

“(iii) the term ‘distance education’
has the meaning given the term in section
103, except such term shall not include
distance education that is provided due to
a decision of an institution to require or
encourage students of the institution to re-
main off-campus due to a national, State,
or local public health or other emergency;
and
“(iv) the term ‘Federal office’ has the meaning given in section 301(3) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(3)).”.

(c) Grants to Institutions Demonstrating Excellence in Student Voter Registration.—

(1) Grants Authorized.—The Secretary of Education may award competitive grants to public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education that are subject to the requirements of section 487(a)(23) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)(23)), as amended by subsection (b), and that the Secretary determines have demonstrated excellence in registering students to vote in elections for public office beyond meeting the minimum requirements of such section.

(2) Eligibility.—An institution of higher education is eligible to receive a grant under this subsection if the institution submits to the Secretary of Education, at such time and in such form as the Secretary may require, an application containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require to make the determination described in paragraph (1), including information and assurances
that the institution carried out activities to promote voter registration by students, such as the following:

(A) Sponsoring large on-campus voter mobilization and voter education efforts.

(B) Engaging the surrounding community in nonpartisan voter registration and get out the vote efforts, including initiatives to facilitate the enfranchisement of groups of individuals that have historically faced barriers to voting.

(C) Creating a website for students with centralized information about voter registration and election dates.

(D) Inviting candidates to speak on campus.

(E) Offering rides to students to the polls to increase voter mobilization.

(3) Authorization of Appropriations; Reservation.—

(A) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to award grants under this subsection.

(B) Reservation.—Of the funds appropriated under subparagraph (A) for a fiscal
1. year, the Secretary of Education shall ensure that 25 percent is reserved for minority institutions described in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

(d) Sense of Congress Relating to Option of Students to Register in Jurisdiction of Institution of Higher Education or Jurisdiction of Domicile.—It is the sense of Congress that, as provided under existing law, students who attend an institution of higher education and reside in the jurisdiction of the institution while attending the institution should have the option of registering to vote, without being subjected to intimidation or deceptive practices, in elections for Federal office in that jurisdiction or in the jurisdiction of their own domicile.

SEC. 1902. MINIMUM NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTERS AFFECTED BY POLLING PLACE CHANGES.

(a) Requirements.—Section 302 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21082), as amended by section 1601(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:
“(f) Minimum Notification Requirements for Voters Affected by Polling Place Changes.—

“(1) Requirement for precinct-based polling.—

“(A) In general.—If an applicable individual has been assigned to a polling place that is different than the polling place that such individual was assigned with respect to the most recent past election for Federal office in which the individual was eligible to vote—

“(i) the appropriate election official shall, not later than 2 days before the beginning of an early voting period—

“(I) notify the individual of the location of the polling place not later than 2 days before the beginning of an early voting period; and

“(II) post a general notice on the website of the State or jurisdiction, on social media platforms (if available), and on signs at the prior polling place; and

“(ii) if such assignment is made after the date which is 2 days before the beginning of an early voting period and the indi-
individual appears on the date of the election
at the polling place to which the individual
was previously assigned, the jurisdiction
shall make every reasonable effort to en-
able the individual to vote a ballot on the
date of the election without the use of a
provisional ballot.

“(B) APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL.—For pur-
poses of subparagraph (A), the term ‘applicable
individual’ means, with respect to any election
for Federal office, any individual—

“(i) who is registered to vote in a ju-
risdiction for such election and was reg-
istered to vote in such jurisdiction for the
most recent past election for Federal of-

cce; and

“(ii) whose voter registration address
has not changed since such most recent
past election for Federal office.

“(C) METHODS OF NOTIFICATION.—The
appropriate election official shall notify an indi-
vidual under clause (i)(I) of subparagraph (A)
by mail, telephone, and (if available) text mes-
sage and electronic mail, taking into consider-
ation factors which include the linguistic preferences of voters in the jurisdiction.

“(2) Requirements for vote centers.—In the case of a jurisdiction in which individual are not assigned to specific polling places, not later than 2 days before the beginning of an early voting period, the appropriate election official shall notify each voter eligible to vote in such jurisdiction of the location of all polling places at which the individual may vote.

“(3) Notice with respect to closed polling places.—

“(A) In general.—If a location which served as a polling place for an election for Federal office in a State does not serve as a polling place in the next election for Federal office held in the State, the State shall ensure that signs, taking into consideration factors which include the linguistic preferences of voters in the jurisdiction, are posted at such location on the date of the election and during any early voting period for the election containing the following information:
“(i) A statement that the location is not serving as a polling place in the election.

“(ii) The locations serving as polling places in the election in the jurisdiction involved.

“(iii) The name and address of any substitute polling place serving the same precinct and directions from the former polling place to the new polling place.

“(iv) Contact information, including a telephone number and website, for the appropriate State or local election official through which an individual may find the polling place to which the individual is assigned for the election.

“(B) INTERNET POSTING.—Each State which is required to post signs under subparagraph (A) shall also provide such information through a website and through social media (if available).

“(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall apply with respect to elections held on or after January 1, 2022.”.
(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 302(g) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21082(g)), as redesignated by subsection (a) and as amended by section 1601(b), is amended by striking “(d)(2) and (e)(2)” and inserting “(d)(2), (e)(2), and (f)(4)”.

SEC. 1903. PERMITTING USE OF SWORN WRITTEN STATEMENT TO MEET IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTING.

(a) Permitting Use of Statement.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

“SEC. 303A. PERMITTING USE OF SWORN WRITTEN STATEMENT OR STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD TO MEET IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) Use of Statement or Student Identification Card.—

“(1) In general.—Except as provided in subsection (c), if a State has in effect any requirement that an individual present identification as a condition of receiving and casting a ballot in an election for Federal office, the State shall permit the individual to meet the requirement—
“(A) in the case of an individual who desires to vote in person, by presenting the appropriate State or local election official with—

“(i) a sworn written statement, signed by the individual under penalty of perjury, attesting to the individual’s identity and attesting that the individual is eligible to vote in the election; or

“(ii) if such individual is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), a student identification card assigned to the individual from an institution of higher education; or

“(B) in the case of an individual who desires to vote by mail, by submitting with the ballot—

“(i) the statement described in subparagraph (A)(i); or

“(ii) if such individual is a student enrolled at an institution of higher education (as so defined), a copy of the student identification card described in subparagraph (A)(ii).
“(2) Development of Pre-Printed Version of Statement by Commission.—The Commission shall develop a pre-printed version of the statement described in paragraph (1)(A)(i) which includes a blank space for an individual to provide a name and signature for use by election officials in States which are subject to paragraph (1).

“(3) Providing Pre-Printed Copy of Statement.—A State which is subject to paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) make copies of the pre-printed version of the statement described in paragraph (1)(A)(i) which is prepared by the Commission available at polling places for election officials to distribute to individuals who desire to vote in person; and

“(B) include a copy of such pre-printed version of the statement with each blank absentee or other ballot transmitted to an individual who desires to vote by mail.

“(b) Requiring Use of Ballot in Same Manner as Individuals Presenting Identification.—An individual who presents or submits a sworn written statement or presents a student identification card in accordance with subsection (a)(1) shall be permitted to cast a
ballot in the election in the same manner as an individual
who presents identification.

“(c) Exception for First-Time Voters Registering by Mail.—Subsections (a) and (b) do not apply
to the requirements under paragraph (2) of section 303(b)
with respect to any individual described in paragraph (1)
of such section who is required to meet the requirements
of paragraph (2) of such section or to an individual de-
scribed in paragraph (5)(A) of section 303(b) who is re-
quired to meet the requirements of paragraph (5)(B) of
such section.”.

(b) Requiring States To Include Information
on Use of Sworn Written Statement and Student
Identification Card in Voting Information Mate-
rial Posted at Polling Places.—Section 302(b)(2) of
such Act (52 U.S.C. 21082(b)(2)), as amended by section
1072(b) and section 1202(b), is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
graph (G);

(2) by striking the period at the end of sub-
paragraph (H) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
paragraph:

“(I) in the case of a State that has in ef-
fect any requirement that an individual present
identification as a condition of receiving and casting a ballot in an election for Federal office, information on how an individual may meet such requirement by presenting a sworn written statement or student identification card in accordance with section 303A.”.

(c) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 303A. Permitting use of sworn written statement or student identification card to meet identification requirements.”.

(d) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to elections occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 1904. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VOTERS RESIDING IN INDIAN LANDS.

(a) Accommodations Described.—

(1) Designation of ballot pickup and collection locations.—Given the widespread lack of residential mail delivery in Indian Country, an Indian Tribe may designate buildings as ballot pickup and collection locations with respect to an election for Federal office at no cost to the Indian Tribe. An Indian Tribe may designate one building per precinct located within Indian lands. The applicable State or political subdivision shall collect ballots
from those locations. The applicable State or political subdivision shall provide the Indian Tribe with accurate precinct maps for all precincts located within Indian lands 60 days before the election.

(2) **PROVISION OF MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**—The State or political subdivision shall provide mail-in and absentee ballots with respect to an election for Federal office to each individual who is registered to vote in the election who resides on Indian lands in the State or political subdivision involved without requiring a residential address or a mail-in or absentee ballot request.

(3) **USE OF DESIGNATED BUILDING AS RESIDENTIAL AND MAILING ADDRESS.**—The address of a designated building that is a ballot pickup and collection location with respect to an election for Federal office may serve as the residential address and mailing address for voters living on Indian lands if the tribally designated building is in the same precinct as that voter. If there is no tribally designated building within a voter’s precinct, the voter may use another tribally designated building within the Indian lands where the voter is located. Voters using a tribally designated building outside of the voter’s precinct may use the tribally designated building as
a mailing address and may separately designate the
voter’s appropriate precinct through a description of
the voter’s address, as specified in section
9428.4(a)(2) of title 11, Code of Federal Regula-
tions.

(4) LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY.—In the case of
a State or political subdivision that is a covered
State or political subdivision under section 203 of
the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503),
that State or political subdivision shall provide ab-
sentee or mail-in voting materials with respect to an
election for Federal office in the language of the ap-
licable minority group as well as in the English lan-
guage, bilingual election voting assistance, and writ-
ten translations of all voting materials in the lan-
guage of the applicable minority group, as required
by section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
U.S.C. 10503), as amended by subsection (b).

(5) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this section
alters the ability of an individual voter residing on
Indian lands to request a ballot in a manner avail-
able to all other voters in the State.

(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.—
The term “election for Federal office” means a
general, special, primary or runoff election for
the office of President or Vice President, or of
Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or
Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

(B) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the
meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-
dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-

(C) INDIAN LANDS.—The term “Indian
lands” includes—

(i) any Indian country of an Indian
Tribe, as defined under section 1151 of
title 18, United States Code;

(ii) any land in Alaska owned, pursu-
ant to the Alaska Native Claims Settle-
ment Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), by an
Indian Tribe that is a Native village (as
defined in section 3 of that Act (43 U.S.C.
1602)) or by a Village Corporation that is
associated with an Indian Tribe (as de-
finite in section 3 of that Act (43 U.S.C.
1602));

(iii) any land on which the seat of the
Tribal Government is located; and
(iv) any land that is part or all of a Tribal designated statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, or is part or all of an Alaska Native village statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, as defined by the Census Bureau for the purposes of the most recent decennial census.

(D) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian tribe” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(E) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal Government” means the recognized governing body of an Indian Tribe.

(7) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to carry out this subsection.

(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(i) A person or Tribal Government who is aggrieved by a violation of this subsection may provide written notice of the
violation to the chief election official of the State involved.

(ii) An aggrieved person or Tribal Government may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to a violation of this subsection, if—

(I) that person or Tribal Government provides the notice described in clause (i); and

(II)(aa) in the case of a violation that occurs more than 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the violation remains and 90 days or more have passed since the date on which the chief election official of the State receives the notice under clause (i); or

(bb) in the case of a violation that occurs 120 days or less before the date of an election for Federal office, the violation remains and 20 days or more have passed since the date on which the chief election offi-
(iii) In the case of a violation of this section that occurs 30 days or less before the date of an election for Federal office, an aggrieved person or Tribal Government may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation without providing notice to the chief election official of the State under clause (i).

(b) BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(C), by striking “1990” and inserting “2010”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PROVISION OF VOTING MATERIALS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever any State or political subdivision subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) of this section provides any registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the elec-
toral process, including ballots, it shall provide them
in the language of the applicable minority group as
well as in the English language.

“(2) Exceptions.—

“(A) In the case of a minority group that
is not American Indian or Alaska Native and
the language of that minority group is oral or
unwritten, the State or political subdivision
shall be required only to furnish, in the covered
language, oral instructions, assistance, trans-
lation of voting materials, or other information
relating to registration and voting.

“(B) In the case of a minority group that
is American Indian or Alaska Native, the State
or political subdivision shall be required only to
furnish in the covered language oral instruc-
tions, assistance, or other information relating
to registration and voting, including all voting
materials, if the Tribal Government of that mi-
nority group has certified that the language of
the applicable American Indian or Alaska Na-
tive language is presently unwritten or the
Tribal Government does not want written trans-
lations in the minority language.
“(3) Written translations for election workers.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the State or political division may be required to provide written translations of voting materials, with the consent of any applicable Indian Tribe, to election workers to ensure that the translations from English to the language of a minority group are complete, accurate, and uniform.”.

(c) Effective Date.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.


(a) In General.—

(1) Requirement.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), and section 1623(b), is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 314 and 315 as sections 315 and 316, respectively; and
(B) by inserting after section 313 the fol-
lowing new section:

“SEC. 314. ENSURING EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENT OPER-
ATION OF POLLING PLACES.

“(a) PREVENTING UNREASONABLE WAITING TIMES
FOR VOTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State or jurisdiction
shall take reasonable efforts to provide a sufficient
number of voting systems, poll workers, and other
election resources (including physical resources) at a
polling place used in any election for Federal office,
including a polling place at which individuals may
cast ballots prior to the date of the election, to en-
sure—

“(A) a fair and equitable waiting time for
all voters in the State or jurisdiction; and

“(B) that no individual will be required to
wait longer than 30 minutes to cast a ballot at
the polling place.

“(2) CRITERIA.—In determining the number of
voting systems, poll workers, and other election re-
sources provided at a polling place for purposes of
paragraph (1), the State or jurisdiction shall take
into account the following factors:

“(A) The voting age population.
“(B) Voter turnout in past elections.

“(C) The number of voters registered.

“(D) The number of voters who have registered since the most recent Federal election.

“(E) Census data for the population served by the polling place, such as the proportion of the voting-age population who are under 25 years of age or who are naturalized citizens.

“(F) The needs and numbers of voters with disabilities and voters with limited English proficiency.

“(G) The type of voting systems used.

“(H) The length and complexity of initiatives, referenda, and other questions on the ballot.

“(I) Such other factors, including relevant demographic factors relating to the population served by the polling place, as the State considers appropriate.

“(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed—

“(A) to authorize a State or jurisdiction to meet the requirements of this subsection by closing any polling place, prohibiting an individual from entering a line at a polling place,
or refusing to permit an individual who has ar
rived at a polling place prior to closing time
from voting at the polling place; or

“(B) to limit the use of mobile voting cen-
ters.

“(b) LIMITING VARIATIONS ON NUMBER OF HOURS
OF OPERATION OF POLLING PLACES WITHIN A STATE.—

“(1) LIMITATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
subparagraph (B) and paragraph (2), each
State shall establish hours of operation for all
polling places in the State on the date of any
election for Federal office held in the State
such that the polling place with the greatest
number of hours of operation on such date is
not in operation for more than 2 hours longer
than the polling place with the fewest number
of hours of operation on such date.

“(B) PERMITTING VARIANCE ON BASIS OF
POPULATION.—Subparagraph (A) does not
apply to the extent that the State establishes
variations in the hours of operation of polling
places on the basis of the overall population or
the voting age population (as the State may se-
(2) Exceptions for polling places with hours established by units of local government.—Paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of a polling place—

“(A) whose hours of operation are established, in accordance with State law, by the unit of local government in which the polling place is located; or

“(B) which is required pursuant to an order by a court to extend its hours of operation beyond the hours otherwise established.

“(c) Effective Date.—This section shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this subsection.”.

(2) Conforming amendments relating to issuance of voluntary guidance by election assistance commission.—Section 321(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as redesignated and amended by section 1101(b) and as amended by sections, 1102, 1103, 1104, and 1611, is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (4);
(B) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6);

(C) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraph (4)” and inserting “paragraph (4) or (5)”;

(D) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

“(5) in the case of the recommendations with respect to section 314, 180 days after the date of the enactment of such section; and”.

(3) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), section 1104(c), section 1611(c), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), and section 1623(b), is amended—

(A) by redesignating the items relating to sections 314 and 315 as relating to sections 315 and 316, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 313 the following new item:

“Sec. 314. Ensuring equitable and efficient operation of polling places.”.

(b) STUDY OF METHODS TO ENFORCE FAIR AND EQUITABLE WAITING TIMES.—

(1) STUDY.—The Election Assistance Commission and the Comptroller General of the United
States shall conduct a joint study of the effectiveness of various methods of enforcing the requirements of section 314(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), including methods of best allocating resources to jurisdictions which have had the most difficulty in providing a fair and equitable waiting time at polling places to all voters, and to communities of color in particular.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission and the Comptroller General of the United States shall publish and submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 1906. REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE SECURED DROP BOXES FOR VOTED BALLOTS IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), and section 1905(a), is amended—
(1) by redesignating sections 315 and 316 as
sections 316 and 317, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 314 the following
new section:

"SEC. 315. USE OF SECURED DROP BOXES FOR VOTED BAL-
LOTS.

"(a) REQUIRING USE OF DROP BOXES.—Each juris-
diction shall provide in-person, secured, and clearly labeled
drop boxes at which individuals may, at any time during
the period described in subsection (b), drop off voted bal-
lots in an election for Federal office.

"(b) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR AVAILABILITY OF DROP
BOXES.—The period described in this subsection is, with
respect to an election, the period which begins on the first
day on which the jurisdiction sends mail-in ballots or ab-
sentee ballots (other than ballots for absent uniformed
overseas voters (as defined in section 107(1) of the Uni-
formed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52
U.S.C. 20310(1))) or overseas voters (as defined in section
107(5) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20310(5))) to voters for
such election and which ends at the time the polls close
for the election in the jurisdiction involved.

"(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—

"(1) HOURS OF ACCESS.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), each drop box provided under this section shall be accessible to voters for a reasonable number of hours each day.

“(B) 24-HOUR DROP BOXES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the number of drop boxes provided in any jurisdiction, not less the required number shall be accessible for 24-hours per day during the period described in subsection (b).

“(ii) REQUIRED NUMBER.—The required number is the greater of—

“(I) 25 percent of the drop boxes required under subsection (d); or

“(II) 1 drop box.

“(2) POPULATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Drop boxes provided under this section shall be accessible for use—

“(i) by individuals with disabilities, as determined in consultation with the protection and advocacy systems (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)) of the State;
“(ii) by individuals with limited proficiency in the English language; and

“(iii) by homeless individuals (as defined in section 103 of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)) within the State.

“(B) Determination of Accessibility for Individuals with Disabilities.—For purposes of this paragraph, drop boxes shall be considered to be accessible for use by individuals with disabilities if the drop boxes meet such criteria as the Attorney General may establish for such purposes.

“(C) Rule of Construction.—If a drop box provided under this section is on the grounds of or inside a building or facility which serves as a polling place for an election during the period described in subsection (b), nothing in this subsection may be construed to waive any requirements regarding the accessibility of such polling place for the use of individuals with disabilities, individuals with limited proficiency in the English language, or homeless individuals.
“(d) Number of Drop Boxes.—Each jurisdiction shall have—

“(1) in the case of any election for Federal office prior to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2024, not less than 1 drop box for every 45,000 registered voters located in the jurisdiction; and

“(2) in the case of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2024 and each election for Federal office occurring thereafter, not less than the greater of—

“(A) 1 drop box for every 45,000 registered voters located in the jurisdiction; or

“(B) 1 drop box for every 15,000 votes that were cast by mail in the jurisdiction in the most recent general election that includes an election for the office of President.

In no case shall a jurisdiction have less than 1 drop box for any election for Federal office.

“(e) Location of Drop Boxes.—The State shall determine the location of drop boxes provided under this section in a jurisdiction on the basis of criteria which ensure that the drop boxes are—

“(1) available to all voters on a non-discriminatory basis;
“(2) accessible to voters with disabilities (in accordance with subsection (c));

“(3) accessible by public transportation to the greatest extent possible;

“(4) available during all hours of the day;

“(5) sufficiently available in all communities in the jurisdiction, including rural communities and on Tribal lands within the jurisdiction (subject to subsection (f)); and

“(6) geographically distributed to provide a reasonable opportunity for voters to submit their voted ballot in a timely manner.

“(f) Rules for Drop Boxes on Tribal Lands.—In making a determination of the number and location of drop boxes provided under this section on Tribal lands in a jurisdiction, the appropriate State and local election officials shall—

“(1) consult with Tribal leaders prior to making the determination; and

“(2) take into account criteria such as the availability of direct-to-door residential mail delivery, the distance and time necessary to travel to the drop box locations (including in inclement weather), modes of transportation available, conditions of
roads, and the availability (if any) of public trans-
portation.

“(g) Timing of Scanning and Processing of
Ballots.—For purposes of section 311(g) (relating to
the timing of the processing and scanning of ballots for
tabulation), a vote cast using a drop box provided under
this section shall be treated in the same manner as a ballot
cast by mail.

“(h) Posting of Information.—On or adjacent to
each drop box provided under this section, the State shall
post information on the requirements that voted absentee
ballots must meet in order to be counted and tabulated
in the election.

“(i) Remote Surveillance.—Nothing in this sec-
tion shall prohibit a State from providing for the security
of drop boxes through remote or electronic surveillance.

“(j) Effective Date.—This section shall apply
with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for
Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding
election for Federal office.”.

(b) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents
of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section
1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), section
1103(a), section 1104(c), section 1611(c), section
SEC. 1905. PROVIDING FOR VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), section 1905(a), and section 1906(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 316 and 317 as sections 317 and 318, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 314 the following new item:

“Sec. 315. Use of secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots.”.

SEC. 1906. PROVIDING FOR VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), section 1905(a), and section 1906(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 316 and 317 as sections 317 and 318, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 315 the following new section:

“Sec. 316. Use of secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots.”.
curbside voting as a method by which individuals may cast ballots in the election; or

“(2) impose any restrictions which would exclude any individual who is eligible to vote in such an election in a jurisdiction which utilizes curbside voting from casting a ballot in the election by the method of curbside voting.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), section 1104(c), section 1611(c), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), section 1905(a), and section 1906(b), is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 316 and 317 as relating to sections 317 and 318, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 315 the following new item:

“Sec. 316. Prohibiting States from restricting curbside voting.”.
SEC. 1908. PROHIBITING RESTRICTIONS ON DONATIONS OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES AT POLLING STATIONS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a), section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), section 1905(a), section 1906(a), and section 1907(a), is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 317 and 318 as sections 318 and 319, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 316 the following new section:

“SEC. 317. PROHIBITING STATES FROM RESTRICTING DONATIONS OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES AT POLLING STATIONS.

“(a) PROHIBITION.—A State may not impose any restriction on providing food and nonalcoholic beverages to persons at a polling location for a Federal election, provided that such food and nonalcoholic beverages are distributed without regard to the electoral participation or political preferences of the recipients.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to elections for Federal office occurring on and after January 1, 2022.”.
(b) VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE.—Section 321(b)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101(b)), as added and redesignated by section 1101(b) and as amended by sections 1102, 1103, 1104, and 1623, is amended by striking “and 313” and inserting “313, and 317”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1056(b), section 1101(c), section 1102(c), section 1103(a), section 1104(c), section 1611(c), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), section 1905(a), section 1906(b), and section 1907(b) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 317 and 318 as relating to sections 319 and 320, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 316 the following new item:

"Sec. 317. Prohibiting States from restricting donations of food and beverages at polling stations."

SEC. 1909. GAO STUDY ON VOTER TURNOUT RATES.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on voter turnout rates delineated by age in States and localities that permit voters to participate in elections before reaching the age of 18, with a focus on localities that permit voting upon reaching the age of 16.
PART 2—DISASTER AND EMERGENCY

CONTINGENCY PLANS

SEC. 1911. REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL ELECTION CONTINGENCY PLANS IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Establishment.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each State and each jurisdiction in a State which is responsible for administering elections for Federal office shall establish a contingency plan to enable individuals to vote in elections for Federal office during a state of emergency, public health emergency, or national emergency which has been declared for reasons including—

(A) a natural disaster; or

(B) an infectious disease.

(2) Publication.—Each State and jurisdiction shall make the plan established under paragraph (1) publicly available, except that such State or jurisdiction may redact provisions necessary to preserve national security or public safety.

(3) Updating.—Each State and jurisdiction shall update the contingency plan established under this subsection not less frequently than every 5 years.
(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SAFETY.—The contingency plan established under subsection (a) shall include initiatives to provide equipment and resources needed to protect the health and safety of poll workers, election staff, and voters when voting in person.

(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO RECRUITMENT OF POLL WORKERS.—The contingency plan established under subsection (a) shall include initiatives by the chief State election official and local election officials to recruit poll workers from resilient or unaffected populations, which may include—

(1) employees of other State and local government offices; and

(2) in the case in which an infectious disease poses significant increased health risks to elderly individuals, students of secondary schools and institutions of higher education in the State.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action against any State or jurisdiction in an appropriate United States district court for such declaratory and injunctive relief (including a temporary restraining order, a permanent or temporary injunction, or other order) as may be
necessary to carry out the requirements of this section.

(2) Private right of action.—

(A) In general.—In the case of a violation of this section, any person who is aggrieved by such violation may provide written notice of the violation to the chief election official of the State involved.

(B) Relief.—If the violation is not corrected within 20 days after receipt of a notice under subparagraph (A), or within 5 days after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person may, in a civil action, obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

(C) Special rule.—If the violation occurred within 5 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person need not provide notice to the chief election official of the State involved under subparagraph (A) before bringing a civil action under subparagraph (B).

(e) Definitions.—
(1) Election for Federal Office.—For purposes of this section, the term “election for Federal office” means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

(2) State.—For purposes of this section, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(f) Effective Date.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding election for Federal office.

PART 3—IMPROVEMENTS IN OPERATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

SEC. 1921. REAUTHORIZATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

Section 210 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20930) is amended—

(1) by striking “for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2005” and inserting “for fiscal year 2021 and each succeeding fiscal year”; and
(2) by striking “(but not to exceed $10,000,000 for each such year)”).

SEC. 1922. REQUIRING STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN POST-GENERAL ELECTION SURVEYS.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1903(a), is further amended by inserting after section 303A the following new section:

“SEC. 303B. REQUIRING PARTICIPATION IN POST-GENERAL ELECTION SURVEYS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each State shall furnish to the Commission such information as the Commission may request for purposes of conducting any post-election survey of the States with respect to the administration of a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.

“(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and any succeeding election.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1903(c), is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 303A the following new item:

“Sec. 303B. Requiring participation in post-general election surveys.”.
SEC. 1923. REPORTS BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY ON USE OF FUNDS TRANSFERRED FROM ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

(a) Requiring Reports on Use of Funds as Condition of Receipt.—Section 231 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) Report on Use of Funds Transferred From Commission.—To the extent that funds are transferred from the Commission to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology for purposes of carrying out this section during any fiscal year, the Director may not use such funds unless the Director certifies at the time of transfer that the Director will submit a report to the Commission not later than 90 days after the end of the fiscal year detailing how the Director used such funds during the year.”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2022 and each succeeding fiscal year.

SEC. 1924. RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

(a) Assessment of Information Technology and Cybersecurity.—Not later than December 31, 2021, the Election Assistance Commission shall carry out
an assessment of the security and effectiveness of the
Commission’s information technology systems, including
the cybersecurity of such systems.

(b) Improvements to Administrative Complaint
Procedures.—

(1) Review of Procedures.—The Election
Assistance Commission shall carry out a review of
the effectiveness and efficiency of the State-based
administrative complaint procedures established and
maintained under section 402 of the Help America
Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21112) for the inves-
tigation and resolution of allegations of violations of
title III of such Act.

(2) Recommendations to Streamline Pro-
cedures.—Not later than December 31, 2021, the
Commission shall submit to Congress a report on
the review carried out under paragraph (1), and
shall include in the report such recommendations as
the Commission considers appropriate to streamline
and improve the procedures which are the subject of
the review.
SEC. 1925. REPEAL OF EXEMPTION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION FROM CERTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) In General.—Section 205 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20925) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to contracts entered into by the Election Assistance Commission on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

PART 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 1931. APPLICATION OF LAWS TO COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

(a) National Voter Registration Act of 1993.—Section 3(4) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20502(4)) is amended by striking “States and the District of Columbia” and inserting “States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

(b) Help America Vote Act of 2002.—

(1) Coverage of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.—Section 901 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141) is amended by striking “and the United States Virgin Islands” and inserting “the United States Virgin Islands”. 
Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.—Such Act is further amended as follows:

(A) The second sentence of section 213(a)(2) (52 U.S.C. 20943(a)(2)) is amended by striking “and American Samoa” and inserting “American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

(B) Section 252(c)(2) (52 U.S.C. 21002(c)(2)) is amended by striking “or the United States Virgin Islands” and inserting “the United States Virgin Islands, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CONSULTATION OF HELP AMERICA VOTE FOUNDATION WITH LOCAL ELECTION OFFICIALS.—Section 90102(c) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking “and the United States Virgin Islands” and inserting “the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”.

SEC. 1932. DEFINITION OF ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.

(a) Definition.—Title IX of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 907. ELECTION FOR FEDERAL OFFICE DEFINED.

"For purposes of titles I through III, the term ‘election for Federal office’ means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress."

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IX the following new item:

"Sec. 907. Election for Federal office defined."

SEC. 1933. CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTION FOR STATES WHICH DO NOT COLLECT TELEPHONE INFORMATION.

(a) Amendment to Help America Vote Act of 2002.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1031(a), section 1056(a) section 1101(a), section 1102(a), section 1103(a), section 1104(a), section 1611(a), section 1621(a), section 1622(a), section 1623(b), section 1905(a), section 1906(a), section 1907(a), and section 1908(a), is amended—
(1) by redesignating section 319 as section 320;

and

(2) by inserting after section 318 the following new section:

“SEC. 319. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS TO STATES WHICH DO NOT COLLECT TELEPHONE INFORMATION.

“(a) In General.—To the extent that any provision of this title imposes a requirement on a State or jurisdiction relating to contacting voters by telephone, such provision shall not apply in the case of any State in which continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, does not collect telephone numbers for voters as part of voter registration in the State with respect to an election for Federal office.

“(b) Exception.—Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case in which the voter has voluntarily provided telephone information.”.

(b) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1031(c), section 1101(d), section 1102(c), section 1103(a)(3), section 1104(c), section 1611(c), section 1621(c), section 1622(c), section 1623(b), section 1905(b), section 1906(a), section 1907(b), and section 1908(b), is amended—
(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 319 as relating to sections 320; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 318 the following new item:

“Sec. 319. Application of certain provisions to States which do not collect telephone information.”

SEC. 1934. NO EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as specifically provided, nothing in this title may be construed to authorize or require conduct prohibited under any of the following laws, or to supersede, restrict, or limit the application of such laws:

(1) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).

(2) The Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act (52 U.S.C. 20101 et seq.).

(3) The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).


(b) NO EFFECT ON PRECLEARANCE OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER VOTING RIGHTS ACT.—The ap-
proval by any person of a payment or grant application
under this title, or any other action taken by any person
under this title, shall not be considered to have any effect
on requirements for preclearance under section 5 of the
Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10304) or any other
requirements of such Act.

(e) No Effect on Authority of States To Provide Greater Opportunities for Voting.—Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title may be construed to prohibit any State from enacting any law which provides greater opportunities for individuals to register to vote and to vote in elections for Federal office than are provided by this title and the amendments made by this title.

SEC. 1935. CLARIFICATION OF EXEMPTION FOR STATES WITHOUT VOTER REGISTRATION.

To the extent that any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title imposes a requirement on a State relating to registering individuals to vote in elections for Federal office, such provision shall not apply in the case of any State in which, under law that is in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, there is no voter registration requirement for any voter in the State with respect to an election for Federal office.
Subtitle O—Increased Protections for Election Workers

SEC. 1941. HARASSMENT OF ELECTION WORKERS PROHIBITED.

(a) In General.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1071(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 613. HARASSMENT OF ELECTION RELATED OFFICIALS.

“(a) Harassment of Election Workers.—It shall be unlawful for any person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, to intimidate, threaten, coerce, harass, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, coerce or harass an election worker described in subsection (b) with intent to impede, intimidate, or interfere with such official while engaged in the performance of official duties, or with intent to retaliate against such official on account of the performance of official duties.

“(b) Election Worker Described.—An election worker as described in this section is any individual who is an election official, poll worker, or an election volunteer in connection with an election for a Federal office.

“(c) Penalty.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.”.
(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1071(b), is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“613. Harassment of election related officials.”.

5 SEC. 1942. PROTECTION OF ELECTION WORKERS.

Paragraph (2) of section 119(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (C), by inserting “or” at the end of subparagraph (D), and by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) any individual who is an election official, a poll worker, or an election volunteer in connection with an election for a Federal office;”.

Subtitle P—Severability

5 SEC. 1951. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.
TITLE II—ELECTION INTEGRITY
Subtitle A—Findings Reaffirming
the Commitment of Congress to
Restore the Voting Rights Act of
1965

SEC. 2001. FINDINGS REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF CONGRESS TO RESTORE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The right to vote for all Americans is a fundamental right guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

(2) Federal, State, and local governments should protect the right to vote and promote voter participation across all demographics.

(3) The Voting Rights Act has empowered the Department of Justice and Federal courts for nearly a half a century to block discriminatory voting practices before their implementation in States and localities with the most troubling histories, ongoing records of racial discrimination, and demonstrations of lower participation rates for protected classes.

(4) There continues to be an alarming movement to erect barriers to make it more difficult for Americans to participate in our Nation’s democratic
process. The Nation has witnessed unprecedented efforts to turn back the clock and enact suppressive laws that block access to the franchise for communities of color which have faced historic and continuing discrimination, as well as disabled, young, elderly, and low-income Americans.

(5) The Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* (570 U.S. 529 (2013)), gutted decades-long Federal protections for communities of color and language-minority populations facing ongoing discrimination, emboldening States and local jurisdictions to pass voter suppression laws and implement procedures, like those requiring photo identification, limiting early voting hours, eliminating same-day registration, purging voters from the rolls, and reducing the number of polling places.

(6) Racial discrimination in voting is a clear and persistent problem. The actions of States and localities around the country post-Shelby County, including at least 10 findings by Federal courts of intentional discrimination, underscored the need for Congress to conduct investigatory and evidentiary hearings to determine the legislation necessary to restore the Voting Rights Act and combat continuing efforts in America that suppress the free exercise of
the franchise in Black and other communities of color.

(7) Evidence of discriminatory voting practice spans from decades ago through to the past several election cycles. The 2018 midterm elections, for example, demonstrated ongoing discrimination in voting.

(8) During the 116th Congress, congressional committees in the House of Representatives held numerous hearings, collecting substantial testimony and other evidence which underscored the need to pass a restoration of the Voting Rights Act.

(9) On December 6, 2019, the House of Representatives passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore and modernize the Voting Rights Act, in accordance with language from the Shelby County decision. Congress reaffirms that the barriers faced by too many voters across this Nation when trying to cast their ballot necessitate reintroduction of many of the protections once afforded by the Voting Rights Act.

(10) The 2020 primary and general elections provide further evidence that systemic voter discrimination and intimidation continues to occur in communities of color across the country, making it
clear that full access to the franchise will not be achieved until Congress restores key provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

(11) As of late-February 2021, 43 States had introduced, prefiled, or carried over 253 bills to restrict voting access that, primarily, limit mail voting access, impose stricter voter ID requirements, slash voter registration opportunities, or enable more aggressive voter roll purges.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To improve access to the ballot for all citizens.

(2) To establish procedures by which States and localities, in accordance with past actions, submit voting practice changes for preclearance by the Federal Government.

(3) To enhance the integrity and security of our voting systems.

(4) To ensure greater accountability for the administration of elections by States and localities.

(5) To restore protections for voters against practices in States and localities plagued by the persistence of voter disenfranchisement.
(6) To ensure that Federal civil rights laws protect the rights of voters against discriminatory and deceptive practices.

Subtitle B—Findings Relating to Native American Voting Rights

SEC. 2101. FINDINGS RELATING TO NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The right to vote for all Americans is sacred. Congress must fulfill the Federal Government’s trust responsibility to protect and promote Native Americans’ exercise of their fundamental right to vote, including equal access to voter registration voting mechanisms and locations, and the ability to serve as election officials.

(2) The Native American Voting Rights Coalition’s four-State survey of voter discrimination (2016) and 9 field hearings in Indian Country (2017 and 2018) revealed obstacles that Native Americans must overcome, including a lack of accessible and proximate registration and polling sites, nontraditional addresses for residents on Indian reservations, inadequate language assistance for Tribal members, and voter identification laws that discriminate against Native Americans. The Department of Jus-
tice and courts have recognized that some jurisdic-
tions have been unresponsive to reasonable requests
from federally recognized Indian Tribes for more ac-
cessible and proximate voter registration sites and
in-person voting locations.

(3) The 2018 midterm and 2020 general elec-
tions provide further evidence that systemic voter
discrimination and intimidation continues to occur in
communities of color and Tribal lands across the
country, making it clear that democracy reform can-
not be achieved until Congress restores key provi-
sions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and passes
additional protections.

(4) Congress has broad, plenary authority to
enact legislation to safeguard the voting rights of
Native American voters.

(5) Congress must conduct investigatory and
evidentiary hearings to determine the necessary leg-
islation to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965
and combat continuous efforts that suppress the
voter franchise within Tribal lands, to include, but
not to be limited to, the Native American Voting
Rights Act and the Voting Rights Advancement Act.
Subtitle C—Findings Relating to District of Columbia Statehood

SEC. 2201. FINDINGS RELATING TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATEHOOD.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The 705,000 District of Columbia residents deserve voting representation in Congress and local self-government, which only statehood can provide.

(2) The United States is the only democratic country that denies both voting representation in the national legislature and local self-government to the residents of its nation’s capital.

(3) There are no constitutional, historical, fiscal, or economic reasons why the Americans who live in the District of Columbia should not be granted statehood.

(4) Since the founding of the United States, the residents of the District of Columbia have always carried all of the obligations of citizenship, including serving in all of the Nation’s wars and paying Federal taxes, but have been denied voting representation in Congress and freedom from congressional interference in purely local matters.
(5) The District of Columbia pays more Federal
taxes per capita than any State and more Federal
taxes than 22 States.

(6) The District of Columbia has a larger popu-
lation than 2 States (Wyoming and Vermont), and
6 States have a population under one million.

(7) The District of Columbia has a larger budg-
et than 12 States.

(8) The Constitution of the United States gives
Congress the authority to admit new States (clause
1, section 3, article IV) and reduce the size of the
seat of the Government of the United States (clause
17, section 8, article I). All 37 new States have been
admitted by an act of Congress, and Congress has
previously reduced the size of the seat of the Gov-
ernment of the United States.

(9) On June 26, 2020, by a vote of 232–180,
the House of Representatives passed H.R. 51, the
Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which would have
admitted the State of Washington, Douglass Com-
monwealth from the residential portions of the Dis-
trict of Columbia and reduced the size of the seat
of the Government of the United States to the
United States Capitol, the White House, the United
States Supreme Court, the National Mall, and the principal Federal monuments and buildings.

**Subtitle D—Territorial Voting Rights**

**SEC. 2301. FINDINGS RELATING TO TERRITORIAL VOTING RIGHTS.**

Congress finds the following:

(1) The right to vote is one of the most powerful instruments residents of the territories of the United States have to ensure that their voices are heard.

(2) These Americans have played an important part in the American democracy for more than 120 years.

(3) Political participation and the right to vote are among the highest concerns of territorial residents in part because they were not always afforded these rights.

(4) Voter participation in the territories consistently ranks higher than many communities on the mainland.

(5) Territorial residents serve and die, on a per capita basis, at a higher rate in every United States war and conflict since World War I, as an expression
of their commitment to American democratic principles and patriotism.

SEC. 2302. CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE ON VOTING RIGHTS OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN RESIDENTS OF TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) Establishment.—There is established within the legislative branch a Congressional Task Force on Voting Rights of United States Citizen Residents of Territories of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Task Force”).

(b) Membership.—The Task Force shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

(1) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(3) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
House of Representatives, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(4) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(5) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(6) One Member of the House of Representatives, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(7) One Member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.
(8) One Member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(9) One Member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(10) One Member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(11) One Member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(12) One Member of the Senate, who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in coordination with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(c) Deadline for Appointment.—All appointments to the Task Force shall be made not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
(d) **Chair.**—The Speaker shall designate one Member to serve as chair of the Task Force.

(e) **Vacancies.**—Any vacancy in the Task Force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(f) **Status Update.**—After August 31, 2021, and before October 1, 2021, the Task Force shall provide a status update to the House of Representatives and the Senate that includes—

1. information the Task Force has collected;

and

2. a discussion on matters that the chairman of the Task Force determines are urgent for consideration by Congress.

(g) **Report.**—Not later than December 31, 2021, the Task Force shall issue a report of its findings to the House of Representatives and the Senate regarding—

1. the economic and societal consequences (demonstrated through statistical data and other metrics) that come with political disenfranchisement of United States citizens in territories of the United States;

2. impediments to full and equal voting rights for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States in Federal elections, in-
including the election of the President and Vice President of the United States;

(3) impediments to full and equal voting representation in the House of Representatives for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States;

(4) recommended changes that, if adopted, would allow for full and equal voting rights for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States in Federal elections, including the election of the President and Vice President of the United States;

(5) recommended changes that, if adopted, would allow for full and equal voting representation in the House of Representatives for United States citizens who are residents of territories of the United States; and

(6) additional information the Task Force determines is appropriate.

(h) CONSENSUS VIEWS.—To the greatest extent practicable, the report issued under subsection (g) shall reflect the shared views of all 12 Members of the Task Force, except that the report may contain dissenting views.
(i) Hearings and Sessions.—The Task Force may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as the Task Force considers appropriate.

(j) Stakeholder Participation.—In carrying out its duties, the Task Force shall consult with the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the United States Virgin Islands.

(k) Resources.—The Task Force shall carry out its duties by utilizing existing facilities, services, and staff of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

(l) Termination.—The Task Force shall terminate upon issuing the report required under subsection (g).

Subtitle E—Redistricting Reform

Sec. 2400. Short Title; Finding of Constitutional Authority.

(a) Short Title.—This subtitle may be cited as the “Redistricting Reform Act of 2021”.

(b) Finding of Constitutional Authority.—Congress finds that it has the authority to establish the terms and conditions States must follow in carrying out congressional redistricting after an apportionment of Members of the House of Representatives because—
(1) the authority granted to Congress under article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to enact laws governing the time, place, and manner of elections for Members of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the authority granted to Congress under section 5 of the 14th amendment to the Constitution gives Congress the power to enact laws to enforce section 2 of such amendment, which requires Representatives to be apportioned among the several States according to their number.

PART 1—REQUIREMENTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

SEC. 2401. REQUIRING CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING TO BE CONDUCTED THROUGH PLAN OF INDEPENDENT STATE COMMISSION.

(a) USE OF PLAN REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as provided in subsection (c), any congressional redistricting conducted by a State shall be conducted in accordance with—

(1) the redistricting plan developed and enacted into law by the independent redistricting commission established in the State, in accordance with part 2; or
(2) if a plan developed by such commission is not enacted into law, the redistricting plan developed and enacted into law by a 3-judge court, in accordance with section 2421.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 22(c) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a(c)), is amended by striking “in the manner provided by the law thereof” and inserting “in the manner provided by the Redistricting Reform Act of 2021”.

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR EXISTING COMMISSIONS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to any State in which, under law in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, congressional redistricting is carried out in accordance with a plan developed and approved by an independent redistricting commission that is in compliance with each of the following requirements:

(1) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE APPLICATION PROCESS.—Membership on the commission is open to citizens of the State through a publicly available application process.

(2) DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND POLITICAL APPOINTMENT.—Individ-
uals who, for a covered period of time as established by the State, hold or have held public office, individuals who are or have been candidates for elected public office, and individuals who serve or have served as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a campaign committee of a candidate for public office are disqualified from serving on the commission.

(3) SCREENING FOR CONFLICTS.—Individuals who apply to serve on the commission are screened through a process that excludes persons with conflicts of interest from the pool of potential commissioners.

(4) MULTI-PARTISAN COMPOSITION.—Membership on the commission represents those who are affiliated with the 2 political parties whose candidates received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State, as well as those who are unaffiliated with any party or who are affiliated with political parties other than the 2 political parties whose candidates received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(5) CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING.—Members of the commission are required to meet certain criteria in the map drawing process, including mini-
mizing the division of communities of interest and a ban on drawing maps to favor a political party.

(6) **PUBLIC INPUT.**—Public hearings are held and comments from the public are accepted before a final map is approved.

(7) **BROAD-BASED SUPPORT FOR APPROVAL OF FINAL PLAN.**—The approval of the final redistricting plan requires a majority vote of the members of the commission, including the support of at least one member of each of the following:

(A) Members who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(B) Members who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the second most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(C) Members who are not affiliated with any political party or who are affiliated with political parties other than the political parties described in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(d) **TREATMENT OF STATE OF IOWA.**—Subsection (a) does not apply to the State of Iowa, so long as congressional redistricting in such State is carried out in accord-
ance with a plan developed by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency with the assistance of a Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission, under law which was in effect for the most recent congressional redistricting carried out in the State prior to the date of the enactment of this Act and which remains in effect continuously on and after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2402. BAN ON MID-DECADE REDISTRICTING.

A State that has been redistricted in accordance with this subtitle and a State described in section 2401(c) may not be redistricted again until after the next apportionment of Representatives under section 22(a) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to provide for an apportionment of Representatives in Congress”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a), unless a court requires the State to conduct such subsequent redistricting to comply with the Constitution of the United States, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), the Constitution of the State, or the terms or conditions of this subtitle.

SEC. 2403. CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING.

(a) CRITERIA.—Under the redistricting plan of a State, there shall be established single-member congressional districts using the following criteria as set forth in the following order of priority:
(1) Districts shall comply with the United States Constitution, including the requirement that they equalize total population.

(2) Districts shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), including by creating any districts where two or more politically cohesive groups protected by such Act are able to elect representatives of choice in coalition with one another, and all applicable Federal laws.

(3) Districts shall be drawn, to the extent that the totality of the circumstances warrant, to ensure the practical ability of a group protected under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) to participate in the political process and to nominate candidates and to elect representatives of choice is not diluted or diminished, regardless of whether or not such protected group constitutes a majority of a district’s citizen voting age population.

(4) Districts shall respect communities of interest, neighborhoods, and political subdivisions to the extent practicable and after compliance with the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (3). A community of interest is defined as an area with recognized similarities of interests, including ethnic, racial, economic, tribal, social, cultural, geographic or
historic identities. The term communities of interest may, in certain circumstances, include political subdivisions such as counties, municipalities, tribal lands and reservations, or school districts, but shall not include common relationships with political parties or political candidates.

(b) No Favoring or Disfavoring of Political Parties.—

(1) Prohibition.—The redistricting plan enacted by a State shall not, when considered on a Statewide basis, be drawn with the intent or the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring any political party.

(2) Determination of effect.—

(A) Totality of circumstances.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the determination of whether a redistricting plan has the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party shall be based on the totality of circumstances, including evidence regarding the durability and severity of a plan’s partisan bias.

(B) Plans deemed to have effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party.—Without limiting other ways in which a redistricting plan may be determined to
have the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring
a political party under the totality of cir-
cumstances under subparagraph (A), a redis-
stricting plan shall be deemed to have the effect
of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political
party if—

(i) modeling based on relevant histor-
ical voting patterns shows that the plan is
statistically likely to result in a partisan
bias of more than one seat in States with
20 or fewer congressional districts or a
partisan bias of more than 2 seats in
States with more than 20 congressional
districts, as determined using quantitative
measures of partisan fairness, which may
include, but are not limited to, the seats-
to-votes curve for an enacted plan, the effi-
ciency gap, the declination, partisan asym-
metry, and the mean-median difference;
and

(ii) alternative plans, which may in-
clude, but are not limited to, those gen-
erated by redistricting algorithms, exist
that could have complied with the require-
ments of law and not been in violation of paragraph (1).

(3) Determination of intent.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a rebuttable presumption shall exist that a redistricting plan enacted by the legislature of a State was not enacted with the intent of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party if the plan was enacted with the support of at least a third of the members of the second largest political party in each house of the legislature.

(4) No violation based on certain criteria.—No redistricting plan shall be found to be in violation of paragraph (1) because of partisan bias attributable to the application of the criteria set forth in paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a), unless one or more alternative plans could have complied with such paragraphs without having the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring a political party.

(c) Factors prohibited from consideration.—In developing the redistricting plan for the State, the independent redistricting commission may not take into consideration any of the following factors, except as necessary to comply with the criteria described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a), to achieve partisan fairness and comply with subsection (b), and to enable the redis-
tricting plan to be measured against the external metrics described in section 2413(d):

(1) The residence of any Member of the House of Representatives or candidate.

(2) The political party affiliation or voting history of the population of a district.

(d) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies to any authority, whether appointed, elected, judicial, or otherwise, that designs or enacts a congressional redistricting plan of a State.

(e) SEVERABILITY OF CRITERIA.—If any of the criteria set forth in this section, or the application of such criteria to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining criteria set forth in this section, and the application of such criteria to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

PART 2—INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

SEC. 2411. INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2414(a) shall establish an independent redistricting commission for the State, which shall consist of 15 members appointed by the agency as follows:
(A) Not later than October 1 of a year ending in the numeral zero, the agency shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, first appoint 6 members as follows:

(i) The agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(A)).

(ii) The agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) The agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(C)).

(B) Not later than November 15 of a year ending in the numeral zero, the members appointed by the agency under subparagraph (A) shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, then appoint 9 members as follows:
(i) The members shall appoint 3 members from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(A)).

(ii) The members shall appoint 3 members from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) The members shall appoint 3 members from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2412(b)(1)(C)).

(2) Rules for appointment of members appointed by first members.—

(A) Affirmative vote of at least 4 members.—The appointment of any of the 9 members of the independent redistricting commission who are appointed by the first members of the commission pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), as well as the designation of alternates for such members pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) and the appointment of alternates to fill vacancies pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4), shall require the affirmative vote of at least 4 of the
members appointed by the nonpartisan agency under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), including at least one member from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph.

(B) Ensuring diversity.—In appointing the 9 members pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), as well as in designating alternates pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) and in appointing alternates to fill vacancies pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4), the first members of the independent redistricting commission shall ensure that the membership is representative of the demographic groups (including racial, ethnic, economic, and gender) and geographic regions of the State, and provides racial, ethnic, and language minorities protected under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the development of the State’s redistricting plan.

(3) Designation of alternates to serve in case of vacancies.—

(A) Members appointed by agency.—
At the time the agency appoints the members of the independent redistricting commission
under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall, on a random basis, designate 2 other individuals from such category to serve as alternate members who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the commission in accordance with paragraph (4).

(B) Members appointed by first members.—At the time the members appointed by the agency appoint the other members of the independent redistricting commission under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the members shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (2), designate 2 other individuals from such category to serve as alternate members who may be appointed to fill vacancies in the commission in accordance with paragraph (4).

(4) Appointment of alternates to serve in case of vacancies.—

(A) Members appointed by agency.—If a vacancy occurs in the commission with respect to a member who was appointed by the nonpartisan agency under subparagraph (A) of
paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the agency shall fill the vacancy by appointing, on a random basis, one of the 2 alternates from such category who was designated under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3). At the time the agency appoints an alternate to fill a vacancy under the previous sentence, the agency shall designate, on a random basis, another individual from the same category to serve as an alternate member, in accordance with subparagraph (A) of paragraph (3).

(B) Members appointed by first members.—If a vacancy occurs in the commission with respect to a member who was appointed by the first members of the commission under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) from one of the categories referred to in such subparagraph, the first members shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (2), fill the vacancy by appointing one of the 2 alternates from such category who was designated under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3). At the time the first members appoint an alternate to fill a vacancy under the previous sentence, the first
members shall, in accordance with the special rules described in paragraph (2), designate another individual from the same category to serve as an alternate member, in accordance with subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3).

(5) REMOVAL.—A member of the independent redistricting commission may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the commission if it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the member is not eligible to serve on the commission under section 2412(a).

(b) PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING COMMISSION BUSINESS.—

(1) CHAIR.—Members of an independent redistricting commission established under this section shall select by majority vote one member who was appointed from the independent category of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(1)(C) to serve as chair of the commission. The commission may not take any action to develop a redistricting plan for the State under section 2413 until the appointment of the commission’s chair.

(2) REQUIRING MAJORITY APPROVAL FOR ACTIONS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State may not publish and disseminate any
draft or final redistricting plan, or take any other
action, without the approval of at least—

(A) a majority of the whole membership of
the commission; and

(B) at least one member of the commission
appointed from each of the categories of the ap-
proved selection pool described in section
2412(b)(1).

(3) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
the commission shall constitute a quorum.

(c) STAFF; CONTRACTORS.—

(1) STAFF.—Under a public application process
in which all application materials are available for
public inspection, the independent redistricting com-
mission of a State shall appoint and set the pay of
technical experts, legal counsel, consultants, and
such other staff as it considers appropriate, subject
to State law.

(2) CONTRACTORS.—The independent redis-
stricting commission of a State may enter into such
contracts with vendors as it considers appropriate,
subject to State law, except that any such contract
shall be valid only if approved by the vote of a ma-
jority of the members of the commission, including
at least one member appointed from each of the cat-
egories of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(1).

(3) Reports on expenditures for political activity.—

(A) Report by applicants.—Each individual who applies for a position as an employee of the independent redistricting commission and each vendor who applies for a contract with the commission shall, at the time of applying, file with the commission a report summarizing—

(i) any expenditure for political activity made by such individual or vendor during the 10 most recent calendar years; and

(ii) any income received by such individual or vendor during the 10 most recent calendar years which is attributable to an expenditure for political activity.

(B) Annual reports by employees and vendors.—Each person who is an employee or vendor of the independent redistricting commission shall, not later than one year after the person is appointed as an employee or enters into a contract as a vendor (as the case may be) and annually thereafter for each year during which the person serves as an
employee or a vendor, file with the commission a report summarizing the expenditures and income described in subparagraph (A) during the 10 most recent calendar years.

(C) EXPENDITURE FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “expenditure for political activity” means a disbursement for any of the following:

(i) An independent expenditure, as defined in section 301(17) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(17)).

(ii) An electioneering communication, as defined in section 304(f)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)) or any other public communication, as defined in section 301(22) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101(22)) that would be an electioneering communication if it were a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication.

(iii) Any dues or other payments to trade associations or organizations described in section 501(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code that...
are, or could reasonably be anticipated to be, used or transferred to another association or organization for a use described in paragraph (1), (2), or (4) of section 501(c) of such Code.

(4) GOAL OF IMPARTIALITY.—The commission shall take such steps as it considers appropriate to ensure that any staff appointed under this subsection, and any vendor with whom the commission enters into a contract under this subsection, will work in an impartial manner, and may require any person who applies for an appointment to a staff position or for a vendor’s contract with the commission to provide information on the person’s history of political activity beyond the information on the person’s expenditures for political activity provided in the reports required under paragraph (3) (including donations to candidates, political committees, and political parties) as a condition of the appointment or the contract.

(5) DISQUALIFICATION; WAIVER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The independent redistricting commission may not appoint an individual as an employee, and may not enter into a contract with a vendor, if the individual or
vendor meets any of the criteria for the disqualification of an individual from serving as a member of the commission which are set forth in section 2412(a)(2).

(B) Waiver.—The commission may by unanimous vote of its members waive the application of subparagraph (A) to an individual or a vendor after receiving and reviewing the report filed by the individual or vendor under paragraph (3).

(d) Termination.—

(1) In general.—The independent redistricting commission of a State shall terminate on the earlier of—

(A) June 14 of the next year ending in the numeral zero; or

(B) the day on which the nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2414(a) has, in accordance with section 2412(b)(1), submitted a selection pool to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State established under section 2414(b).

(2) Preservation of records.—The State shall ensure that the records of the independent redistricting commission are retained in the appro-
priate State archive in such manner as may be nec-
essary to enable the State to respond to any civil ac-
tion brought with respect to congressional redistri-
tecting in the State.

SEC. 2412. ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION POOL OF INDI-
VIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS MEMBERS
OF COMMISSION.

(a) CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual is eligible to
serve as a member of an independent redistricting
commission if the individual meets each of the fol-
lowing criteria:

(A) As of the date of appointment, the in-
dividual is registered to vote in elections for
Federal office held in the State.

(B) During the 3-year period ending on
the date of the individual’s appointment, the in-
dividual has been continuously registered to
vote with the same political party, or has not
been registered to vote with any political party.

(C) The individual submits to the non-
partisan agency established or designated by a
State under section 2414, at such time and in
such form as the agency may require, an appli-
cation for inclusion in the selection pool under
this section, and includes with the application a
written statement, with an attestation under
penalty of perjury, containing the following in-
formation and assurances:

   (i) The full current name and any
former names of, and the contact informa-
tion for, the individual, including an elec-
tronic mail address, the address of the in-
dividual’s residence, mailing address, and
telephone numbers.

   (ii) The individual’s race, ethnicity,
gender, age, date of birth, and household
income for the most recent taxable year.

   (iii) The political party with which the
individual is affiliated, if any.

   (iv) The reason or reasons the indi-
dividual desires to serve on the independent
redistricting commission, the individual’s
qualifications, and information relevant to
the ability of the individual to be fair and
impartial, including—

   (I) any involvement with, or fi-
nancial support of, professional, so-
cial, political, religious, or community
organizations or causes; and
(II) the individual’s employment and educational history.

(v) An assurance that the individual shall commit to carrying out the individual’s duties under this subtitle in an honest, independent, and impartial fashion, and to upholding public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process.

(vi) An assurance that, during the covered periods described in paragraph (3), the individual has not taken and will not take any action which would disqualify the individual from serving as a member of the commission under paragraph (2).

(2) DISQUALIFICATIONS.—An individual is not eligible to serve as a member of the commission if any of the following applies during any of the covered periods described in paragraph (3):

(A) The individual or (in the case of the covered periods described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family member of the individual holds public office or is a candidate for election for public office.

(B) The individual or (in the case of the covered periods described in subparagraphs (A)
and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family member of the individual serves as an officer of a political party or as an officer, employee, or paid consultant of a campaign committee of a candidate for public office or of any political action committee (as determined in accordance with the law of the State).

(C) The individual or (in the case of the covered periods described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family member of the individual holds a position as a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or an equivalent State or local law.

(D) The individual or (in the case of the covered periods described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family member of the individual is an employee of an elected public official, a contractor with the government of the State, or a donor to the campaign of any candidate for public office or to any political action committee (other than a donor who, during any of such covered periods, gives an aggregate amount of $1,000 or less to
the campaigns of all candidates for all public
offices and to all political action committees).

(E) The individual paid a civil money pen-
alty or criminal fine, or was sentenced to a
term of imprisonment, for violating any provi-
sion of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.).

(F) The individual or (in the case of the
covered periods described in subparagraphs (A)
and (B) of paragraph (3)) an immediate family
member of the individual is an agent of a for-
eign principal under the Foreign Agents Reg-
istration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C.
611 et seq.).

(3) COVERED PERIODS DESCRIBED.—In this
subsection, the term “covered period” means, with
respect to the appointment of an individual to the
commission, any of the following:

(A) The 10-year period ending on the date
of the individual’s appointment.

(B) The period beginning on the date of
the individual’s appointment and ending on Au-
gust 14 of the next year ending in the numeral
one.
(C) The 10-year period beginning on the day after the last day of the period described in subparagraph (B).

(4) Immediate family member defined.—In this subsection, the term “immediate family member” means, with respect to an individual, a father, stepfather, mother, stepmother, son, stepson, daughter, stepdaughter, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law.

(b) Development and Submission of Selection Pool.—

(1) In general.—Not later than June 15 of each year ending in the numeral zero, the nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2414(a) shall develop and submit to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State established under section 2414(b) a selection pool of 36 individuals who are eligible to serve as members of the independent redistricting commission of the State under this subtitle, consisting of individuals in the following categories:

(A) A majority category, consisting of 12 individuals who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the most votes
in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(B) A minority category, consisting of 12 individuals who are affiliated with the political party whose candidate received the second most votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(C) An independent category, consisting of 12 individuals who are not affiliated with either of the political parties described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B).

(2) Factors taken into account in developing pool.—In selecting individuals for the selection pool under this subsection, the nonpartisan agency shall—

(A) ensure that the pool is representative of the demographic groups (including racial, ethnic, economic, and gender) and geographic regions of the State, and includes applicants who would allow racial, ethnic, and language minorities protected under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 a meaningful opportunity to participate in the development of the State’s redistricting plan; and
(B) take into consideration the analytical
skills of the individuals selected in relevant
fields (including mapping, data management,
law, community outreach, demography, and the
geography of the State) and their ability to
work on an impartial basis.

(3) INTERVIEWS OF APPLICANTS.—To assist
the nonpartisan agency in developing the selection
pool under this subsection, the nonpartisan agency
shall conduct interviews of applicants under oath. If
an individual is included in a selection pool de-
veloped under this section, all of the interviews of the
individual shall be transcribed and the transcriptions
made available on the nonpartisan agency’s website
contemporaneously with release of the report under
paragraph (6).

(4) DETERMINATION OF POLITICAL PARTY AF-
FILIATION OF INDIVIDUALS IN SELECTION POOL.—
For purposes of this section, an individual shall be
considered to be affiliated with a political party only
if the nonpartisan agency is able to verify (to the
greatest extent possible) the information the indi-
vidual provides in the application submitted under
subsection (a)(1)(C), including by considering addi-
tional information provided by other persons with
knowledge of the individual’s history of political activity.

(5) **Encouraging Residents to Apply for Inclusion in Pool.**—The nonpartisan agency shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that residents of the State across various geographic regions and demographic groups are aware of the opportunity to serve on the independent redistricting commission, including publicizing the role of the panel and using newspapers, broadcast media, and online sources, including ethnic media, to encourage individuals to apply for inclusion in the selection pool developed under this subsection.

(6) **Report on Establishment of Selection Pool.**—At the time the nonpartisan agency submits the selection pool to the Select Committee on Redistricting under paragraph (1), it shall publish and post on the agency’s public website a report describing the process by which the pool was developed, and shall include in the report a description of how the individuals in the pool meet the eligibility criteria of subsection (a) and of how the pool reflects the factors the agency is required to take into consideration under paragraph (2).
(7) Public comment on selection pool.—

During the 14-day period which begins on the date the nonpartisan agency publishes the report under paragraph (6), the agency shall accept comments from the public on the individuals included in the selection pool. The agency shall post all such comments contemporaneously on the nonpartisan agency’s website and shall transmit them to the Select Committee on Redistricting immediately upon the expiration of such period.

(8) Action by select committee.—

(A) In general.—Not earlier than 15 days and not later than 21 days after receiving the selection pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting shall, by majority vote—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the pool shall be considered the approved selection pool for purposes of section 2411(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool, in which case the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit a replacement selection pool in accordance with subsection (e).
(B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If
the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to
approve or reject the pool within the deadline
set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Com-
mittee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool
for purposes of such subparagraph.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF REPLACEMENT SELECTION
POOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Select Committee on
Redistricting rejects the selection pool submitted by
the nonpartisan agency under subsection (b), not
later than 14 days after the rejection, the non-
partisan agency shall develop and submit to the Se-
lect Committee a replacement selection pool, under
the same terms and conditions that applied to the
development and submission of the selection pool
under paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b).
The replacement pool submitted under this para-
graph may include individuals who were included in
the rejected selection pool submitted under sub-
section (b), so long as at least one of the individuals
in the replacement pool was not included in such re-
jected pool.

(2) ACTION BY SELECT COMMITTEE.—
(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 21 days after receiving the replacement selection pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting shall, by majority vote—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the pool shall be considered the approved selection pool for purposes of section 2411(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool, in which case the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit a second replacement selection pool in accordance with subsection (d).

(B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to approve or reject the pool within the deadline set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Committee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool for purposes of such subparagraph.

(d) DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND REPLACEMENT SELECTION POOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting rejects the replacement selection pool submitted by the nonpartisan agency under sub-
section (c), not later than 14 days after the rejection, the nonpartisan agency shall develop and submit to the Select Committee a second replacement selection pool, under the same terms and conditions that applied to the development and submission of the selection pool under paragraphs (1) through (7) of subsection (b). The second replacement selection pool submitted under this paragraph may include individuals who were included in the rejected selection pool submitted under subsection (b) or the rejected replacement selection pool submitted under subsection (c), so long as at least one of the individuals in the replacement pool was not included in either such rejected pool.

(2) Action by Select Committee.—

(A) In general.—Not earlier than 15 days and not later than 14 days after receiving the second replacement selection pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the Select Committee on Redistricting shall, by majority vote—

(i) approve the pool as submitted by the nonpartisan agency, in which case the pool shall be considered the approved selec-
tion pool for purposes of section 2411(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool.

(B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to approve or reject the pool within the deadline set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Committee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool for purposes of such subparagraph.

(C) EFFECT OF REJECTION.—If the Select Committee on Redistricting rejects the second replacement pool from the nonpartisan agency under paragraph (1), the redistricting plan for the State shall be developed and enacted in accordance with part 3.

SEC. 2413. PUBLIC NOTICE AND INPUT.

(a) PUBLIC NOTICE AND INPUT.—

(1) USE OF OPEN AND TRANSPARENT PROCESS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State shall hold each of its meetings in public, shall solicit and take into consideration comments from the public, including proposed maps, throughout the process of developing the redistricting plan for the State, and shall carry out its duties in an open and transparent manner which provides for the widest
public dissemination reasonably possible of its proposed and final redistricting plans.

(2) Website.—

(A) Features.—The commission shall maintain a public internet site which is not affiliated with or maintained by the office of any elected official and which includes the following features:

(i) General information on the commission, its role in the redistricting process, and its members, including contact information.

(ii) An updated schedule of commission hearings and activities, including deadlines for the submission of comments.

(iii) All draft redistricting plans developed by the commission under subsection (b) and the final redistricting plan developed under subsection (c), including the accompanying written evaluation under subsection (d).

(iv) All comments received from the public on the commission’s activities, including any proposed maps submitted under paragraph (1).
(v) Live streaming of commission
hearings and an archive of previous meet-
ings, including any documents considered
at any such meeting, which the commission
shall post not later than 24 hours after the
conclusion of the meeting.

(vi) Access in an easily usable format
to the demographic and other data used by
the commission to develop and analyze the
proposed redistricting plans, together with
access to any software used to draw maps
of proposed districts and to any reports
analyzing and evaluating any such maps.

(vii) A method by which members of
the public may submit comments and pro-
posed maps directly to the commission.

(viii) All records of the commission,
including all communications to or from
members, employees, and contractors re-
grading the work of the commission.

(ix) A list of all contractors receiving
payment from the commission, together
with the annual disclosures submitted by
the contractors under section 2411(c)(3).
(x) A list of the names of all individuals who submitted applications to serve on the commission, together with the applications submitted by individuals included in any selection pool, except that the commission may redact from such applications any financial or other personally sensitive information.

(B) SEARCHABLE FORMAT.—The commission shall ensure that all information posted and maintained on the site under this paragraph, including information and proposed maps submitted by the public, shall be maintained in an easily searchable format.

(C) DEADLINE.—The commission shall ensure that the public internet site under this paragraph is operational (in at least a preliminary format) not later than January 1 of the year ending in the numeral one.

(3) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—The commission shall solicit, accept, and consider comments from the public with respect to its duties, activities, and procedures at any time during the period—

(A) which begins on January 1 of the year ending in the numeral one; and
(B) which ends 7 days before the date of
the meeting at which the commission shall vote
on approving the final redistricting plan for en-
actment into law under subsection (c)(2).

(4) Meetings and hearings in various geo-
graphic locations.—To the greatest extent prac-
ticable, the commission shall hold its meetings and
hearings in various geographic regions and locations
throughout the State.

(5) Multiple language requirements for
all notices.—The commission shall make each no-
tice which is required to be posted and published
under this section available in any language in which
the State (or any jurisdiction in the State) is re-
quired to provide election materials under section
10503).

(b) Development and publication of Prelimi-
mary Redistricting Plan.—

(1) In general.—Prior to developing and pub-
lishing a final redistricting plan under subsection
(c), the independent redistricting commission of a
State shall develop and publish a preliminary redis-
tricting plan.
(2) MINIMUM PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT.—

(A) 3 HEARINGS REQUIRED.—Prior to developing a preliminary redistricting plan under this subsection, the commission shall hold not fewer than 3 public hearings at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the potential contents of redistricting plans for the State and the process by which the commission will develop the preliminary plan under this subsection.

(B) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.—Not fewer than 14 days prior to the date of each hearing held under this paragraph, the commission shall post notices of the hearing on the website maintained under subsection (a)(2), and shall provide for the publication of such notices in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. Each such notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing.

(C) SUBMISSION OF PLANS AND MAPS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.—Any member of the public may submit maps or portions of maps for consideration by the commission. As
provided under subsection (a)(2)(A), any such map shall be made publicly available on the commission’s website and open to comment.

(3) Publication of Preliminary Plan.—

(A) In General.—The commission shall post the preliminary redistricting plan developed under this subsection, together with a report that includes the commission’s responses to any public comments received under subsection (a)(3), on the website maintained under subsection (a)(2), and shall provide for the publication of each such plan in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State.

(B) Minimum Period for Notice Prior to Publication.—Not fewer than 14 days prior to the date on which the commission posts and publishes the preliminary plan under this paragraph, the commission shall notify the public through the website maintained under subsection (a)(2), as well as through publication of notice in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State, of the pending publication of the plan.

(4) Minimum Post-Publication Period for Public Comment.—The commission shall accept
and consider comments from the public (including through the website maintained under subsection (a)(2)) with respect to the preliminary redistricting plan published under paragraph (3), including proposed revisions to maps, for not fewer than 30 days after the date on which the plan is published.

(5) Post-publication hearings.—

(A) 3 hearings required.—After posting and publishing the preliminary redistricting plan under paragraph (3), the commission shall hold not fewer than 3 public hearings in different geographic areas of the State at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the preliminary plan.

(B) Minimum period for notice prior to hearings.—Not fewer than 14 days prior to the date of each hearing held under this paragraph, the commission shall post notices of the hearing on the website maintained under subsection (a)(2), and shall provide for the publication of such notices in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. Each such notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing.
(6) Permitting multiple preliminary plans.—At the option of the commission, after developing and publishing the preliminary redistricting plan under this subsection, the commission may develop and publish subsequent preliminary redistricting plans, so long as the process for the development and publication of each such subsequent plan meets the requirements set forth in this subsection for the development and publication of the first preliminary redistricting plan.

(c) Process for enactment of final redistricting plan.—

(1) In general.—After taking into consideration comments from the public on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under subsection (b), the independent redistricting commission of a State shall develop and publish a final redistricting plan for the State.

(2) Meeting; final vote.—Not later than the deadline specified in subsection (e), the commission shall hold a public hearing at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final plan for enactment into law.

(3) Publication of plan and accompanying materials.—Not fewer than 14 days before the
date of the meeting under paragraph (2), the com-
mission shall provide the following information to
the public through the website maintained under
subsection (a)(2), as well as through newspapers of
general circulation throughout the State:

(A) The final redistricting plan, including
all relevant maps.

(B) A report by the commission to accom-
pany the plan which provides the background
for the plan and the commission’s reasons for
selecting the plan as the final redistricting plan,
including responses to the public comments re-
ceived on any preliminary redistricting plan de-
veloped and published under subsection (b).

(C) Any dissenting or additional views with
respect to the plan of individual members of the
commission.

(4) ENACTMENT.—Subject to paragraph (5),
the final redistricting plan developed and published
under this subsection shall be deemed to be enacted
into law upon the expiration of the 45-day period
which begins on the date on which—

(A) such final plan is approved by a major-
ity of the whole membership of the commission;

and
(B) at least one member of the commission appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2412(b)(1) approves such final plan.

(5) Review by Department of Justice.—

(A) Requiring submission of plan for review.—The final redistricting plan shall not be deemed to be enacted into law unless the State submits the plan to the Department of Justice for an administrative review to determine if the plan is in compliance with the criteria described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 2403(a).

(B) Termination of review.—The Department of Justice shall terminate any administrative review under subparagraph (A) if, during the 45-day period which begins on the date the plan is enacted into law, an action is filed in a United States district court alleging that the plan is not in compliance with the criteria described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 2403(a).

(d) Written Evaluation of Plan Against External Metrics.—The independent redistricting commission shall include with each redistricting plan devel-
oped and published under this section a written evaluation that measures each such plan against external metrics which cover the criteria set forth in section 2403(a), including the impact of the plan on the ability of communities of color to elect candidates of choice, measures of partisan fairness using multiple accepted methodologies, and the degree to which the plan preserves or divides communities of interest.

(e) TIMING.—The independent redistricting commission of a State may begin its work on the redistricting plan of the State upon receipt of relevant population information from the Bureau of the Census, and shall approve a final redistricting plan for the State in each year ending in the numeral one not later than 8 months after the date on which the State receives the State apportionment notice or October 1, whichever occurs later.

SEC. 2414. ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES.

(a) Establishment or Designation of Nonpartisan Agency of State Legislature.—

(1) In general.—Each State shall establish a nonpartisan agency in the legislative branch of the State government to appoint the members of the independent redistricting commission for the State in accordance with section 2411.
(2) Nonpartisanship Described.—For purposes of this subsection, an agency shall be considered to be nonpartisan if under law the agency—

(A) is required to provide services on a nonpartisan basis;

(B) is required to maintain impartiality; and

(C) is prohibited from advocating for the adoption or rejection of any legislative proposal.

(3) Training of Members Appointed to Commission.—Not later than January 15 of a year ending in the numeral one, the nonpartisan agency established or designated under this subsection shall provide the members of the independent redistricting commission with initial training on their obligations as members of the commission, including obligations under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) and other applicable laws.

(4) Regulations.—The nonpartisan agency established or designated under this subsection shall adopt and publish regulations, after notice and opportunity for comment, establishing the procedures that the agency will follow in fulfilling its duties under this subtitle, including the procedures to be used in vetting the qualifications and political affili-
ation of applicants and in creating the selection pools, the randomized process to be used in selecting the initial members of the independent redistricting commission, and the rules that the agency will apply to ensure that the agency carries out its duties under this subtitle in a maximally transparent, publicly accessible, and impartial manner.

(5) Designation of existing agency.—At its option, a State may designate an existing agency in the legislative branch of its government to appoint the members of the independent redistricting commission plan for the State under this subtitle, so long as the agency meets the requirements for nonpartisanship under this subsection.

(6) Termination of agency specifically established for redistricting.—If a State does not designate an existing agency under paragraph (5) but instead establishes a new agency to serve as the nonpartisan agency under this section, the new agency shall terminate upon the enactment into law of the redistricting plan for the State.

(7) Preservation of records.—The State shall ensure that the records of the nonpartisan agency are retained in the appropriate State archive in such manner as may be necessary to enable the
State to respond to any civil action brought with respect to congressional redistricting in the State.

(8) **DEADLINE.**—The State shall meet the requirements of this subsection not later than each October 15 of a year ending in the numeral nine.

(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State shall appoint a Select Committee on Redistricting to approve or disapprove a selection pool developed for the State by the nonpartisan agency pursuant to section 2412(b).

(2) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Select Committee on Redistricting for a State under this subsection shall consist of the following members:

(A) One member of the upper house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the greatest number of seats in the upper house.

(B) One member of the upper house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the second greatest number of seats in the upper house.

(C) One member of the lower house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the
leader of the party with the greatest number of seats in the lower house.

(D) One member of the lower house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the second greatest number of seats in the lower house.

(3) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES WITH UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE.—In the case of a State with a unicameral legislature, the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State under this subsection shall consist of the following members:

(A) Two members of the State legislature appointed by the chair of the political party of the State whose candidate received the highest percentage of votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(B) Two members of the State legislature appointed by the chair of the political party whose candidate received the second highest percentage of votes in the most recent statewide election for Federal office held in the State.

(4) DEADLINE.—The State shall meet the requirements of this subsection not later than each January 15 of a year ending in the numeral zero.
(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit the leader of any political party in a legislature from appointment to the Select Committee on Redistricting.

SEC. 2415. REPORT ON DIVERSITY OF MEMBERSHIPS OF INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS.

Not later than May 15 of a year ending in the numeral one, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the extent to which the memberships of independent redistricting commissions for States established under this part with respect to the immediately preceding year ending in the numeral zero meet the diversity requirements as provided for in sections 2411(a)(2)(B) and 2412(b)(2).

PART 3—ROLE OF COURTS IN DEVELOPMENT OF REDISTRICTING PLANS

SEC. 2421. ENACTMENT OF PLAN DEVELOPED BY 3-JUDGE COURT.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—If any of the triggering events described in subsection (f) occur with respect to a State—

(1) not later than December 15 of the year in which the triggering event occurs, the United States district court for the applicable venue, acting
through a 3-judge court convened pursuant to section 2284 of title 28, United States Code, shall de-
develop and publish the congressional redistricting plan for the State; and

(2) the final plan developed and published by the court under this section shall be deemed to be enacted on the date on which the court publishes the final plan, as described in subsection (d).

(b) **Appl icable Venue Described.**—For purposes of this section, the “applicable venue” with respect to a State is the District of Columbia or the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, as selected by the first party to file with the court sufficient evidence of the occurrence of a triggering event described in sub-
section (f).

(e) **Procedures for Development of Plan.**—

(1) **Criteria.**—In developing a redistricting plan for a State under this section, the court shall adhere to the same terms and conditions that ap-
plied (or that would have applied, as the case may be) to the development of a plan by the independent redistricting commission of the State under section 2403.

(2) **Access to Information and Records of Commission.**—The court shall have access to any
information, data, software, or other records and material that was used (or that would have been used, as the case may be) by the independent redistricting commission of the State in carrying out its duties under this subtitle.

(3) Hearing; Public Participation.—In developing a redistricting plan for a State, the court shall—

(A) hold one or more evidentiary hearings at which interested members of the public may appear and be heard and present testimony, including expert testimony, in accordance with the rules of the court; and

(B) consider other submissions and comments by the public, including proposals for redistricting plans to cover the entire State or any portion of the State.

(4) Use of Special Master.—To assist in the development and publication of a redistricting plan for a State under this section, the court may appoint a special master to make recommendations to the court on possible plans for the State.

(d) Publication of Plan.—

(1) Public Availability of Initial Plan.—

Upon completing the development of one or more
initial redistricting plans, the court shall make the
plans available to the public at no cost, and shall
also make available the underlying data used by the
court to develop the plans and a written evaluation
of the plans against external metrics (as described in
section 2413(d)).

(2) Publication of Final Plan.—At any
time after the expiration of the 14-day period which
begins on the date the court makes the plans avail-
able to the public under paragraph (1), and taking
into consideration any submissions and comments by
the public which are received during such period, the
court shall develop and publish the final redistricting
plan for the State.

(e) Use of Interim Plan.—In the event that the
court is not able to develop and publish a final redis-
tricting plan for the State with sufficient time for an up-
coming election to proceed, the court may develop and
publish an interim redistricting plan which shall serve as
the redistricting plan for the State until the court develops
and publishes a final plan in accordance with this section.
Nothing in this subsection may be construed to limit or
otherwise affect the authority or discretion of the court
to develop and publish the final redistricting plan, includ-
ing the discretion to make any changes the court deems necessary to an interim redistricting plan.

(f) Triggering Events Described.—The “triggering events” described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) The failure of the State to establish or designate a nonpartisan agency of the State legislature under section 2414(a) prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth in section 2414(a)(8).

(2) The failure of the State to appoint a Select Committee on Redistricting under section 2414(b) prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth in section 2414(b)(4).

(3) The failure of the Select Committee on Redistricting to approve any selection pool under section 2412 prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth for the approval of the second replacement selection pool in section 2412(d)(2).

(4) The failure of the independent redistricting commission of the State to approve a final redistricting plan for the State prior to the expiration of the deadline set forth in section 2413(e).

SEC. 2422. SPECIAL RULE FOR REDISTRICTING CONDUCTED UNDER ORDER OF FEDERAL COURT.

If a Federal court requires a State to conduct redistricting subsequent to an apportionment of Representa-
atives in the State in order to comply with the Constitution or to enforce the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), section 2413 shall apply with respect to the redistricting, except that the court may revise any of the deadlines set forth in such section if the court determines that a revision is appropriate in order to provide for a timely enactment of a new redistricting plan for the State.

PART 4—ADMINISTRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 2431. PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CARRYING OUT REDISTRICTING.

(a) Authorization of Payments.—Subject to subsection (d), not later than 30 days after a State receives a State apportionment notice, the Election Assistance Commission shall, subject to the availability of appropriations provided pursuant to subsection (e), make a payment to the State in an amount equal to the product of—

(1) the number of Representatives to which the State is entitled, as provided under the notice; and

(2) $150,000.

(b) Use of Funds.—A State shall use the payment made under this section to establish and operate the State’s independent redistricting commission, to imple-
ment the State redistricting plan, and to otherwise carry
out congressional redistricting in the State.

(c) No Payment to States With Single Member.—The Election Assistance Commission shall not
make a payment under this section to any State which
is not entitled to more than one Representative under its
State apportionment notice.

(d) Requiring Submission of Selection Pool as
Condition of Payment.—

(1) Requirement.—Except as provided in
paragraph (2), the Election Assistance Commission
may not make a payment to a State under this sec-
tion until the State certifies to the Commission that
the nonpartisan agency established or designated by
a State under section 2414(a) has, in accordance
with section 2412(b)(1), submitted a selection pool
to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the
State established under section 2414(b).

(2) Exception for States With Existing
Commissions.—In the case of a State which, pursu-
ant to section 2401(c), is exempt from the require-
ments of section 2401(a), the Commission may not
make a payment to the State under this section until
the State certifies to the Commission that its redis-
irecting commission meets the requirements of section 2401(c).

(3) Exception for State of Iowa.—In the case of the State of Iowa, the Commission may not make a payment to the State under this section until the State certifies to the Commission that it will carry out congressional redistricting pursuant to the State’s apportionment notice in accordance with a plan developed by the Iowa Legislative Services Agency with the assistance of a Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission, as provided under the law described in section 2401(d).

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for payments under this section.

SEC. 2432. CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.

(a) Civil Enforcement.—

(1) Actions by attorney general.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such relief as may be appropriate to carry out this subtitle.

(2) Availability of private right of action.—Any citizen of a State who is aggrieved by the failure of the State to meet the requirements of this subtitle may bring a civil action in the United
States district court for the applicable venue for such relief as may be appropriate to remedy the failure. For purposes of this section, the “applicable venue” is the District of Columbia or the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, as selected by the person who brings the civil action.

(b) EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION.—In any action brought forth under this section, the following rules shall apply:

(1) The action shall be filed in the district court of the United States for the District of Columbia or for the judicial district in which the capital of the State is located, as selected by the person bringing the action.

(2) The action shall be heard by a 3-judge court convened pursuant to section 2284 of title 28, United States Code.

(3) The 3-judge court shall consolidate actions brought for relief under subsection (b)(1) with respect to the same State redistricting plan.

(4) A copy of the complaint shall be delivered promptly to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

(5) A final decision in the action shall be reviewable only by appeal directly to the Supreme
Court of the United States. Such appeal shall be taken by the filing of a notice of appeal within 10 days, and the filing of a jurisdictional statement within 30 days, of the entry of the final decision.

(6) It shall be the duty of the district court and the Supreme Court of the United States to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of the action and appeal.

(e) Remedies.—

(1) Adoption of replacement plan.—

(A) In general.—If the district court in an action under this section finds that the congressional redistricting plan of a State violates, in whole or in part, the requirements of this subtitle—

(i) the court shall adopt a replacement congressional redistricting plan for the State in accordance with the process set forth in section 2421; or

(ii) if circumstances warrant and no delay to an upcoming regularly scheduled election for the House of Representatives in the State would result, the district court may allow a State to develop and propose a remedial congressional redistricting plan
for consideration by the court, and such remedial plan may be developed by the State by adopting such appropriate changes to the State’s enacted plan as may be ordered by the court.

(B) Special rule in case final adjudication not expected within 3 months of election.—If final adjudication of an action under this section is not reasonably expected to be completed at least three months prior to the next regularly scheduled election for the House of Representatives in the State, the district court shall, as the balance of equities warrant,—

(i) order development, adoption, and use of an interim congressional redistricting plan in accordance with section 2421(e) to address any claims under this title for which a party seeking relief has demonstrated a substantial likelihood of success; or

(ii) order adjustments to the timing of primary elections for the House of Representatives, as needed, to allow sufficient opportunity for adjudication of the matter
and adoption of a remedial or replacement plan for use in the next regularly scheduled general elections for the House of Representatives.

(2) **NO INJUNCTIVE RELIEF PERMITTED.**—Any remedial or replacement congressional redistricting plan ordered under this subsection shall not be subject to temporary or preliminary injunctive relief from any court unless the record establishes that a writ of mandamus is warranted.

(3) **NO STAY PENDING APPEAL.**—Notwithstanding the appeal of an order finding that a congressional redistricting plan of a State violates, in whole or in part, the requirements of this subtitle, no stay shall issue which shall bar the development or adoption of a replacement or remedial plan under this subsection, as may be directed by the district court, pending such appeal.

(d) **ATTORNEY’S FEES.**—In a civil action under this section, the court may allow the prevailing party (other than the United States) reasonable attorney fees, including litigation expenses, and costs.

(e) **RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.**—

(1) **RIGHTS AND REMEDIES ADDITIONAL TO** other rights and remedies.—The rights and
remedies established by this section are in addition
to all other rights and remedies provided by law, and
neither the rights and remedies established by this
section nor any other provision of this subtitle shall
supersede, restrict, or limit the application of the
Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).

(2) VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.—Nothing in
this subtitle authorizes or requires conduct that is
prohibited by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
U.S.C. 10301 et seq.).

(f) LEGISLATIVE PRIVILEGE.—No person, legisla-
ture, or State may claim legislative privilege under either
State or Federal law in a civil action brought under this
section or in any other legal challenge, under either State
or Federal law, to a redistricting plan enacted under this
subtitle.

SEC. 2433. STATE APPORTIONMENT NOTICE DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the “State apportionment notice”
means, with respect to a State, the notice sent to the State
from the Clerk of the House of Representatives under sec-
tion 22(b) of the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the
fifteenth and subsequent decennial censuses and to pro-
vide for an apportionment of Representatives in Con-
gess”, approved June 18, 1929 (2 U.S.C. 2a), of the
number of Representatives to which the State is entitled.

SEC. 2434. NO EFFECT ON ELECTIONS FOR STATE AND
LOCAL OFFICE.

Nothing in this subtitle or in any amendment made
by this subtitle may be construed to affect the manner
in which a State carries out elections for State or local
office, including the process by which a State establishes
the districts used in such elections.

SEC. 2435. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle and the amendments made by this sub-
title shall apply with respect to redistricting carried out
pursuant to the decennial census conducted during 2030
or any succeeding decennial census.

PART 5—REQUIREMENTS FOR REDISTRICTING
CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS

Subpart A—Application of Certain Requirements for
Redistricting Carried Out Pursuant to 2020 Census

SEC. 2441. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR
REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO
2020 CENSUS.

Notwithstanding section 2435, parts 1, 3, and 4 of
this subtitle and the amendments made by such parts shall
apply with respect to congressional redistricting carried
out pursuant to the decennial census conducted during
2020 in the same manner as such parts and the amend-
ments made by such parts apply with respect to redis-
tricting carried out pursuant to the decennial census con-
ducted during 2030, except as follows:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (c) and
subsection (d) of section 2401, the redistricting shall
be conducted in accordance with—

(A) the redistricting plan developed and
enacted into law by the independent redis-
tricting commission established in the State in
accordance with subpart B; or

(B) if a plan developed by such commission
is not enacted into law, the redistricting plan
developed and enacted into law by a 3-judge
court in accordance with section 2421.

(2) If any of the triggering events described in
section 2442 occur with respect to the State, the
United States district court for the applicable venue
shall develop and publish the redistricting plan for
the State, in accordance with section 2421, not later
than December 15, 2021.

(3) For purposes of section 2431(d)(1), the
Election Assistance Commission may not make a
payment to a State under such section until the
State certifies to the Commission that the non-
partisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2454(a) has, in accordance with section 2452(b)(1), submitted a selection pool to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State established under section 2454(b).

SEC. 2442. TRIGGERING EVENTS.

For purposes of the redistricting carried out pursuant to the decennial census conducted during 2020, the triggering events described in this section are as follows:

(1) The failure of the State to establish or designate a nonpartisan agency under section 2454(a) prior to the expiration of the deadline under section 2454(a)(6).

(2) The failure of the State to appoint a Select Committee on Redistricting under section 2454(b) prior to the expiration of the deadline under section 2454(b)(4).

(3) The failure of the Select Committee on Redistricting to approve a selection pool under section 2452(b) prior to the expiration of the deadline under section 2452(b)(7).

(4) The failure of the independent redistricting commission of the State to approve a final redistricting plan for the State under section 2453 prior
to the expiration of the deadline under section 2453(e).

Subpart B—Independent Redistricting Commissions

for Redistricting Carried Out Pursuant to 2020 Census

SEC. 2451. USE OF INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS FOR REDISTRICTING CARRIED OUT PURSUANT TO 2020 CENSUS.

(a) Appointment of Members.—

(1) In general.—The nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2454(a) shall establish an independent redistricting commission under this part for the State, which shall consist of 15 members appointed by the agency as follows:

(A) Not later than August 5, 2021, the agency shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, first appoint 6 members as follows:

(i) The agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2452(b)(1)(A)).
(ii) The agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2452(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) The agency shall appoint 2 members on a random basis from the independent category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2452(b)(1)(C)).

(B) Not later than August 15, 2021, the members appointed by the agency under subparagraph (A) shall, at a public meeting held not earlier than 15 days after notice of the meeting has been given to the public, then appoint 9 members as follows:

(i) The members shall appoint 3 members from the majority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2452(b)(1)(A)).

(ii) The members shall appoint 3 members from the minority category of the approved selection pool (as described in section 2452(b)(1)(B)).

(iii) The members shall appoint 3 members from the independent category of
the approved selection pool (as described in section 2452(b)(1)(C)).

(2) Rules for appointment of members appointed by first members.—

(A) Affirmative vote of at least 4 members.—The appointment of any of the 9 members of the independent redistricting commission who are appointed by the first members of the commission pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) shall require the affirmative vote of at least 4 of the members appointed by the nonpartisan agency under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), including at least one member from each of the categories referred to in such subparagraph.

(B) Ensuring diversity.—In appointing the 9 members pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1), the first members of the independent redistricting commission shall ensure that the membership is representative of the demographic groups (including racial, ethnic, economic, and gender) and geographic regions of the State, and provides racial, ethnic, and language minorities protected under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with a meaningful oppor-
(3) REMOVAL.—A member of the independent redistricting commission may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the commission if it is shown by a preponderance of the evidence that the member is not eligible to serve on the commission under section 2452(a).

(b) PROCEDURES FOR Conducting Commission Business.—

(1) Requiring majority approval for actions.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part may not publish and disseminate any draft or final redistricting plan, or take any other action, without the approval of at least—

(A) a majority of the whole membership of the commission; and

(B) at least one member of the commission appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2452(b)(1).

(2) Quorum.—A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

(e) Staff; Contractors.—
(1) Staff.—Under a public application process in which all application materials are available for public inspection, the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall appoint and set the pay of technical experts, legal counsel, consultants, and such other staff as it considers appropriate, subject to State law.

(2) Contractors.—The independent redistricting commission of a State may enter into such contracts with vendors as it considers appropriate, subject to State law, except that any such contract shall be valid only if approved by the vote of a majority of the members of the commission, including at least one member appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2452(b)(1).

(3) Goal of Impartiality.—The commission shall take such steps as it considers appropriate to ensure that any staff appointed under this subsection, and any vendor with whom the commission enters into a contract under this subsection, will work in an impartial manner.

(d) Preservation of Records.—The State shall ensure that the records of the independent redistricting commission are retained in the appropriate State archive
in such manner as may be necessary to enable the State
to respond to any civil action brought with respect to con-
gressional redistricting in the State.

SEC. 2452. ESTABLISHMENT OF SELECTION POOL OF INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF COMMISSION.

(a) Criteria for Eligibility.—

(1) In general.—An individual is eligible to serve as a member of an independent redistricting commission under this part if the individual meets each of the following criteria:

(A) As of the date of appointment, the individual is registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State.

(B) During the 3-year period ending on the date of the individual’s appointment, the individual has been continuously registered to vote with the same political party, or has not been registered to vote with any political party.

(C) The individual submits to the non-partisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2454, at such time and in such form as the agency may require, an application for inclusion in the selection pool under this section, and includes with the application a
written statement, with an attestation under penalty of perjury, containing the following in-
formation and assurances:

(i) The full current name and any former names of, and the contact informa-
tion for, the individual, including an elec-
tronic mail address, the address of the in-
dividual’s residence, mailing address, and telephone numbers.

(ii) The individual’s race, ethnicity,
gender, age, date of birth, and household income for the most recent taxable year.

(iii) The political party with which the individual is affiliated, if any.

(iv) The reason or reasons the indi-
vidual desires to serve on the independent redistricting commission, the individual’s qualifications, and information relevant to the ability of the individual to be fair and impartial, including—

(I) any involvement with, or fi-
nancial support of, professional, so-
cial, political, religious, or community organizations or causes; and
(II) the individual’s employment
and educational history.

(v) An assurance that the individual
shall commit to carrying out the individ-
ual’s duties under this subtitle in an hon-
est, independent, and impartial fashion,
and to upholding public confidence in the
integrity of the redistricting process.

(vi) An assurance that, during such
covered period as the State may establish
with respect to any of the subparagraphs
of paragraph (2), the individual has not
taken and will not take any action which
would disqualify the individual from serv-
ing as a member of the commission under
such paragraph.

(2) DISQUALIFICATIONS.—An individual is not
eligible to serve as a member of the commission if
any of the following applies with respect to such cov-
ered period as the State may establish:

(A) The individual or an immediate family
member of the individual holds public office or
is a candidate for election for public office.

(B) The individual or an immediate family
member of the individual serves as an officer of
a political party or as an officer, employee, or
paid consultant of a campaign committee of a
candidate for public office or of any political ac-
tion committee (as determined in accordance
with the law of the State).

(C) The individual or an immediate family
member of the individual holds a position as a
registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclo-
sure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) or an
equivalent State or local law.

(D) The individual or an immediate family
member of the individual is an employee of an
elected public official, a contractor with the gov-
ernment of the State, or a donor to the cam-
paign of any candidate for public office or to
any political action committee (other than a
donor who, during any of such covered periods,
gives an aggregate amount of $1,000 or less to
the campaigns of all candidates for all public
offices and to all political action committees).

(E) The individual paid a civil money pen-
alty or criminal fine, or was sentenced to a
term of imprisonment, for violating any provi-
sion of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.).
(F) The individual or an immediate family member of the individual is an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.).

(3) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “immediate family member” means, with respect to an individual, a father, stepfather, mother, stepmother, son, stepson, daughter, stepdaughter, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law.

(b) DEVELOPMENT AND SUBMISSION OF SELECTION POOL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 15, 2021, the nonpartisan agency established or designated by a State under section 2454(a) shall develop and submit to the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State established under section 2454(b) a selection pool of 36 individuals who are eligible to serve as members of the independent redistricting commission of the State under this part, consisting of individuals in the following categories:

(A) A majority category, consisting of 12 individuals who are affiliated with the political
party whose candidate received the most votes
in the most recent Statewide election for Fed-
eral office held in the State.

(B) A minority category, consisting of 12
individuals who are affiliated with the political
party whose candidate received the second most
votes in the most recent Statewide election for
Federal office held in the State.

(C) An independent category, consisting of
12 individuals who are not affiliated with either
of the political parties described in subpara-
graph (A) or subparagraph (B).

(2) FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DEVEL-
oping pool.—In selecting individuals for the selec-
tion pool under this subsection, the nonpartisan
agency shall—

(A) ensure that the pool is representative
of the demographic groups (including racial,
ethnic, economic, and gender) and geographic
regions of the State, and includes applicants
who would allow racial, ethnic, and language
minorities protected under the Voting Rights
Act of 1965 a meaningful opportunity to par-
ticipate in the development of the State’s redis-
tricting plan; and
(B) take into consideration the analytical
skills of the individuals selected in relevant
fields (including mapping, data management,
law, community outreach, demography, and the
geography of the State) and their ability to
work on an impartial basis.

(3) Determination of political party af-
filiation of individuals in selection pool.—
For purposes of this section, an individual shall be
considered to be affiliated with a political party only
if the nonpartisan agency is able to verify (to the
greatest extent possible) the information the indi-
vidual provides in the application submitted under
subsection (a)(1)(C), including by considering addi-
tional information provided by other persons with
knowledge of the individual’s history of political ac-
tivity.

(4) Encouraging residents to apply for
inclusion in pool.—The nonpartisan agency shall
take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that
residents of the State across various geographic re-
gions and demographic groups are aware of the op-
portunity to serve on the independent redistricting
commission, including publicizing the role of the
panel and using newspapers, broadcast media, and
online sources, including ethnic media, to encourage
individuals to apply for inclusion in the selection
pool developed under this subsection.

(5) Report on Establishment of Selection Pool.—At the time the nonpartisan agency
submits the selection pool to the Select Committee
on Redistricting under paragraph (1), it shall pub-
lish a report describing the process by which the
pool was developed, and shall include in the report
a description of how the individuals in the pool meet
the eligibility criteria of subsection (a) and of how
the pool reflects the factors the agency is required
to take into consideration under paragraph (2).

(6) Public Comment on Selection Pool.—
During the 14-day period which begins on the date
the nonpartisan agency publishes the report under
paragraph (5), the agency shall accept comments
from the public on the individuals included in the se-
lection pool. The agency shall transmit all such com-
ments to the Select Committee on Redistricting im-
mediately upon the expiration of such period.

(7) Action by Select Committee.—

(A) In General.—Not later than August
1, 2021, the Select Committee on Redistricting
shall—
(i) approve the pool as submitted by
the nonpartisan agency, in which case the
pool shall be considered the approved selec-
tion pool for purposes of section
2451(a)(1); or

(ii) reject the pool, in which case the
redistricting plan for the State shall be de-
veloped and enacted in accordance with
part 3.

(B) INACTION DEEMED REJECTION.—If
the Select Committee on Redistricting fails to
approve or reject the pool within the deadline
set forth in subparagraph (A), the Select Com-
mittee shall be deemed to have rejected the pool
for purposes of such subparagraph.

SEC. 2453. CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING PLAN; PUBLIC
NOTICE AND INPUT.

(a) Public Notice and Input.—

(1) Use of Open and Transparent Proc-
ess.—The independent redistricting commission of a
State under this part shall hold each of its meetings
in public, shall solicit and take into consideration
comments from the public, including proposed maps,
throughout the process of developing the redis-
tricting plan for the State, and shall carry out its
duties in an open and transparent manner which
provides for the widest public dissemination reason-
ably possible of its proposed and final redistricting
plans.

(2) Public comment period.—The commis-
sion shall solicit, accept, and consider comments
from the public with respect to its duties, activities,
and procedures at any time until 7 days before the
date of the meeting at which the commission shall
vote on approving the final redistricting plan for en-
actment into law under subsection (c)(2).

(3) Meetings and hearings in various geo-
graphic locations.—To the greatest extent prac-
ticable, the commission shall hold its meetings and
hearings in various geographic regions and locations
throughout the State.

(4) Multiple language requirements for
all notices.—The commission shall make each no-
tice which is required to be published under this sec-
tion available in any language in which the State (or
any jurisdiction in the State) is required to provide
election materials under section 203 of the Voting

(b) Development and publication of Prelimi-
nary redistricting plan.—
(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Prior to developing and publishing a final redistricting plan under subsection (c), the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall develop and publish a preliminary redistricting plan.

(2) **MINIMUM PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT PRIOR TO DEVELOPMENT.**—

(A) **2 HEARINGS REQUIRED.**—Prior to developing a preliminary redistricting plan under this subsection, the commission shall hold not fewer than 2 public hearings at which members of the public may provide input and comments regarding the potential contents of redistricting plans for the State and the process by which the commission will develop the preliminary plan under this subsection.

(B) **NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.**—The commission shall provide for the publication of notices of each hearing held under this paragraph, including in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State. Each such notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the hearing.

(C) **SUBMISSION OF PLANS AND MAPS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**—Any member of
the public may submit maps or portions of maps for consideration by the commission.

(3) Public publication of preliminary plan. — The commission shall provide for the publication of the preliminary redistricting plan developed under this subsection, including in newspapers of general circulation throughout the State, and shall make publicly available a report that includes the commission’s responses to any public comments received under this subsection.

(4) Public comment after publication. — The commission shall accept and consider comments from the public with respect to the preliminary redistricting plan published under paragraph (3), including proposed revisions to maps, until 14 days before the date of the meeting under subsection (c)(2) at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final redistricting plan for enactment into law.

(5) Post-publication hearings. —

(A) 2 hearings required. — After publishing the preliminary redistricting plan under paragraph (3), and not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting under subsection (c)(2) at which the members of the commission
shall vote on approving the final redistricting
plan for enactment into law, the commission
shall hold not fewer than 2 public hearings in
different geographic areas of the State at which
members of the public may provide input and
comments regarding the preliminary plan.

(B) NOTICE PRIOR TO HEARINGS.—The
commission shall provide for the publication of
notices of each hearing held under this para-
graph, including in newspapers of general cir-
culation throughout the State. Each such notice
shall specify the date, time, and location of the
hearing.

(6) PERMITTING MULTIPLE PRELIMINARY
PLANS.—At the option of the commission, after de-
veloping and publishing the preliminary redistricting
plan under this subsection, the commission may de-
velop and publish subsequent preliminary redis-
tricting plans, so long as the process for the develop-
ment and publication of each such subsequent plan
meets the requirements set forth in this subsection
for the development and publication of the first pre-
liminary redistricting plan.

(c) PROCESS FOR ENACTMENT OF FINAL REDIS-
TRICTING PLAN.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—After taking into consideration comments from the public on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under subsection (b), the independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall develop and publish a final redistricting plan for the State.

(2) MEETING; FINAL VOTE.—Not later than the deadline specified in subsection (e), the commission shall hold a public hearing at which the members of the commission shall vote on approving the final plan for enactment into law.

(3) PUBLICATION OF PLAN AND ACCOMPANYING MATERIALS.—Not fewer than 14 days before the date of the meeting under paragraph (2), the commission shall make the following information available to the public, including through newspapers of general circulation throughout the State:

(A) The final redistricting plan, including all relevant maps.

(B) A report by the commission to accompany the plan which provides the background for the plan and the commission’s reasons for selecting the plan as the final redistricting plan, including responses to the public comments re-
ceived on any preliminary redistricting plan developed and published under subsection (b).

(C) Any dissenting or additional views with respect to the plan of individual members of the commission.

(4) ENACTMENT.—The final redistricting plan developed and published under this subsection shall be deemed to be enacted into law upon the expiration of the 45-day period which begins on the date on which—

(A) such final plan is approved by a majority of the whole membership of the commission; and

(B) at least one member of the commission appointed from each of the categories of the approved selection pool described in section 2452(b)(1) approves such final plan.

(d) WRITTEN EVALUATION OF PLAN AGAINST EXTERNAL METRICS.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall include with each redistricting plan developed and published under this section a written evaluation that measures each such plan against external metrics which cover the criteria set forth in section 2403(a), including the impact of the plan on the ability of communities of color to elect candidates of
choice, measures of partisan fairness using multiple accepted methodologies, and the degree to which the plan preserves or divides communities of interest.

(e) DEADLINE.—The independent redistricting commission of a State under this part shall approve a final redistricting plan for the State not later than November 15, 2021.

SEC. 2454. ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATED ENTITIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OR DESIGNATION OF NONPARTISAN AGENCY OF STATE LEGISLATURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall establish a nonpartisan agency in the legislative branch of the State government to appoint the members of the independent redistricting commission for the State under this part in accordance with section 2451.

(2) NONPARTISANSHIP DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this subsection, an agency shall be considered to be nonpartisan if under law the agency—

(A) is required to provide services on a nonpartisan basis;

(B) is required to maintain impartiality; and

(C) is prohibited from advocating for the adoption or rejection of any legislative proposal.
(3) Designation of Existing Agency.—At its option, a State may designate an existing agency in the legislative branch of its government to appoint the members of the independent redistricting commission plan for the State under this subtitle, so long as the agency meets the requirements for non-partisanship under this subsection.

(4) Termination of Agency Specifically Established for Redistricting.—If a State does not designate an existing agency under paragraph (3) but instead establishes a new agency to serve as the nonpartisan agency under this section, the new agency shall terminate upon the enactment into law of the redistricting plan for the State.

(5) Preservation of Records.—The State shall ensure that the records of the nonpartisan agency are retained in the appropriate State archive in such manner as may be necessary to enable the State to respond to any civil action brought with respect to congressional redistricting in the State.

(6) Deadline.—The State shall meet the requirements of this subsection not later than June 1, 2021.

(b) Establishment of Select Committee on Redistricting.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall appoint a Select Committee on Redistricting to approve or disapprove a selection pool developed by the independent redistricting commission for the State under this part under section 2452.

(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Select Committee on Redistricting for a State under this subsection shall consist of the following members:

(A) One member of the upper house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the greatest number of seats in the upper house.

(B) One member of the upper house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the second greatest number of seats in the upper house.

(C) One member of the lower house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the greatest number of seats in the lower house.

(D) One member of the lower house of the State legislature, who shall be appointed by the leader of the party with the second greatest number of seats in the lower house.
(3) Special rule for states with unicameral legislature.—In the case of a State with a unicameral legislature, the Select Committee on Redistricting for the State under this subsection shall consist of the following members:

(A) Two members of the State legislature appointed by the chair of the political party of the State whose candidate received the highest percentage of votes in the most recent State-wide election for Federal office held in the State.

(B) Two members of the State legislature appointed by the chair of the political party whose candidate received the second highest percentage of votes in the most recent State-wide election for Federal office held in the State.

(4) Deadline.—The State shall meet the requirements of this subsection not later than June 15, 2021.

(5) Rule of construction.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit the leader of any political party in a legislature from appointment to the Select Committee on Redistricting.
SEC. 2455. REPORT ON DIVERSITY OF MEMBERSHIPS OF INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS.

Not later than November 15, 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the extent to which the memberships of independent redistricting commissions for States established under this part with respect to the immediately preceding year ending in the numeral zero meet the diversity requirements as provided for in sections 2451(a)(2)(B) and 2452(b)(2).

Subtitle F—Saving Eligible Voters From Voter Purging

SEC. 2501. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Stop Automatically Voiding Eligible Voters Off Their Enlisted Rolls in States Act” or the “Save Voters Act”.

SEC. 2502. CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL OF VOTERS FROM LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS.

(a) CONDITIONS DESCRIBED.—The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 8 the following new section:
“SEC. 8A. CONDITIONS FOR REMOVAL OF VOTERS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS.

“(a) Verification on basis of objective and reliable evidence of ineligibility.—

“(1) Requiring verification.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a State may not remove the name of any registrant from the official list of voters eligible to vote in elections for Federal office in the State unless the State verifies, on the basis of objective and reliable evidence, that the registrant is ineligible to vote in such elections.

“(2) Factors not considered as objective and reliable evidence of ineligibility.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the following factors, or any combination thereof, shall not be treated as objective and reliable evidence of a registrant’s ineligibility to vote:

“(A) The failure of the registrant to vote in any election.

“(B) The failure of the registrant to respond to any election mail, unless the election mail has been returned as undeliverable.

“(C) The failure of the registrant to take any other action with respect to voting in any election or with respect to the registrant’s status as a registrant.
“(3) Exception.—This subsection shall not prevent a State from considering the factors described in paragraph (2) when removing a registrant from the official list of voters pursuant to section 8(d)(1)(B), provided that the notice sent under section 8(d)(2) was itself sent on the basis of objective and reliable evidence.

“(b) Notice After Removal.—

“(1) Notice to Individual Removed.—

“(A) In General.—Not later than 48 hours after a State removes the name of a registrant from the official list of eligible voters, the State shall send notice of the removal to the former registrant, and shall include in the notice the grounds for the removal and information on how the former registrant may contest the removal or be reinstated, including a telephone number for the appropriate election official.

“(B) Exceptions.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply in the case of a registrant—

“(i) who sends written confirmation to the State that the registrant is no longer eligible to vote in the registrar’s jurisdic-
tion in which the registrant was registered;
or
(ii) who is removed from the official
list of eligible voters by reason of the death
of the registrant.
“(2) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Not later than 48 hours
after conducting any general program to remove the
names of ineligible voters from the official list of eli-
gible voters (as described in section 8(a)(4)), the
State shall disseminate a public notice through such
methods as may be reasonable to reach the general
public (including by publishing the notice in a news-
paper of wide circulation and posting the notice on
the websites of the appropriate election officials)
that list maintenance is taking place and that reg-
istrants should check their registration status to en-
sure no errors or mistakes have been made. The
State shall ensure that the public notice dissemi-
nated under this paragraph is in a format that is
reasonably convenient and accessible to voters with
disabilities, including voters who have low vision or
are blind.”.
(b) CONDITIONS FOR TRANSMISSION OF NOTICES OF
REMOVAL.—Section 8(d) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
20507(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) A State may not transmit a notice to a registrant under this subsection unless the State obtains objective and reliable evidence (in accordance with the standards for such evidence which are described in section 8A(a)(2)) that the registrant has changed residence to a place outside the registrar’s jurisdiction in which the registrant is registered.”.

(c) Conforming Amendments.—

(1) National Voter Registration Act of 1993.—Section 8(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “provide” and inserting “subject to section 8A, provide”; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “conduct” and inserting “subject to section 8A, conduct”.

(2) Help America Vote Act of 2002.—Section 303(a)(4)(A) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083(a)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “registrants” the second place it appears and inserting “and subject to section 8A of such Act, registrants”.
(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle G—No Effect on Authority of States to Provide Greater Opportunities for Voting

SEC. 2601. NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY OF STATES TO PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOTING.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title may be construed to prohibit any State from enacting any law which provides greater opportunities for individuals to register to vote and to vote in elections for Federal office than are provided by this title and the amendments made by this title.

Subtitle H—Residence of Incarcerated Individuals

SEC. 2701. RESIDENCE OF INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS.

Section 141 of title 13, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:
“(g)(1) Effective beginning with the 2020 decennial census of population, in taking any tabulation of total population by States under subsection (a) for purposes of the apportionment of Representatives in Congress among the several States, the Secretary shall, with respect to an individual incarcerated in a State, Federal, county, or municipal correctional center as of the date on which such census is taken, attribute such individual to such individual’s last place of residence before incarceration.

“(2) In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult with each State department of corrections to collect the information necessary to make the determination required under paragraph (1).”.

Subtitle I—Findings Relating to Youth Voting

SEC. 2801. FINDINGS RELATING TO YOUTH VOTING.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The right to vote is a fundamental right of citizens of the United States.

(2) The twenty-sixth amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees that “The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of age.”.
(3) The twenty-sixth amendment of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power to enforce the amendment by appropriate legislation.

(4) The language of the twenty-sixth amendment closely mirrors that of the fifteenth amendment and the nineteenth amendment. Like those amendments, the twenty-sixth amendment not only prohibits denial of the right to vote but also prohibits any actions that abridge the right to vote.

(5) Youth voter suppression undercuts participation in our democracy by introducing arduous obstacles to new voters and discouraging a culture of democratic engagement.

(6) Voting is habit forming, and allowing youth voters unobstructed access to voting ensures that more Americans will start a lifelong habit of voting as soon as possible.

(7) Youth voter suppression is a clear, persistent, and growing problem. The actions of States and political subdivisions resulting in at least four findings of twenty-sixth amendment violations as well as pending litigation demonstrate the need for Congress to take action to enforce the twenty-sixth amendment.
(8) In *League of Women Voters of Florida, Inc. v. Detzner* (2018), the United States District Court in the Northern District of Florida found that the Secretary of State’s actions that prevented in-person early voting sites from being located on university property revealed a stark pattern of discrimination that was unexplainable on grounds other than age and thus violated university students’ twenty-sixth Amendment rights.

(9) In 2019, Michigan agreed to a settlement to enhance college-age voters’ access after a twenty-sixth amendment challenge was filed in federal court. The challenge prompted the removal of a Michigan voting law which required first-time voters who registered by mail or through a third-party voter registration drive to vote in person for the first time, as well as the removal of another law which required the address listed on a voter’s driver license to match the address listed on their voter registration card.

(10) Youth voter suppression tactics are often linked to other tactics aimed at minority voters. For example, students at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), a historically black university in Texas, have been the targets of voter suppression tactics for
decades. Before the 2018 election, PVAMU students sued Waller County on the basis of both racial and age discrimination over the county’s failure to ensure equal early voting opportunities for students, spurring the county to reverse course and expand early voting access for students.

(11) The more than 25 million United States citizens ages 18-24 deserve equal opportunity to participate in the electoral process as guaranteed by the twenty-sixth amendment.

**Subtitle J—Severability**

SEC. 2901. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

**TITLE III—ELECTION SECURITY**

SEC. 3000. SHORT TITLE; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) Short Title.—This title may be cited as the “Election Security Act”.

(b) Sense of Congress on Need to Improve Election Infrastructure Security.—It is the sense
of Congress that, in light of the lessons learned from Rus-
sian interference in the 2016 Presidential election, the
Federal Government should intensify its efforts to improve
the security of election infrastructure in the United States,
including through the use of individual, durable, paper
ballots marked by the voter by hand.

Subtitle A—Financial Support for
Election Infrastructure

PART 1—VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

SEC. 3001. GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER
BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING
OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVE-
MENTS.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the
Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21001
et seq.), as amended by section 1622(c), is amended
by adding at the end the following new part:
PART 8—GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 298. GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS.

“(a) Availability and Use of Grant.—

“(1) In general.—The Commission shall make a grant to each eligible State—

“(A) to replace a voting system—

“(i) which does not meet the requirements which are first imposed on the State pursuant to the amendments made by the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2021 with a voting system which—

“(I) does meet such requirements; and

“(II) in the case of a grandfathered voting system (as defined in paragraph (2)), is in compliance with the most recent voluntary voting system guidelines; or
“(ii) which does meet such require-
ments but which is not in compliance with
the most recent voluntary voting system
guidelines with another system which does
meet such requirements and is in compli-
ance with such guidelines;

“(B) to carry out voting system security
improvements described in section 298A with
respect to the regularly scheduled general elec-
tion for Federal office held in November 2022
and each succeeding election for Federal office;

“(C) to implement and model best prac-
tices for ballot design, ballot instructions, and
the testing of ballots; and

“(D) to purchase or acquire accessible vot-
ing systems that meet the requirements of
paragraph (2)(A) and paragraph (3)(A)(i) of
section 301(a) by the means described in para-
graph (3)(B) of such section.

“(2) Definition of Grandfathered Voting
System.—In this subsection, the term ‘grand-
fathered voting system’ means a voting system that
is used by a jurisdiction described in subparagraph
(B)(ii) or (C)(ii) of section 301(d)(2).

“(b) Amount of Payment.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of payment made to an eligible State under this section shall be the minimum payment amount described in paragraph (2) plus the voting age population proportion amount described in paragraph (3).

“(2) MINIMUM PAYMENT AMOUNT.—The minimum payment amount described in this paragraph is—

“(A) in the case of any of the several States or the District of Columbia, one-half of 1 percent of the aggregate amount made available for payments under this section; and

“(B) in the case of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or the United States Virgin Islands, one-tenth of 1 percent of such aggregate amount.

“(3) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPORTION AMOUNT.—The voting age population proportion amount described in this paragraph is the product of—

“(A) the aggregate amount made available for payments under this section minus the total of all of the minimum payment amounts determined under paragraph (2); and
“(B) the voting age population proportion for the State (as defined in paragraph (4)).

“(4) Voting age population proportion defined.—The term ‘voting age population proportion’ means, with respect to a State, the amount equal to the quotient of—

“(A) the voting age population of the State (as reported in the most recent decennial census); and

“(B) the total voting age population of all States (as reported in the most recent decennial census).

“(5) Requirement relating to purchase of accessible voting systems.—An eligible State shall use not less than 10 percent of funds received by the State under this section to purchase accessible voting systems described in subsection (a)(1)(D).

“(c) Ability of replacement systems to administer ranked choice elections.—To the greatest extent practicable, an eligible State which receives a grant to replace a voting system under this section shall ensure that the replacement system is capable of administering a system of ranked choice voting under which each voter
shall rank the candidates for the office in the order of
the voter’s preference.

“SEC. 298A. VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS
DESCRIBED.

“(a) PERMITTED USES.—A voting system security
improvement described in this section is any of the fol-
lowing:

“(1) The acquisition of goods and services from
qualified election infrastructure vendors by purchase,
lease, or such other arrangements as may be appro-
priate.

“(2) Cyber and risk mitigation training.

“(3) A security risk and vulnerability assess-
ment of the State’s election infrastructure which is
carried out by a provider of cybersecurity services
under a contract entered into between the chief
State election official and the provider.

“(4) The maintenance of infrastructure used
for elections, including addressing risks and
vulnerabilities which are identified under either of
the security risk and vulnerability assessments de-
scribed in paragraph (3), except that none of the
funds provided under this part may be used to ren-
ovate or replace a building or facility which is not
a primary provider of information technology serv-
ices for the administration of elections, and which is
used primarily for purposes other than the adminis-
tration of elections for public office.

“(5) Providing increased technical support for
any information technology infrastructure that the
chief State election official deems to be part of the
State’s election infrastructure or designates as crit-
ical to the operation of the State’s election infra-
structure.

“(6) Enhancing the cybersecurity and oper-
ations of the information technology infrastructure
described in paragraph (4).

“(7) Enhancing the cybersecurity of voter reg-
istration systems.

“(b) QUALIFIED ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE VEN-
DORS DESCRIBED.—For purposes of this part, a ‘qualified
election infrastructure vendor’ is any person who provides,
supports, or maintains, or who seeks to provide, support,
or maintain, election infrastructure on behalf of a State,
unit of local government, or election agency (as defined
in section 3601 of the Election Security Act) who meets
the criteria described in section 3001(b) of the Election
Security Act.
“SEC. 298B. ELIGIBILITY OF STATES.

“A State is eligible to receive a grant under this part if the State submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing—

“(1) a description of how the State will use the grant to carry out the activities authorized under this part;

“(2) a certification and assurance that, not later than 5 years after receiving the grant, the State will carry out voting system security improvements, as described in section 298A; and

“(3) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

“SEC. 298C. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

“Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Commission shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees, including the Committees on Homeland Security, House Administration, and the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Judiciary, and Rules and Administration of the Senate, on the activities carried out with the funds provided under this part.
“SEC. 298D. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) Authorization.—There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this part—

“(1) $1,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

“(2) $175,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2022, 2024, 2026, and 2028.

“(b) Continuing Availability of Amounts.—Any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of this section shall remain available until expended.”.

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act, as amended by section 1622(c), is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

“PART 8—GRANTS FOR OBTAINING COMPLIANT PAPER BALLOT VOTING SYSTEMS AND CARRYING OUT VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS

“Sec. 298. Grants for obtaining compliant paper ballot voting systems and carrying out voting system security improvements.

“Sec. 298A. Voting system security improvements described.

“Sec. 298B. Eligibility of States.

“Sec. 298C. Reports to Congress.

“Sec. 298D. Authorization of appropriations.

(b) Qualified Election Infrastructure Vendors.—

(1) In General.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, shall establish and publish criteria for qualified election infrastructure vendors for purposes of section 298A of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by this Act).
(2) CRITERIA.—The criteria established under paragraph (1) shall include each of the following requirements:

(A) The vendor shall—

(i) be owned and controlled by a citizen or permanent resident of the United States or a member of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance; and

(ii) in the case of any election infrastructure which is a voting machine, ensure that such voting machine is assembled in the United States.

(B) The vendor shall disclose to the Secretary and the Chairman, and to the chief State election official of any State to which the vendor provides any goods and services with funds provided under part 8 of subtitle A of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by this Act), of any sourcing outside the United States for parts of the election infrastructure.

(C) The vendor shall disclose to the Secretary and the Chairman, and to the chief State election official of any State to which the vendor provides any goods and services with funds...
provided under such part 8, the identification of
any entity or individual with a more than 5 per-
cent ownership interest in the vendor.

(D) The vendor agrees to ensure that the
election infrastructure will be developed and
maintained in a manner that is consistent with
the cybersecurity best practices issued by the
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security
Agency of the Department of Homeland Secu-

(E) The vendor agrees to maintain its in-
formation technology infrastructure in a man-
ner that is consistent with the cybersecurity
best practices issued by the Cybersecurity and
Infrastructure Security Agency of the Depart-

(F) The vendor agrees to ensure that the
election infrastructure will be developed and
maintained in a manner that is consistent with
the supply chain best practices issued by the
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security
Agency of the Department of Homeland Secu-

(G) The vendor agrees to ensure that it
has personnel policies and practices in place
that are consistent with personnel best practices, including cybersecurity training and background checks, issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

(H) The vendor agrees to ensure that the election infrastructure will be developed and maintained in a manner that is consistent with data integrity best practices, including requirements for encrypted transfers and validation, testing and checking printed materials for accuracy, and disclosure of quality control incidents, issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

(I) The vendor agrees to meet the requirements of paragraph (3) with respect to any known or suspected cybersecurity incidents involving any of the goods and services provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant under part 8 of subtitle A of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by this Act).

(J) The vendor agrees to permit independent security testing by the Commission (in accordance with section 231(a) of the Help
America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971))
and by the Secretary of the goods and services
provided by the vendor pursuant to a grant
under part 8 of subtitle A of title II of the Help
America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by this
Act).

(3) CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT REPORTING re-
quirements.—

(A) In general.—A vendor meets the re-
quirements of this paragraph if, upon becoming
aware of the possibility that an election cyberse-
curity incident has occurred involving any of
the goods and services provided by the vendor
pursuant to a grant under part 8 of subtitle A
of title II of the Help America Vote Act of
2002 (as added by this Act)—

(i) the vendor promptly assesses
whether or not such an incident occurred,
and submits a notification meeting the re-
quirements of subparagraph (B) to the
Secretary and the Chairman of the assess-
ment as soon as practicable (but in no case
later than 3 days after the vendor first be-
comes aware of the possibility that the in-
cident occurred);
(ii) if the incident involves goods or services provided to an election agency, the vendor submits a notification meeting the requirements of subparagraph (B) to the agency as soon as practicable (but in no case later than 3 days after the vendor first becomes aware of the possibility that the incident occurred), and cooperates with the agency in providing any other necessary notifications relating to the incident; and

(iii) the vendor provides all necessary updates to any notification submitted under clause (i) or clause (ii).

(B) CONTENTS OF NOTIFICATIONS.—Each notification submitted under clause (i) or clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall contain the following information with respect to any election cybersecurity incident covered by the notification:

(i) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident began, if known.
(ii) The date, time, and time zone when the election cybersecurity incident was detected.

(iii) The date, time, and duration of the election cybersecurity incident.

(iv) The circumstances of the election cybersecurity incident, including the specific election infrastructure systems believed to have been accessed and information acquired, if any.

(v) Any planned and implemented technical measures to respond to and recover from the incident.

(vi) In the case of any notification which is an update to a prior notification, any additional material information relating to the incident, including technical data, as it becomes available.

(C) Development of criteria for reporting.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency shall, in consultation with the Election Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Council, develop criteria for incidents which are required to
be reported in accordance with subparagraph (A).

SEC. 3002. COORDINATION OF VOTING SYSTEM SECURITY ACTIVITIES WITH USE OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT OF 2002.

(a) Duties of Election Assistance Commission.—Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “by” and inserting “and the security of election infrastructure by”.

(b) Membership of Secretary of Homeland Security on Board of Advisors of Election Assistance Commission.—Section 214(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20944(a)), as amended by section 1106, is amended—

(1) by striking “49 members” and inserting “50 members”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(21) The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary’s designee.”.

(c) Representative of Department of Homeland Security on Technical Guidelines Develop-
MENT COMMITTEE.—Section 221(c)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20961(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “14” and inserting “15”;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) A representative of the Department of Homeland Security.”.

(d) GOALS OF PERIODIC STUDIES OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION ISSUES; CONSULTATION WITH SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Section 241(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20981(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the Commission shall” and inserting “the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security (as appropriate), shall”;

(2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:
“(4) will be secure against attempts to under-
mine the integrity of election systems by cyber or
other means; and”.

(c) Requirements Payments.—

(1) Use of Payments for Voting System
Security Improvements.—Section 251(b) of such
Act (52 U.S.C. 21001(b)), as amended by section
1061(a)(2), is further amended by adding at the end
the following new paragraph:

“(5) Permitting Use of Payments for Vot-
ing System Security Improvements.—A State
may use a requirements payment to carry out any
of the following activities:

“(A) Cyber and risk mitigation training.

“(B) Providing increased technical support
for any information technology infrastructure
that the chief State election official deems to be
part of the State’s election infrastructure or
designates as critical to the operation of the
State’s election infrastructure.

“(C) Enhancing the cybersecurity and op-
erations of the information technology infra-
structure described in subparagraph (B).

“(D) Enhancing the security of voter reg-
istration databases.”.
(2) INCORPORATION OF ELECTION INFRA-
STRUCTURE PROTECTION IN STATE PLANS FOR USE
OF PAYMENTS.—Section 254(a)(1) of such Act (52
U.S.C. 21004(a)(1)) is amended by striking the pe-
riod at the end and inserting “, including the protec-
tion of election infrastructure.”.

(3) COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE
FOR DEVELOPING STATE PLAN FOR USE OF PAY-
MENTS.—Section 255 of such Act (52 U.S.C.
21005) is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
section (c); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (a) the
following new subsection:

“(b) GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—The mem-
bers of the committee shall be a representative group of
individuals from the State’s counties, cities, towns, and
Indian tribes, and shall represent the needs of rural as
well as urban areas of the State, as the case may be.”.

(f) ENSURING PROTECTION OF COMPUTERIZED
STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION LIST.—Section
303(a)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21083(a)(3)) is amend-
ed by striking the period at the end and inserting “, as
well as other measures to prevent and deter cybersecurity
incidents, as identified by the Commission, the Secretary
SEC. 3003. INCORPORATION OF DEFINITIONS.

(a) In General.—Section 901 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141), as amended by section 1921(b)(1), is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 901. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act, the following definitions apply:


“(2) The term ‘election infrastructure’ has the meaning given such term in section 3601 of the Election Security Act.

“(3) The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by amending the item relating to section 901 to read as follows:

“Sec. 901. Definitions.”.
PART 2—POST-ELECTION AUDIT REQUIREMENT

SEC. 3011. POST-ELECTION AUDIT REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as amended by section 1903(a) and section 1922, is amended by inserting after section 303B the following new section:

“SEC. 303C. POST-ELECTION AUDITS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) POST-ELECTION AUDIT.—Except as provided in subsection (c)(1)(B), the term ‘post-election audit’ means, with respect to any election contest, a post-election process that—

“(A) has a probability of at least 95 percent of correcting the reported outcome if the reported outcome is not the correct outcome;

“(B) will not change the outcome if the reported outcome is the correct outcome; and

“(C) involves a manual adjudication of voter intent from some or all of the ballots validly cast in the election contest.

“(2) REPORTED OUTCOME; CORRECT OUTCOME; OUTCOME.—

“(A) REPORTED OUTCOME.—The term ‘reported outcome’ means the outcome of an election contest which is determined according to the canvass and which will become the official,
certified outcome unless it is revised by an audit, recount, or other legal process.

“(B) Correct outcome.—The term ‘correct outcome’ means the outcome that would be determined by a manual adjudication of voter intent for all votes validly cast in the election contest.

“(C) Outcome.—The term ‘outcome’ means the winner or set of winners of an election contest.

“(3) Manual adjudication of voter intent.—The term ‘manual adjudication of voter intent’ means direct inspection and determination by humans, without assistance from electronic or mechanical tabulation devices, of the ballot choices marked by voters on each voter-verifiable paper record.

“(4) Ballot manifest.—The term ‘ballot manifest’ means a record maintained by each jurisdiction that—

“(A) is created without reliance on any part of the voting system used to tabulate votes;

“(B) functions as a sampling frame for conducting a post-election audit; and
“(C) accounts for all ballots validly cast regardless of how they were tabulated and includes a precise description of the manner in which the ballots are physically stored, including the total number of physical groups of ballots, the numbering system for each group, a unique label for each group, and the number of ballots in each such group.

“(b) **Requirements.—**

“(1) **In general.—**

“(A) **Audits.—**

“(i) **In general.—** Each State and jurisdiction shall administer post-election audits of the results of all election contests for Federal office held in the State in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

“(ii) **Exception.—** Clause (i) shall not apply to any election contest for which the State or jurisdiction conducts a full recount through a manual adjudication of voter intent.

“(B) **Full manual tabulation.—** If a post-election audit conducted under subparagraph (A) corrects the reported outcome of an
election contest, the State or jurisdiction shall use the results of the manual adjudication of voter intent conducted as part of the post-election audit as the official results of the election contest.

“(2) Audit Requirements.—

“(A) Rules and Procedures.—

“(i) In general.—Not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this section, the chief State election official of the State shall establish rules and procedures for conducting post-election audits.

“(ii) Matters included.—The rules and procedures established under clause (i) shall include the following:

“(I) Rules and procedures for ensuring the security of ballots and documenting that prescribed procedures were followed.

“(II) Rules and procedures for ensuring the accuracy of ballot manifests produced by jurisdictions.

“(III) Rules and procedures for governing the format of ballot mani-
fests and other data involved in post-

“(IV) Methods to ensure that

any cast vote records used in a post-

election audit are those used by the

voting system to tally the results of

the election contest sent to the chief

State election official of the State and

made public.

“(V) Rules and procedures for

the random selection of ballots to be

inspected manually during each audit.

“(VI) Rules and procedures for

the calculations and other methods to

be used in the audit and to determine

whether and when the audit of each

election contest is complete.

“(VII) Rules and procedures for

testing any software used to conduct

post-election audits.

“(B) PUBLIC REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—After the comple-

tion of the post-election audit and at least

5 days before the election contest is cer-

tified by the State, the State shall make
public and submit to the Commission a report on the results of the audit, together with such information as necessary to confirm that the audit was conducted properly.

“(ii) Format of data.—All data published with the report under clause (i) shall be published in machine-readable, open data formats.

“(iii) Protection of anonymity of votes.—Information and data published by the State under this subparagraph shall not compromise the anonymity of votes.

“(iv) Report made available by commission.—After receiving any report submitted under clause (i), the Commission shall make such report available on its website.

“(3) Effective date; waiver.—

“(A) In general.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this subsection for the first regularly scheduled election for Federal office oc-
curring in 2032 and for each subsequent election for Federal office.

“(B) WAIVER.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), if a State certifies to the Election Assistance Commission not later than the first regularly scheduled election for Federal office occurring in 2032, that the State will not meet the deadline described in subparagraph (A) because it would be impracticable to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet such deadline, subparagraph (A) of this subsection and subsection (c)(2)(A) shall apply to the State as if the reference in such subsections to ‘2032’ were a reference to ‘2034’.

“(C) ADDITIONAL WAIVER PERIOD.—If a State certifies to the Election Assistance Commission not later than the first regularly scheduled election for Federal office occurring in 2034, that the State will not meet the deadline described in subparagraph (B) because it would be impracticable to do so and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet such deadline, subparagraph (B) of this subsection and subsection (c)(2)(A) shall apply to
the State as if the reference in such subsections to '2034' were a reference to '2036'.

“(c) Phased Implementation.—

“(1) Post-election audits.—

“(A) In general.—For the regularly scheduled elections for Federal office occurring in 2024 and 2026, each State shall administer a post-election audit of the result of at least one statewide election contest for Federal office held in the State, or if no such statewide contest is on the ballot, one election contest for Federal office chosen at random.

“(B) Post-election audit defined.—In this subsection, the term ‘post-election audit’ means a post-election process that involves a manual adjudication of voter intent from a sample of ballots validly cast in the election contest.

“(2) Post-election audits for select contests.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(3), for the regularly scheduled elections for Federal office occurring in 2028 and for each subsequent election for Federal office that occurs prior to the first regularly scheduled election for Federal office occurring in 2032, each State
shall administer a post-election audit of the result of at least one statewide election contest for Federal office held in the State, or if no such statewide contest is on the ballot, one election contest for Federal office chosen at random.

“(3) States that administer post-election audits for all contests.—A State shall be exempt from the requirements of this subsection for any regularly scheduled election for Federal office in which the State meets the requirements of subsection (b).”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents for such Act, as amended by section 1903(c) and section 1922, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 303B the following new item:

“Sec. 303C. Post-election audits. ........................................................... ”.

(e) Study on Post-Election Audit Best Practices.—

(1) in General.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish an advisory committee to study post-election audits and establish best practices for post-election audit methodologies and procedures.

(2) Advisory Committee.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology
shall appoint individuals to the advisory committee and secure the representation of—

(A) State and local election officials;

(B) individuals with experience and expertise in election security;

(C) individuals with experience and expertise in post-election audit procedures; and

(D) individuals with experience and expertise in statistical methods.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

SEC. 3012. GAO ANALYSIS OF EFFECTS OF AUDITS.

(a) ANALYSIS.—Not later than 4 years after the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in 2024, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an analysis of the extent to which post-election audits under section 303C of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 3011(a), have improved the administration of elections and the security of election infrastructure in the States receiving such grants.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report on the analysis con-
ducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate congres-

PART 3—ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

SEC. 3021. ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION

GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-

rvity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by

adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 321. ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION

GRANT PROGRAM.

“(a) Establishment.—The Secretary, acting

through the Under Secretary for Science and Technology,

in coordination with the Chairman of the Election Assist-

ance Commission (established pursuant to the Help Amer-

ica Vote Act of 2002), and in consultation with the Direc-

tor of the National Science Foundation and the Director

of the National Institute of Standards and Technology,

shall establish a competitive grant program to award

grants to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, for pur-

poses of research and development that are determined to

have the potential to significantly improve the security (in-

cluding cybersecurity), quality, reliability, accuracy, acces-

sibility, and affordability of election infrastructure, and in-

crease voter participation.
“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the conclusion of each fiscal year for which grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report describing such grants and analyzing the impact, if any, of such grants on the security and operation of election infrastructure, and on voter participation.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2029 for purposes of carrying out this section.

“(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(1) an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)), including an institution of higher education that is a historically Black college or university (which has the meaning given the term ‘part B institution’ in section 322 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1061)) or other mi-
nority-serving institution listed in section 371(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a));

“(2) an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; or

“(3) an organization, association, or a for-profit company, including a small business concern (as such term is described in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), including a small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as such term is defined in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))).”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (20) as paragraphs (7) through (21), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘election infrastructure’ means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections
for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registration databases, voting machines, electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 320 the following:

“Sec. 321. Election infrastructure innovation grant program.”.

Subtitle B—Security Measures

SEC. 3101. ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGNATION.

Subparagraph (J) of section 2001(3) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601(3)) is amended by inserting “, including election infrastructure” before the period at the end.

SEC. 3102. TIMELY THREAT INFORMATION.

Subsection (d) of section 201 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121) is amended by adding at the end the following:
“(24) To provide timely threat information regarding election infrastructure to the chief State election official (as defined in section 3601 of the For the People Act of 2021) of the State with respect to which such information pertains.”.

SEC. 3103. SECURITY CLEARANCE ASSISTANCE FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS.

In order to promote the timely sharing of information on threats to election infrastructure, the Secretary may—

(1) help expedite a security clearance for the chief State election official and other appropriate State personnel involved in the administration of elections, as designated by the chief State election official;

(2) sponsor a security clearance for the chief State election official and other appropriate State personnel involved in the administration of elections, as designated by the chief State election official; and

(3) facilitate the issuance of a temporary clearance to the chief State election official and other appropriate State personnel involved in the administration of elections, as designated by the chief State election official, if the Secretary determines classified information to be timely and relevant to the election infrastructure of the State at issue.
SEC. 3104. SECURITY RISK AND VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (6) of section 2209(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 659(c)) is amended by inserting “(including by carrying out a security risk and vulnerability assessment)” after “risk management support”.

(b) PRIORITIZATION TO ENHANCE ELECTION SECURITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving a written request from a chief State election official, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, commence a security risk and vulnerability assessment (pursuant to paragraph (6) of section 2209(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by subsection (a)) on election infrastructure in the State at issue.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary, upon receipt of a request described in paragraph (1), determines that a security risk and vulnerability assessment referred to in such paragraph cannot be commenced within 90 days, the Secretary shall expeditiously notify the chief State election official who submitted such request.
SEC. 3105. ANNUAL REPORTS.

(a) Reports on Assistance and Assessments.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter through 2028, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) efforts to carry out section 3103 during the prior year, including specific information regarding which States were helped, how many officials have been helped in each State, how many security clearances have been sponsored in each State, and how many temporary clearances have been issued in each State; and

(2) efforts to carry out section 3104 during the prior year, including specific information regarding which States were helped, the dates on which the Secretary received a request for a security risk and vulnerability assessment referred to in such section, the dates on which the Secretary commenced each such request, and the dates on which the Secretary transmitted a notification in accordance with subsection (b)(2) of such section.

(b) Reports on Foreign Threats.—Beginning with fiscal year 2021, not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary and the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of
appropriate offices of the Federal Government, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report on foreign threats, including physical and cybersecurity threats, to elections in the United States.

(c) Information From States.—For purposes of preparing the reports required under this section, the Secretary shall solicit and consider information and comments from States and election agencies, except that the provision of such information and comments by a State or election agency shall be voluntary and at the discretion of the State or election agency.

SEC. 3106. PRE-ELECTION THREAT ASSESSMENTS.

(a) Submission of Assessment by DNI.—Not later than 180 days before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit an assessment of the full scope of threats, including cybersecurity threats posed by state actors and terrorist groups, to election infrastructure and recommendations to address or mitigate such threats, as developed by the Secretary and Chairman, to—

(1) the chief State election official of each State;

(2) the appropriate congressional committees; and
(3) any other relevant congressional committees.

(b) **Updates to Initial Assessments.**—If, at any time after submitting an assessment with respect to an election under subsection (a), the Director of National Intelligence determines that the assessment should be updated to reflect new information regarding the threats involved, the Director shall submit a revised assessment under such subsection.

(c) **Definitions.**—In this section:

(1) **Chairman.**—The term “Chairman” means the chair of the Election Assistance Commission.

(2) **Chief State Election Official.**—The term “chief State election official” means, with respect to a State, the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(3) **Election Infrastructure.**—The term “election infrastructure” means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registra-
tion databases, voting machines, electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results), and other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 901 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21141).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subtitle shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.

Subtitle C—Enhancing Protections for United States Democratic Institutions

SEC. 3201. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PROTECT UNITED STATES DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the President, acting
through the Secretary, in consultation with the Chairman, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Education, the Director of National Intelligence, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, and the heads of any other appropriate Federal agencies, shall issue a national strategy to protect against cyber attacks, influence operations, disinformation campaigns, and other activities that could undermine the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The national strategy required under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) The threat of a foreign state actor, foreign terrorist organization (as designated pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)), or a domestic actor carrying out a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions.

(2) The extent to which United States democratic institutions are vulnerable to a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or
other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of such democratic institutions.

(3) Potential consequences, such as an erosion of public trust or an undermining of the rule of law, that could result from a successful cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of United States democratic institutions.

(4) Lessons learned from other governments the institutions of which were subject to a cyber attack, influence operation, disinformation campaign, or other activity aimed at undermining the security and integrity of such institutions, as well as actions that could be taken by the United States Government to bolster collaboration with foreign partners to detect, deter, prevent, and counter such activities.

(5) Potential impacts, such as an erosion of public trust in democratic institutions, as could be associated with a successful cyber breach or other activity negatively-affecting election infrastructure.

(6) Roles and responsibilities of the Secretary, the Chairman, and the heads of other Federal entities and non-Federal entities, including chief State election officials and representatives of multi-state information sharing and analysis centers.
(7) Any findings, conclusions, and recommendations to strengthen protections for United States democratic institutions that have been agreed to by a majority of Commission members on the National Commission to Protect United States Democratic Institutions, authorized pursuant to section 3202.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the national strategy required under subsection (a) is issued, the President, acting through the Secretary, in coordination with the Chairman, shall issue an implementation plan for Federal efforts to implement such strategy that includes the following:

(1) Strategic objectives and corresponding tasks.

(2) Projected timelines and costs for the tasks referred to in paragraph (1).

(3) Metrics to evaluate performance of such tasks.

(d) CLASSIFICATION.—The national strategy required under subsection (a) shall be in unclassified form.

(e) CIVIL RIGHTS REVIEW.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the national strategy required under subsection (a) is issued, and not later than 60 days after the date on which the implementation plan required under subsection (c) is issued, the Privacy and Civil Lib-
erties Oversight Board (established under section 1061 of
the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of
2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee)) shall submit a report to Con-
gress on any potential privacy and civil liberties impacts
of such strategy and implementation plan, respectively.

SEC. 3202. NATIONAL COMMISSION TO PROTECT UNITED
STATES DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
the legislative branch the National Commission to Protect
United States Democratic Institutions (hereafter in this
section referred to as the “Commission”).

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Commission is to
counter efforts to undermine democratic institutions with-
in the United States.

(c) COMPOSITION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be
composed of 10 members appointed for the life of
the Commission as follows:

(A) One member shall be appointed by the
Secretary.

(B) One member shall be appointed by the
Chairman.

(C) Two members shall be appointed by
the majority leader of the Senate, in consulta-
tion with the Chairman of the Committee on
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(D) Two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, in consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(E) Two members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives, and the Chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(F) Two members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representa-
tives, in consultation with the ranking minority
tember of the Committee on Homeland Secu-
y of the House of Representatives, the rank-
ing minority member of the Committee on the
Judiciary of the House of Representatives, and
the ranking minority member of the Committee
on House Administration of the House of Rep-
resentatives.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals shall be se-
lected for appointment to the Commission solely on
the basis of their professional qualifications, achieve-
ments, public stature, experience, and expertise in
relevant fields, including cybersecurity, national se-
curity, and the Constitution of the United States.

(3) NO COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE.—Mem-
bbers may not receive compensation for service on the
Commission, but shall receive travel expenses, in-
cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accord-
ance with chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All mem-
ers of the Commission shall be appointed not later
than 60 days after the date of enactment of this
Act.

(5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission
shall not affect its powers and shall be filled in the
manner in which the original appointment was made. The appointment of the replacement member shall be made not later than 60 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs.

(d) Chair and Vice Chair.—The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members.

(e) Quorum and Meetings.—

(1) Quorum.—The Commission shall meet and begin the operations of the Commission not later than 30 days after the date on which all members have been appointed or, if such meeting cannot be mutually agreed upon, on a date designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro Tempore of the Senate. Each subsequent meeting shall occur upon the call of the Chair or a majority of its members. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number may hold meetings.

(2) Authority of Individuals to Act for Commission.—Any member of the Commission may, if authorized by the Commission, take any action that the Commission is authorized to take under this section.

(f) Powers.—
(1) HEARINGS AND EVIDENCE.—The Commission (or, on the authority of the Commission, any subcommittee or member thereof) may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold hearings and sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the Commission considers advisable to carry out its duties.

(2) CONTRACTING.—The Commission may, to such extent and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts, enter into contracts to enable the Commission to discharge its duties under this section.

(g) ASSISTANCE FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide to the Commission on a reimbursable basis administrative support and other services for the performance of the Commission’s functions.

(2) OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—In addition to the assistance provided under paragraph (1), the Department of Homeland Security, the Election Assistance Commission, and other appropriate departments and agencies of the United States shall provide to the Commission such serv-
ices, funds, facilities, and staff as they may determine advisable and as may be authorized by law.

(h) **Public Meetings.**—Any public meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the protection of information provided to or developed for or by the Commission as required by any applicable statute, regulation, or Executive order.

(i) **Security Clearances.**—

(1) **In general.**—The heads of appropriate departments and agencies of the executive branch shall cooperate with the Commission to expeditiously provide Commission members and staff with appropriate security clearances to the extent possible under applicable procedures and requirements.

(2) **Preferences.**—In appointing staff, obtaining detailees, and entering into contracts for the provision of services for the Commission, the Commission shall give preference to individuals who have active security clearances.

(j) **Reports.**—

(1) **Interim reports.**—At any time prior to the submission of the final report under paragraph (2), the Commission may submit interim reports to the President and Congress containing such findings, conclusions, and recommendations to strength-
en protections for democratic institutions in the
United States as have been agreed to by a majority
of the members of the Commission.

(2) Final report.—Not later than 18 months
after the date of the first meeting of the Commis-
sion, the Commission shall submit to the President
and Congress a final report containing such find-
ings, conclusions, and recommendations to strength-
en protections for democratic institutions in the
United States as have been agreed to by a majority
of the members of the Commission.

(k) Termination.—

(1) In general.—The Commission shall termi-
nate upon the expiration of the 60-day period which
begins on the date on which the Commission submits
the final report required under subsection (j)(2).

(2) Administrative activities prior to
termination.—During the 60-day period referred
to in paragraph (1), the Commission may carry out
such administrative activities as may be required to
conclude its work, including providing testimony to
committees of Congress concerning the final report
and disseminating the final report.
Subtitle D—Promoting Cybersecurity Through Improvements in Election Administration

SEC. 3301. ELECTION CYBERSECURITY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commission, shall issue election cybersecurity guidelines, including standards and best practices for procuring, maintaining, testing, operating, and updating election systems to prevent and deter cybersecurity incidents.

SEC. 3302. GUIDELINES AND CERTIFICATION FOR ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AND REMOTE BALLOT MARKING SYSTEMS.

(a) Inclusion Under Voluntary Voting System Guidelines.—Section 222 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20962) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f); and

(2) by inserting after the section heading the following:

“(a) Voluntary Voting System Guidelines.—The Commission shall adopt voluntary voting system guidelines that describe functionality, accessibility, and se-
curity principles for the design, development, and oper-
ation of voting systems, electronic poll books, and remote
ballot marking systems.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
sections:

“(g) INITIAL GUIDELINES FOR ELECTRONIC POLL
BOOKS AND REMOTE BALLOT MARKING SYSTEMS.—

“(1) ADOPTION DATE.—The Commission shall
adopt initial voluntary voting system guidelines for
electronic poll books and remote ballot marking sys-
tems by January 1, 2022.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR INITIAL GUIDE-
LINES.—The Commission may adopt initial vol-
untary voting system guidelines for electronic poll
books and remote ballot marking systems without
modifying the most recently adopted voluntary vot-
ing system guidelines for voting systems.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) VOTING SYSTEM DEFINED.—The term
‘voting system’ has the same meaning given that
term in section 301.

“(2) ELECTRONIC POLLBOOK DEFINED.—The
term ‘electronic poll book’ means the total combina-
tion of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic
equipment (including the software, firmware, and
documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used—

“(A) to retain the list of registered voters at a polling location, or vote center, or other location at which voters cast votes in an election for Federal office; and

“(B) to identify registered voters who are eligible to vote in an election.”.

“(3) REMOTE BALLOT MARKING SYSTEM DEFINED.—The term ‘remote ballot marking system’ means an election system that—

“(A) is used by a voter to mark their ballots outside of a voting center or polling place;

“(B) allows a voter to receive a blank ballot to mark electronically, print, and then cast by returning the printed ballot to the elections office or other designated location; and

“(C) does not allow a voter to cast and return a ballot electronically.”.

(b) PROVIDING FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOKS AND REMOTE BALLOT MARKING SYSTEM.—Section 231(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971(a)) is amended, in each of paragraphs (1) and (2), by inserting “, electronic poll books, and remote ballot marking systems” after “software”.
SEC. 3303. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

(a) Requiring States to Submit Reports.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 301 the following new section:

“SEC. 301A. PRE-ELECTION REPORTS ON VOTING SYSTEM USAGE.

“(a) Requiring States to Submit Reports.—Not later than 120 days before the date of each regularly scheduled general election for Federal office, the chief State election official of a State shall submit a report to the Commission containing a detailed voting system usage plan for each jurisdiction in the State which will administer the election, including a detailed plan for the usage of electronic poll books and other equipment and components of such system. If a jurisdiction acquires and implements a new voting system within the 120 days before the date of the election, it shall notify the chief State election official of the State, who shall submit to the Commission in a timely manner an updated report under the preceding sentence.

“(b) Effective Date.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2022 and each succeeding regularly scheduled general election for Federal office.”.
(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 301 the following new item:

“Sec. 301A. Pre-election reports on voting system usage.”.

SEC. 3304. STREAMLINING COLLECTION OF ELECTION INFORMATION.

Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Commission” and inserting “(a) In General.—The Commission”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(b) Waiver of Certain Requirements.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code, shall not apply to the collection of information for purposes of maintaining the clearinghouse described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a).”.

Subtitle E—Preventing Election Hacking

SEC. 3401. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Prevent Election Hacking Act of 2021”.

SEC. 3402. ELECTION SECURITY BUG BOUNTY PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the “Election Security
Bug Bounty Program” (hereafter in this subtitle referred to as the “Program”) to improve the cybersecurity of the systems used to administer elections for Federal office by facilitating and encouraging assessments by independent technical experts, in cooperation with State and local election officials and election service providers, to identify and report election cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

(b) Voluntary Participation by Election Officials and Election Service Providers.—

(1) No requirement to participate in program.—Participation in the Program shall be entirely voluntary for State and local election officials and election service providers.

(2) Encouraging participation and input from election officials.—In developing the Program, the Secretary shall solicit input from, and encourage participation by, State and local election officials.

(c) Activities Funded.—In establishing and carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a process for State and local election officials and election service providers to voluntarily participate in the Program;

(2) designate appropriate information systems to be included in the Program;
(3) provide compensation to eligible individuals, organizations, and companies for reports of previously unidentified security vulnerabilities within the information systems designated under paragraph (2) and establish criteria for individuals, organizations, and companies to be considered eligible for such compensation in compliance with Federal laws;

(4) consult with the Attorney General on how to ensure that approved individuals, organizations, and companies that comply with the requirements of the Program are protected from prosecution under section 1030 of title 18, United States Code, and similar provisions of law;

(5) consult with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of other departments and agencies that have implemented programs to provide compensation for reports of previously undisclosed vulnerabilities in information systems, regarding lessons that may be applied from such programs;

(6) develop an expeditious process by which an individual, organization, or company can register with the Department, submit to a background check as determined by the Department, and receive a determination regarding eligibility for participation in the Program; and
engage qualified interested persons, including representatives of private entities, about the 
structure of the Program and, to the extent practicable, establish a recurring competition for independent technical experts to assess election systems for the purpose of identifying and reporting election cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

(d) Use of Service Providers.—The Secretary may award competitive contracts as necessary to manage the Program.

(e) Definitions.—In this section:


(2) The terms “election” and “Federal office” have the meanings given such terms in section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101).

(3) The term “election cybersecurity vulnerability” means any security vulnerability that affects an election system.

(4) The term “election infrastructure” has the meaning given such term in paragraph (6) of section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101), as added by section 3021 of this title.
(5) The term “election service provider” means any person providing, supporting, or maintaining an election system on behalf of a State or local election official, such as a contractor or vendor.

(6) The term “election system” means any information system which is part of an election infrastructure.

(7) The term “information system” has the meaning given such term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(8) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security, or, upon designation by the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, or a Senate-confirmed official who reports to the Director.

(9) The term “security vulnerability” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).

(10) The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and
the United States Virgin Islands.

(11) The term “voting system” has the mean-
ing given such term in section 301(b) of the Help
America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)).

Subtitle F—Election Security
Grants Advisory Committee

SEC. 3501. ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) In General.—Subtitle A of title II of the Help
America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20921 et seq.) is
amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART 5—ELECTION SECURITY GRANTS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

“SEC. 225. ELECTION SECURITY GRANTS ADVISORY COM-
MITTEE.

“(a) Establishment.—There is hereby established
an advisory committee (hereinafter in this part referred
to as the ‘Committee’) to assist the Commission with re-
spect to the award of grants to States under this Act for
the purpose of election security.

“(b) Duties.—

“(1) In General.—The Committee shall, with
respect to an application for a grant received by the
Commission—

“(A) review such application; and
“(B) recommend to the Commission whether to award the grant to the applicant.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In reviewing an application pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), the Committee shall consider—

“(A) the record of the applicant with respect to—

“(i) compliance of the applicant with the requirements under subtitle A of title III; and

“(ii) adoption of voluntary guidelines issued by the Commission under subtitle B of title III; and

“(B) the goals and requirements of election security as described in title III of the For the People Act of 2021.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be composed of 15 individuals appointed by the Executive Director of the Commission with experience and expertise in election security.

“(d) NO COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE.—Members of the Committee shall not receive any compensation for their service, but shall be paid travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of
title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 223 the following new items:

“PART 5—Election Security Grants Advisory Committee
“Sec. 225. Election security grants advisory committee.”.

(e) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle G—Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 3601. DEFINITIONS.

Except as provided in sections 3106 and 3402, in this title, the following definitions apply:

(1) Chairman.—The term “Chairman” means the chair of the Election Assistance Commission.

(2) Appropriate Congressional Committees.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committees on Homeland Security and House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Rules and Administration of the Senate.
(3) **Chief State Election Official.**—The term “chief State election official” means, with respect to a State, the individual designated by the State under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under such Act.

(4) **Commission.**—The term “Commission” means the Election Assistance Commission.

(5) **Democratic Institutions.**—The term “democratic institutions” means the diverse range of institutions that are essential to ensuring an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, and rule of law.

(6) **Election Agency.**—The term “election agency” means any component of a State, or any component of a unit of local government in a State, which is responsible for the administration of elections for Federal office in the State.

(7) **Election Infrastructure.**—The term “election infrastructure” means storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office, as well as related information and communications technology, including voter registra-
tion databases, voting machines, electronic mail and
other communications systems (including electronic
mail and other systems of vendors who have entered
into contracts with election agencies to support the
administration of elections, manage the election
process, and report and display election results), and
other systems used to manage the election process
and to report and display election results on behalf
of an election agency.

(8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(9) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
ing given such term in section 901 of the Help

SEC. 3602. INITIAL REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES
AVAILABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment
of this Act, the Chairman and the Secretary shall submit
a report to the appropriate committees of Congress, in-
cluding the Committees on Homeland Security and House
Administration of the House of Representatives and the
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
fairs of the Senate, analyzing the adequacy of the funding,
resources, and personnel available to carry out this title
and the amendments made by this title.
Subtitle H—Use of Voting Machines Manufactured in the United States

SEC. 3701. USE OF VOTING MACHINES MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) Requirement.—Section 301(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(a)), as amended by section 1504, section 1506, and section 1507, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(11) Voting machine requirements.—

“(A) Manufacturing requirements.—

By not later than the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2024, each State shall seek to ensure to the extent practicable that any voting machine used in such election and in any subsequent election for Federal office is manufactured in the United States.

“(B) Assembly requirements.—By not later than the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2024, each State shall seek to ensure that any voting machine purchased or acquired for such election and in any subsequent election
for Federal office is assembled in the United States.

“(C) SOFTWARE AND CODE REQUIREMENTS.—By not later than the date of the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office occurring in November 2024, each State shall seek to ensure that any software or code developed for any voting system purchased or acquired for such election and in any subsequent election for Federal office is developed and stored in the United States.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 301(d)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21081(d)(1)), as amended by section 1508, is amended by striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “subsection (a)(11) and paragraph (2)”.

Subtitle I—Severability

SEC. 3801. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.
DIVISION B—CAMPAIGN
FINANCE
TITLE IV—CAMPAIGN FINANCE
TRANSPARENCY
Subtitle A—Establishing Duty to Report Foreign Election Interference

SEC. 4001. FINDINGS RELATING TO ILLICIT MONEY UNDERMINING OUR DEMOCRACY.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Criminals, terrorists, and corrupt government officials frequently abuse anonymously held Limited Liability Companies (LLCs), also known as “shell companies,” to hide, move, and launder the dirty money derived from illicit activities such as trafficking, bribery, exploitation, and embezzlement. Ownership and control of the finances that run through shell companies are obscured to regulators and law enforcement because little information is required and collected when establishing these entities.

(2) The public release of the “Panama Papers” in 2016 and the “Paradise Papers” in 2017 revealed that these shell companies often purchase and sell United States real estate. United States anti-money laundering laws do not apply to cash transactions in-
volving real estate effectively concealing the beneficiaries and transactions from regulators and law enforcement.

(3) Since the Supreme Court’s decisions in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), millions of dollars have flowed into super PACs through LLCs whose funders are anonymous or intentionally obscured. Criminal investigations have uncovered LLCs that were used to hide illegal campaign contributions from foreign criminal fugitives, to advance international influence-buying schemes, and to conceal contributions from donors who were already under investigation for bribery and racketeering. Voters have no way to know the true sources of the money being routed through these LLCs to influence elections, including whether any of the funds come from foreign or other illicit sources.

(4) Congress should curb the use of anonymous shell companies for illicit purposes by requiring United States companies to disclose their beneficial owners, strengthening anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism finance laws.

(5) Congress should examine the money laundering and terrorist financing risks in the real estate
market, including the role of anonymous parties, and
review legislation to address any vulnerabilities iden-
tified in this sector.

(6) Congress should examine the methods by
which corruption flourishes and the means to detect
and deter the financial misconduct that fuels this
driver of global instability. Congress should monitor
government efforts to enforce United States anti-
corruption laws and regulations.

SEC. 4002. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN REPORTING OF FOREIGN
CONTACTS.

(a) Initial Notice.—

(1) In General.—Section 304 of the Federal
Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104)
is amended by adding at the end the following new
subsection:

“(j) Disclosure of Reportable Foreign Con-
tacts.—

“(1) Committee obligation to notify.—
Not later than 1 week after a reportable foreign con-
tact, each political committee shall notify the Fed-
eral Bureau of Investigation and the Commission of
the reportable foreign contact and provide a sum-
mary of the circumstances with respect to such re-
portable foreign contact. The Federal Bureau of In-
vestigation, not later than 1 week after receiving a
notification from a political committee under this
paragraph, shall submit to the political committee,
the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of
the House of Representatives, and the Select Com-
mittee on Intelligence of the Senate written or elec-
tronic confirmation of receipt of the notification.

“(2) INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY.—
Not later than 3 days after a reportable foreign con-
tact—

“(A) each candidate and each immediate
family member of a candidate shall notify the
treasurer or other designated official of the
principal campaign committee of such candidate
of the reportable foreign contact and provide a
summary of the circumstances with respect to
such reportable foreign contact; and

“(B) each official, employee, or agent of a
political committee shall notify the treasurer or
other designated official of the committee of the
reportable foreign contact and provide a sum-
mary of the circumstances with respect to such
reportable foreign contact.

“(3) REPORTABLE FOREIGN CONTACT.—In this
subsection:
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘reportable foreign contact’ means any direct or indirect contact or communication that—

“(i) is between—

“(I) a candidate, an immediate family member of the candidate, a political committee, or any official, employee, or agent of such committee; and

“(II) an individual that the person described in subclause (I) knows, has reason to know, or reasonably believes is a covered foreign national; and

“(ii) the person described in clause (i)(I) knows, has reason to know, or reasonably believes involves—

“(I) an offer or other proposal for a contribution, donation, expenditure, disbursement, or solicitation described in section 319; or

“(II) coordination or collaboration with, an offer or provision of information or services to or from, or persistent and repeated contact with,
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a covered foreign national in connection with an election.

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(i) CONTACTS IN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS ELECTED OFFICIAL.—The term ‘reportable foreign contact’ shall not include any contact or communication with a covered foreign national by an elected official or an employee of an elected official solely in an official capacity as such an official or employee.

“(ii) CONTACTS FOR PURPOSES OF ENABLING OBSERVATION OF ELECTIONS BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.—The term ‘reportable foreign contact’ shall not include any contact or communication with a covered foreign national by any person which is made for purposes of enabling the observation of elections in the United States by a foreign national or the observation of elections outside of the United States by a candidate, political committee, or any official, employee, or agent of such committee.
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“(iii) Exceptions not applicable if contacts or communications involve prohibited disbursements.—A contact or communication by an elected official or an employee of an elected official shall not be considered to be made solely in an official capacity for purposes of clause (i), and a contact or communication shall not be considered to be made for purposes of enabling the observation of elections for purposes of clause (ii), if the contact or communication involves a contribution, donation, expenditure, disbursement, or solicitation described in section 319.

“(C) Covered foreign national defined.—

“(i) In general.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered foreign national’ means—

“(I) a foreign principal (as defined in section 1(b) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611(b)) that is a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party;
“(II) any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign principal described in subclause (I) or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign principal described in subclause (I); or

“(III) any person included in the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury pursuant to authorities relating to the imposition of sanctions relating to the conduct of a foreign principal described in subclause (I).

“(ii) **Clarification regarding Application to Citizens of the United States.**—In the case of a citizen of the United States, subclause (II) of clause (i)
applies only to the extent that the person involved acts within the scope of that person’s status as the agent of a foreign principal described in subclause (I) of clause (i).

“(4) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—In this subsection, the term ‘immediate family member’ means, with respect to a candidate, a parent, parent-in-law, spouse, adult child, or sibling.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to reportable foreign contacts which occur on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) INFORMATION INCLUDED ON REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (7);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(9) for any reportable foreign contact (as defined in subsection (j)(3))—
“(A) the date, time, and location of the contact;

“(B) the date and time of when a designated official of the committee was notified of the contact;

“(C) the identity of individuals involved; and

“(D) a description of the contact, including the nature of any contribution, donation, expenditure, disbursement, or solicitation involved and the nature of any activity described in subsection (j)(3)(A)(ii)(II) involved.”.

(2) Effective Date.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to reports filed on or after the expiration of the 60-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4003. FEDERAL CAMPAIGN FOREIGN CONTACT REPORTING COMPLIANCE SYSTEM.

(a) In General.—Section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) Reportable Foreign Contacts Compliance Policy.—
“(1) Reporting.—Each political committee shall establish a policy that requires all officials, employees, and agents of such committee (and, in the case of an authorized committee, the candidate and each immediate family member of the candidate) to notify the treasurer or other appropriate designated official of the committee of any reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304(j)) not later than 3 days after such contact was made.

“(2) Retention and preservation of records.—Each political committee shall establish a policy that provides for the retention and preservation of records and information related to reportable foreign contacts (as so defined) for a period of not less than 3 years.

“(3) Certification.—

“(A) In general.—Upon filing its statement of organization under section 303(a), and with each report filed under section 304(a), the treasurer of each political committee (other than an authorized committee) shall certify that—

“(i) the committee has in place policies that meet the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2);
“(ii) the committee has designated an
official to monitor compliance with such
policies; and
“(iii) not later than 1 week after the
beginning of any formal or informal affili-
ation with the committee, all officials, em-
ployees, and agents of such committee
will—
“(I) receive notice of such poli-
cies;
“(II) be informed of the prohibi-
tions under section 319; and
“(III) sign a certification affirm-
ing their understanding of such poli-
cies and prohibitions.
“(B) Authorized Committees.—With
respect to an authorized committee, the can-
didate shall make the certification required
under subparagraph (A).”.
(b) Effective Date.—
(1) In general.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall apply with respect to political
committees which file a statement of organization
under section 303(a) of the Federal Election Cam-
campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30103(a)) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Transition rule for existing committees.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each political committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 shall file a certification with the Federal Election Commission that the committee is in compliance with the requirements of section 302(j) of such Act (as added by subsection (a)).

SEC. 4004. CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

Section 309(d)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(d)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) Any person who knowingly and willfully commits a violation of subsection (j) or (b)(9) of section 304 or section 302(j) shall be fined not more than $500,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

“(F) Any person who knowingly and willfully conceals or destroys any materials relating to a reportable foreign contact (as defined in section 304(j)) shall be fined not more than $1,000,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.”.
SEC. 4005. REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report relating to notifications received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under section 304(j)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by section 4002(a) of this Act).

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the following with respect to notifications described in subsection (a):

(1) The number of such notifications received from political committees during the year covered by the report.

(2) A description of protocols and procedures developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to receipt and maintenance of records relating to such notifications.

(3) With respect to such notifications received during the year covered by the report, a description of any subsequent actions taken by the Director resulting from the receipt of such notifications.

(c) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “congressional intel-
intelligence committees” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

SEC. 4006. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle shall be construed—

(1) to impede legitimate journalistic activities;

or

(2) to impose any additional limitation on the right to express political views or to participate in public discourse of any individual who—

(A) resides in the United States;

(B) is not a citizen of the United States or a national of the United States, as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)); and

(C) is not lawfully admitted for permanent residence, as defined by section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20)).

Subtitle B—DISCLOSE Act

SEC. 4100. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections Act of 2021” or the “DISCLOSE Act of 2021”.
PART 1—CLOSING LOOPHOLES ALLOWING SPENDING BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTIONS

SEC. 4101. CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON PARTICIPATION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ELECTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES.

(a) Clarification of Prohibition.—Section 319(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (1);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) a foreign national to direct, dictate, control, or directly or indirectly participate in the decision making process of any person (including a corporation, labor organization, political committee, or political organization) with regard to such person’s Federal or non-Federal election-related activity, including any decision concerning the making of contributions, donations, expenditures, or disbursements in connection with an election for any Federal, State, or local office or any decision concerning the administration of a political committee.”.
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(b) Certification of Compliance.—Section 319 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30121) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(c) Certification of Compliance Required Prior to Carrying Out Activity.—Prior to the making in connection with an election for Federal office of any contribution, donation, expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement for an electioneering communication by a corporation, labor organization (as defined in section 316(b)), limited liability corporation, or partnership during a year, the chief executive officer of the corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership (or, if the corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership does not have a chief executive officer, the highest ranking official of the corporation, labor organization, limited liability corporation, or partnership), shall file a certification with the Commission, under penalty of perjury, that a foreign national did not direct, dictate, control, or directly or indirectly participate in the decision making process relating to such activity in violation of subsection (a)(3), unless the chief executive officer has previously filed such a certification during that calendar year.”.

(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect upon the expiration of the
180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall take effect without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations to carry out such amendments.

SEC. 4102. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN MONEY BAN TO CERTAIN DISBURSEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

(a) Application to Disbursements to Super PACs and Other Persons.—Section 319(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and by moving such subparagraphs 2 ems to the right;

(2) by striking “As used in this section” and inserting the following: “DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) FOREIGN NATIONAL.—The term”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) CONTRIBUTION AND DONATION.—For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), the term ‘contribution or donation’ includes any disbursement to a political committee which accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with any
of the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting require-
ments of this Act (or any disbursement to or on
behalf of any account of a political committee which
is established for the purpose of accepting such do-
nations or contributions), or to any other person for
the purpose of funding an expenditure, independent
expenditure, or electioneering communication (as de-
defined in section 304(f)(3)).’’.

(b) CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PACS
MAY MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES.—Sec-
tion 316(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30118(b)) is amended
by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(8) A separate segregated fund established by a cor-
poration may not make a contribution or expenditure dur-
ingen a year unless the fund has certified to the Commission
the following during the year:

‘‘(A) Each individual who manages the fund,
and who is responsible for exercising decisionmaking
authority for the fund, is a citizen of the United
States or is lawfully admitted for permanent resi-
dence in the United States.

‘‘(B) No foreign national under section 319
participates in any way in the decisionmaking proc-
esses of the fund with regard to contributions or ex-
penditures under this Act.
“(C) The fund does not solicit or accept recommenda-
tions from any foreign national under section 319 with respect to the contributions or expend-
itures made by the fund.

“(D) Any member of the board of directors of the corporation who is a foreign national under section 319 abstains from voting on matters concerning the fund or its activities.”.

SEC. 4103. AUDIT AND REPORT ON ILLICIT FOREIGN MONEY IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), as amended by section 1821, is further amended by inserting after section 319A the following new section:

“SEC. 319B. AUDIT AND REPORT ON DISBURSEMENTS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.

“(a) Audit.—

“(1) In General.—The Commission shall con-
duct an audit after each Federal election cycle to de-
termine the incidence of illicit foreign money in such Federal election cycle.

“(2) Procedures.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission shall conduct random audits of any disbursements required to be reported under
this Act, in accordance with procedures established by the Commission.

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each Federal election cycle, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report containing—

“(1) results of the audit required by subsection (a)(1);

“(2) an analysis of the extent to which illicit foreign money was used to carry out disinformation and propaganda campaigns focused on depressing turnout among rural communities and the success or failure of these efforts, together with recommendations to address these efforts in future elections;

“(3) an analysis of the extent to which illicit foreign money was used to carry out disinformation and propaganda campaigns focused on depressing turnout among African-American and other minority communities and the success or failure of these efforts, together with recommendations to address these efforts in future elections;

“(4) an analysis of the extent to which illicit foreign money was used to carry out disinformation and propaganda campaigns focused on influencing military and veteran communities and the success or
failure of these efforts, together with recommendations to address these efforts in future elections; and

“(5) recommendations to address the presence of illicit foreign money in elections, as appropriate.

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

“(1) The term ‘Federal election cycle’ means the period which begins on the day after the date of a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office and which ends on the date of the first regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held after such date.

“(2) The term ‘illicit foreign money’ means any disbursement by a foreign national (as defined in section 319(b)) prohibited under such section.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to the Federal election cycle that began during November 2020, and each succeeding Federal election cycle.

SEC. 4104. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN CONNEC-
TION WITH BALLOT INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 319(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(b)), as
amended by section 4102(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **Federal, State, or local election.**—The term ‘Federal, State, or local election’ includes a State or local ballot initiative or referendum.”.

(b) **Effective Date.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to elections held in 2022 or any succeeding year.

**SEC. 4105. DISBURSEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO FOREIGN MONEY BAN.**

(a) **Disbursements Described.**—Section 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)), as amended by section 4101, is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) an expenditure;

“(D) an independent expenditure;

“(E) a disbursement for an electioneering communication (within the meaning of section 304(f)(3));

“(F) a disbursement for a communication which is placed or promoted for a fee on a
website, web application, or digital application that refers to a clearly identified candidate for election for Federal office and is disseminated within 60 days before a general, special or run-off election for the office sought by the candidate or 30 days before a primary or preference election, or a convention or caucus of a political party that has authority to nominate a candidate for the office sought by the candidate;

“(G) a disbursement for a broadcast, cable or satellite communication, or for a communication which is placed or promoted for a fee on a website, web application, or digital application, that promotes, supports, attacks or opposes the election of a clearly identified candidate for Federal, State, or local office (regardless of whether the communication contains express advocacy or the functional equivalent of express advocacy);

“(H) a disbursement for a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication, or for any communication which is placed or promoted for a fee on an online platform (as defined in section 304(k)(3)), that discusses a national legis-
lative issue of public importance in a year in which a regularly scheduled general election for Federal office is held, but only if the disbursement is made by a covered foreign national described in section 304(j)(3)(C);

“(I) a disbursement by a covered foreign national described in section 304(j)(3)(C) to compensate any person for internet activity that promotes, supports, attacks or opposes the election of a clearly identified candidate for Federal, State, or local office (regardless of whether the activity contains express advocacy or the functional equivalent of express advocacy);

“(J) a disbursement for a Federal judicial nomination communication (as defined in section 324(d)(3));”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to disbursements made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 4106. PROHIBITING ESTABLISHMENT OF CORPORATION TO CONCEAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1071(a) and section 1941, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§614. Establishment of corporation to conceal election contributions and donations by foreign nationals

“(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for an owner, officer, attorney, or incorporation agent of a corporation, company, or other entity to establish or use the corporation, company, or other entity with the intent to conceal an activity of a foreign national (as defined in section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121)) prohibited under such section 319.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, fined under this title, or both.”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by section 1071(b) and section 1941, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 612 the following:

“614. Establishment of corporation to conceal election contributions and donations by foreign nationals.”.
PART 2—REPORTING OF CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENTS

SEC. 4111. REPORTING OF CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENTS.

(a) Disclosure Requirements for Corporations, Labor Organizations, and Certain Other Entities.—

(1) In general.—Section 324 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30126) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 324. DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENTS BY COVERED ORGANIZATIONS.

“(a) Disclosure Statement.—

“(1) In general.—Any covered organization that makes campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than $10,000 in an election reporting cycle shall, not later than 24 hours after each disclosure date, file a statement with the Commission made under penalty of perjury that contains the information described in paragraph (2)—

“(A) in the case of the first statement filed under this subsection, for the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the period beginning one year before the first such disclosure date) and ending on the first such disclosure date; and
“(B) in the case of any subsequent state-
ment filed under this subsection, for the period
beginning on the previous disclosure date and
ending on such disclosure date.

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The informa-
tion described in this paragraph is as follows:

“(A) The name of the covered organization
and the principal place of business of such or-
ganization and, in the case of a covered organi-
zation that is a corporation (other than a busi-
ness concern that is an issuer of a class of secu-
rities registered under section 12 of the Securi-
ties Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78l) or
that is required to file reports under section
15(d) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 78o(d))) or an en-
tity described in subsection (e)(2), a list of the
beneficial owners (as defined in paragraph
(4)(A)) of the entity that—

“(i) identifies each beneficial owner by
name and current residential or business
street address; and

“(ii) if any beneficial owner exercises
control over the entity through another
legal entity, such as a corporation, partner-
ship, limited liability company, or trust,
identifies each such other legal entity and each such beneficial owner who will use that other entity to exercise control over the entity.

“(B) The amount of each campaign-related disbursement made by such organization during the period covered by the statement of more than $1,000, and the name and address of the person to whom the disbursement was made.

“(C) In the case of a campaign-related disbursement that is not a covered transfer, the election to which the campaign-related disbursement pertains and if the disbursement is made for a public communication, the name of any candidate identified in such communication and whether such communication is in support of or in opposition to a candidate.

“(D) A certification by the chief executive officer or person who is the head of the covered organization that the campaign-related disbursement is not made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with or at the request or suggestion of a candidate, authorized committee, or agent of a candidate, political party, or agent of a political party.
“(E)(i) If the covered organization makes campaign-related disbursements using exclusively funds in a segregated bank account consisting of funds that were paid directly to such account by persons other than the covered organization that controls the account, for each such payment to the account—

“(I) the name and address of each person who made such payment during the period covered by the statement;

“(II) the date and amount of such payment; and

“(III) the aggregate amount of all such payments made by the person during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the period beginning one year before the disclosure date) and ending on the disclosure date,

but only if such payment was made by a person who made payments to the account in an aggregate amount of $10,000 or more during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the period begin-
ning one year before the disclosure date) and ending on the disclosure date.

“(ii) In any calendar year after 2022, section 315(e)(1)(B) shall apply to the amount described in clause (i) in the same manner as such section applies to the limitations established under subsections (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(3), and (h) of such section, except that for purposes of applying such section to the amounts described in subsection (b), the ‘base period’ shall be calendar year 2022.

“(F)(i) If the covered organization makes campaign-related disbursements using funds other than funds in a segregated bank account described in subparagraph (E), for each payment to the covered organization—

“(I) the name and address of each person who made such payment during the period covered by the statement;

“(II) the date and amount of such payment; and

“(III) the aggregate amount of all such payments made by the person during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the
period beginning one year before the disclosure date) and ending on the disclosure date,
but only if such payment was made by a person who made payments to the covered organization in an aggregate amount of $10,000 or more during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle (or, if earlier, the period beginning one year before the disclosure date) and ending on the disclosure date.

“(ii) In any calendar year after 2022, section 315(c)(1)(B) shall apply to the amount described in clause (i) in the same manner as such section applies to the limitations established under subsections (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(3), and (h) of such section, except that for purposes of applying such section to the amounts described in subsection (b), the ‘base period’ shall be calendar year 2022.

“(G) Such other information as required in rules established by the Commission to promote the purposes of this section.

“(3) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN ORDINARY COURSE OF BUSINESS.—The requirement to in-
clude in a statement filed under paragraph (1) the information described in paragraph (2) shall not apply to amounts received by the covered organization in commercial transactions in the ordinary course of any trade or business conducted by the covered organization or in the form of investments (other than investments by the principal shareholder in a limited liability corporation) in the covered organization. For purposes of this subparagraph, amounts received by a covered organization as remittances from an employee to the employee’s collective bargaining representative shall be treated as amounts received in commercial transactions in the ordinary course of the business conducted by the covered organization.

“(B) DONOR RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The requirement to include in a statement submitted under paragraph (1) the information described in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) shall not apply if—

“(i) the person described in such subparagraph prohibited, in writing, the use of the payment made by such person for campaign-related disbursements; and
“(ii) the covered organization agreed
to follow the prohibition and deposited the
payment in an account which is segregated
from any account used to make campaign-
related disbursements.

“(C) Threat of harassment or reprisal.—The requirement to include any infor-
mation relating to the name or address of any
person (other than a candidate) in a statement
submitted under paragraph (1) shall not apply
if the inclusion of the information would subject
the person to serious threats, harassment, or
reprisals.

“(4) Other definitions.—For purposes of
this section:

“(A) Beneficial owner defined.—

“(i) In general.—Except as pro-
vided in clause (ii), the term ‘beneficial
owner’ means, with respect to any entity,
a natural person who, directly or indi-
directly—

“(I) exercises substantial control
over an entity through ownership, vot-
ing rights, agreement, or otherwise; or
“(II) has a substantial interest in
or receives substantial economic bene-
fits from the assets of an entity.

“(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The term ‘benef-
cicial owner’ shall not include—

“(I) a minor child;

“(II) a person acting as a nomi-
nee, intermediary, custodian, or agent
on behalf of another person;

“(III) a person acting solely as
an employee of an entity and whose
control over or economic benefits from
the entity derives solely from the em-
ployment status of the person;

“(IV) a person whose only inter-
est in an entity is through a right of
inheritance, unless the person also
meets the requirements of clause (i);
or

“(V) a creditor of an entity, un-
less the creditor also meets the re-
quirements of clause (i).

“(iii) ANTI-ABUSE RULE.—The excep-
tions under clause (ii) shall not apply if
used for the purpose of evading, circum-

venting, or abusing the provisions of clause (i) or paragraph (2)(A).

“(B) DISCLOSURE DATE.—The term ‘disclosure date’ means—

“(i) the first date during any election reporting cycle by which a person has made campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than $10,000; and

“(ii) any other date during such election reporting cycle by which a person has made campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than $10,000 since the most recent disclosure date for such election reporting cycle.

“(C) ELECTION REPORTING CYCLE.—The term ‘election reporting cycle’ means the 2-year period beginning on the date of the most recent general election for Federal office, except that in the case of a campaign-related disbursement for a Federal judicial nomination communication, such term means any calendar year in which the campaign-related disbursement is made.
“(D) Payment.—The term ‘payment’ includes any contribution, donation, transfer, payment of dues, or other payment.

“(b) Coordination With Other Provisions.—

“(1) Other reports filed with the commission.—Information included in a statement filed under this section may be excluded from statements and reports filed under section 304.

“(2) Treatment as separate segregated fund.—A segregated bank account referred to in subsection (a)(2)(E) may be treated as a separate segregated fund for purposes of section 527(f)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(c) Filing.—Statements required to be filed under subsection (a) shall be subject to the requirements of section 304(d) to the same extent and in the same manner as if such reports had been required under subsection (c) or (g) of section 304.

“(d) Campaign-Related Disbursement Defined.—

“(1) In general.—In this section, the term ‘campaign-related disbursement’ means a disbursement by a covered organization for any of the following:
“(A) An independent expenditure which expressly advocates the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate for election for Federal office, or is the functional equivalent of express advocacy because, when taken as a whole, it can be interpreted by a reasonable person only as advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for election for Federal office.

“(B) An applicable public communication.

“(C) An electioneering communication, as defined in section 304(f)(3).

“(D) A Federal judicial nomination communication.

“(E) A covered transfer.

“(2) APPLICABLE PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘applicable public communication’ means any public communication that refers to a clearly identified candidate for election for Federal office and which promotes or supports the election of a candidate for that office, or attacks or opposes the election of a candidate for that office, without regard to whether the communication expressly advocates a vote for or against a candidate for that office.
“(B) EXCEPTION.—Such term shall not include any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station or any print, online, or digital newspaper, magazine, publication, or periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate.

“(3) FEDERAL JUDICIAL NOMINATION COMMUNICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Federal judicial nomination communication’ means any communication—

“(i) that is by means of any broadcast, cable, or satellite, paid internet, or paid digital communication, paid promotion, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mass mailing, telephone bank, telephone messaging effort of more than 500 substantially similar calls or electronic messages within a 30-day period, or any other form of general public political advertising; and

“(ii) which promotes, supports, attacks, or opposes the nomination or Senate
confirmation of an individual as a Federal judge or justice.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—Such term shall not include any news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station or any print, online, or digital newspaper, magazine, publication, or periodical, unless such facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate.

“(4) INTENT NOT REQUIRED.—A disbursement for an item described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of paragraph (1) shall be treated as a campaign-related disbursement regardless of the intent of the person making the disbursement.

“(e) COVERED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘covered organization’ means any of the following:

“(1) A corporation (other than an organization described in section 501(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

“(2) A limited liability corporation that is not otherwise treated as a corporation for purposes of this Act (other than an organization described in
section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
1986).

“(3) An organization described in section
501(c) of such Code and exempt from taxation
under section 501(a) of such Code (other than an
organization described in section 501(c)(3) of such
Code).

“(4) A labor organization (as defined in section
316(b)).

“(5) Any political organization under section
527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, other
than a political committee under this Act (except as
provided in paragraph (6)).

“(6) A political committee with an account that
accepts donations or contributions that do not com-
ply with the contribution limits or source prohibi-
tions under this Act, but only with respect to such
accounts.

“(f) COVERED TRANSFER DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
‘covered transfer’ means any transfer or payment of
funds by a covered organization to another person if
the covered organization—

“(A) designates, requests, or suggests that

the amounts be used for—
“(i) campaign-related disbursements
(other than covered transfers); or

“(ii) making a transfer to another
person for the purpose of making or pay-
ing for such campaign-related disburse-
ments;

“(B) made such transfer or payment in re-
sponse to a solicitation or other request for a
donation or payment for—

“(i) the making of or paying for cam-
paign-related disbursements (other than
covered transfers); or

“(ii) making a transfer to another
person for the purpose of making or pay-
ing for such campaign-related disburse-
ments;

“(C) engaged in discussions with the re-
cipient of the transfer or payment regarding—

“(i) the making of or paying for cam-
paign-related disbursements (other than
covered transfers); or

“(ii) donating or transferring any
amount of such transfer or payment to an-
other person for the purpose of making or
paying for such campaign-related disbursements;

“(D) made campaign-related disbursements (other than a covered transfer) in an aggregate amount of $50,000 or more during the 2-year period ending on the date of the transfer or payment, or knew or had reason to know that the person receiving the transfer or payment made such disbursements in such an aggregate amount during that 2-year period; or

“(E) knew or had reason to know that the person receiving the transfer or payment would make campaign-related disbursements in an aggregate amount of $50,000 or more during the 2-year period beginning on the date of the transfer or payment.

“(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘covered transfer’ does not include any of the following:

“(A) A disbursement made by a covered organization in a commercial transaction in the ordinary course of any trade or business conducted by the covered organization or in the form of investments made by the covered organization.
“(B) A disbursement made by a covered organization if—

“(i) the covered organization prohibited, in writing, the use of such disbursement for campaign-related disbursements; and

“(ii) the recipient of the disbursement agreed to follow the prohibition and deposited the disbursement in an account which is segregated from any account used to make campaign-related disbursements.

“(3) Special rule regarding transfers among affiliates.—

“(A) Special rule.—A transfer of an amount by one covered organization to another covered organization which is treated as a transfer between affiliates under subparagraph (C) shall be considered a covered transfer by the covered organization which transfers the amount only if the aggregate amount transferred during the year by such covered organization to that same covered organization is equal to or greater than $50,000.

“(B) Determination of amount of certain payments among affiliates.—In
determining the amount of a transfer between affiliates for purposes of subparagraph (A), to the extent that the transfer consists of funds attributable to dues, fees, or assessments which are paid by individuals on a regular, periodic basis in accordance with a per-individual calculation which is made on a regular basis, the transfer shall be attributed to the individuals paying the dues, fees, or assessments and shall not be attributed to the covered organization.

“(C) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN AFFILIATES.—A transfer of amounts from one covered organization to another covered organization shall be treated as a transfer between affiliates if—

“(i) one of the organizations is an affiliate of the other organization; or

“(ii) each of the organizations is an affiliate of the same organization, except that the transfer shall not be treated as a transfer between affiliates if one of the organizations is established for the purpose of making campaign-related disbursements.

“(D) DETERMINATION OF AFFILIATE STATUS.—For purposes of subparagraph (C), a
covered organization is an affiliate of another covered organization if—

“(i) the governing instrument of the organization requires it to be bound by decisions of the other organization;

“(ii) the governing board of the organization includes persons who are specifically designated representatives of the other organization or are members of the governing board, officers, or paid executive staff members of the other organization, or whose service on the governing board is contingent upon the approval of the other organization; or

“(iii) the organization is chartered by the other organization.

“(E) COVERAGE OF TRANSFERS TO AFFILIATED SECTION 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATIONS.—This paragraph shall apply with respect to an amount transferred by a covered organization to an organization described in paragraph (3) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code in the same manner as this paragraph applies to an amount
transferred by a covered organization to another covered organization.

“(g) No Effect on Other Reporting Requirements.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to waive or otherwise affect any other requirement of this Act which relates to the reporting of campaign-related disbursements.”.

(2) Conforming Amendment.—Section 304(f)(6) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104) is amended by striking “Any requirement” and inserting “Except as provided in section 324(b), any requirement”.

(b) Coordination With FinCEN.—

(1) In General.—The Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury shall provide the Federal Election Commission with such information as necessary to assist in administering and enforcing section 324 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended by this section.

(2) Report.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, in consultation with the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury,
shall submit to Congress a report with recommendations for providing further legislative authority to assist in the administration and enforcement of such section 324.

SEC. 4112. APPLICATION OF FOREIGN MONEY BAN TO DISBURSEMENTS FOR CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENTS CONSISTING OF COVERED TRANSFERS.

Section 319(b)(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)(A)), as amended by section 4102, is amended—

(1) by striking “includes any disbursement” and inserting “includes—

“(A) any disbursement”;  

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”, and  

(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-paragraph:

“(B) any disbursement, other than a disbursement described in section 324(a)(3)(A), to another person who made a campaign-related disbursement consisting of a covered transfer (as described in section 324) during the 2-year period ending on the date of the disbursement.”.
SEC. 4113. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to disbursements made on or after January 1, 2022, and shall take effect without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations to carry out such amendments.

PART 3—OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

SEC. 4121. PETITION FOR CERTIORARI.

Section 307(a)(6) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30107(a)(6)) is amended by inserting “(including a proceeding before the Supreme Court on certiorari)” after “appeal”.

SEC. 4122. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF ACTIONS RELATED TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30141 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 406 the following new section:

“SEC. 407. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If any action is brought for declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge, whether facially or as-applied, the constitutionality or lawfulness of any provision of this Act or of chapter 95 or 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or is brought to with respect to any action of the Commission under chapter 95 or 96 of
the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the following rules shall apply:

“(1) The action shall be filed in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and an appeal from the decision of the district court may be taken to the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

“(2) In the case of an action relating to declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge the constitutionality of a provision, the party filing the action shall concurrently deliver a copy of the complaint to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

“(3) It shall be the duty of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit to advance on the docket and to expedite to the greatest possible extent the disposition of the action and appeal.

“(b) CLARIFYING SCOPE OF JURISDICTION.—If an action at the time of its commencement is not subject to subsection (a), but an amendment, counterclaim, cross-claim, affirmative defense, or any other pleading or motion is filed challenging, whether facially or as-applied, the constitutionality or lawfulness of this Act or of chapter 95
or 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or is brought to with respect to any action of the Commission under chapter 95 or 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the district court shall transfer the action to the District Court for the District of Columbia, and the action shall thereafter be conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

“(c) INTERVENTION BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—In any action described in subsection (a) relating to declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge the constitutionality of a provision, any Member of the House of Representatatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or Senate shall have the right to intervene either in support of or opposition to the position of a party to the case regarding the constitutionality of the provision. To avoid duplication of efforts and reduce the burdens placed on the parties to the action, the court in any such action may make such orders as it considers necessary, including orders to require interveners taking similar positions to file joint papers or to be represented by a single attorney at oral argument.

“(d) CHALLENGE BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Any Member of Congress may bring an action, subject to the special rules described in subsection (a), for declaratory or injunctive relief to challenge, whether facially or as-ap-
plied, the constitutionality of any provision of this Act or
chapter 95 or 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 9011 of the Internal Revenue Code
of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9011. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

“For provisions relating to judicial review of certifi-
cations, determinations, and actions by the Commission
under this chapter, see section 407 of the Federal Election
Campaign Act of 1971.”.

(2) Section 9041 of the Internal Revenue Code
of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9041. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

“For provisions relating to judicial review of actions
by the Commission under this chapter, see section 407 of
the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.”.

(3) Section 310 of the Federal Election Cam-
paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30110) is repealed.

(4) Section 403 of the Bipartisan Campaign
Reform Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 30110 note) is re-
pealed.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
this section shall apply to actions brought on or after Jan-
uary 1, 2021.
Subtitle C—Honest Ads

SEC. 4201. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Honest Ads Act”.

SEC. 4202. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this subtitle is to enhance the integrity of American democracy and national security by improving disclosure requirements for online political advertisements in order to uphold the Supreme Court’s well-established standard that the electorate bears the right to be fully informed.

SEC. 4203. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2002, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–155) became law, establishing disclosure requirements for political advertisements distributed from a television or radio broadcast station or provider of cable or satellite television. In 2003, the Supreme Court upheld regulations on electioneering communications established under the Act, noting that such requirements “provide the electorate with information and insure that the voters are fully informed about the person or group who is speaking.” The Court reaffirmed this conclusion in 2010 by an 8-1 vote.
(2) In its 2006 rulemaking, the Federal Election Commission, the independent Federal agency charged with protecting the integrity of the Federal campaign finance process, noted that 18 percent of all Americans cited the internet as their leading source of news about the 2004 Presidential election. By contrast, Gallup and the Knight Foundation found in 2020 that the majority of Americans, 58 percent, got most of their news about elections online.

(3) According to a study from Borrell Associates, in 2016, $1,415,000,000 was spent on online advertising, more than quadruple the amount in 2012.

(4) The reach of a few large internet platforms—larger than any broadcast, satellite, or cable provider—has greatly facilitated the scope and effectiveness of disinformation campaigns. For instance, the largest platform has over 210,000,000 American users—over 160,000,000 of them on a daily basis. By contrast, the largest cable television provider has 22,430,000 subscribers, while the largest satellite television provider has 21,000,000 subscribers. And the most-watched television broadcast in United States history had 118,000,000 viewers.
(5) The public nature of broadcast television, radio, and satellite ensures a level of publicity for any political advertisement. These communications are accessible to the press, fact-checkers, and political opponents. This creates strong disincentives for a candidate to disseminate materially false, inflammatory, or contradictory messages to the public. Social media platforms, in contrast, can target portions of the electorate with direct, ephemeral advertisements often on the basis of private information the platform has on individuals, enabling political advertisements that are contradictory, racially or socially inflammatory, or materially false.

(6) According to comscore, 2 companies own 8 of the 10 most popular smart phone applications as of June 2017, including the most popular social media and email services which deliver information and news to users without requiring proactivity by the user. Those same 2 companies accounted for 99 percent of revenue growth from digital advertising in 2016, including 77 percent of gross spending. 79 percent of online Americans—representing 68 percent of all Americans—use the single largest social network, while 66 percent of these users are most likely to get their news from that site.
(7) Large social media platforms are the only entities in possession of certain key data related to paid online ads, including the exact audience targeted by those ads and their number of impressions. Such information, which cannot be reliably disclosed by the purchasers of ads, is extremely useful for informing the electorate, guarding against corruption, and aiding in the enforcement of existing campaign finance regulations.

(8) Paid advertisements on social media platforms have served as critical tools for foreign online influence campaigns—even those that rely on large amounts of unpaid content—because such ads allow foreign actors to test the effectiveness of different messages, expose their messages to audiences who have not sought out such content, and recruit audiences for future campaigns and posts.

(9) In testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence titled, “Disinformation: A Primer in Russian Active Measures and Influence Campaigns”, multiple expert witnesses testified that while the disinformation tactics of foreign adversaries have not necessarily changed, social media services now provide “platform[s] practically purpose-built for active measures[.]” Similarly, as Gen.
Keith B. Alexander (RET.), the former Director of the National Security Agency, testified, during the Cold War “if the Soviet Union sought to manipulate information flow, it would have to do so principally through its own propaganda outlets or through active measures that would generate specific news: planting of leaflets, inciting of violence, creation of other false materials and narratives. But the news itself was hard to manipulate because it would have required actual control of the organs of media, which took long-term efforts to penetrate. Today, however, because the clear majority of the information on social media sites is uncurated and there is a rapid proliferation of information sources and other sites that can reinforce information, there is an increasing likelihood that the information available to average consumers may be inaccurate (whether intentionally or otherwise) and may be more easily manipulable than in prior eras.”.

(10) On November 24, 2016, The Washington Post reported findings from 2 teams of independent researchers that concluded Russians “exploited American-made technology platforms to attack U.S. democracy at a particularly vulnerable moment ***
as part of a broadly effective strategy of sowing dis-
trust in U.S. democracy and its leaders.”.

(11) On January 6, 2017, the Office of the Di-
rector of National Intelligence published a report ti-
tled “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in
Recent U.S. Elections”, noting that “Russian Presi-
dent Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign
in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election ***”. 
Moscow’s influence campaign followed a Russian
messaging strategy that blends covert intelligence
operation—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts
by Russian Government agencies, state-funded
media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social
media users or “trolls”.

(12) On September 6, 2017, the nation’s larg-
est social media platform disclosed that between
June 2015 and May 2017, Russian entities pur-
chased $100,000 in political advertisements, pub-
lishing roughly 3,000 ads linked to fake accounts as-
associated with the Internet Research Agency, a pro-
Kremlin organization. According to the company,
the ads purchased focused “on amplifying divisive
social and political messages ***”.

(13) Findings from a 2017 study on the manip-
ulation of public opinion through social media con-
ducted by the Computational Propaganda Research
Project at the Oxford Internet Institute found that
the Kremlin is using pro-Russian bots to manipulate
public discourse to a highly targeted audience. With
a sample of nearly 1,300,000 tweets, researchers
found that in the 2016 election’s 3 decisive States,
propaganda constituted 40 percent of the sampled
election-related tweets that went to Pennsylvanians,
34 percent to Michigan voters, and 30 percent to
those in Wisconsin. In other swing States, the figure
reached 42 percent in Missouri, 41 percent in Florida,
40 percent in North Carolina, 38 percent in
Colorado, and 35 percent in Ohio.

(14) 2018 reporting by the Washington Post
estimated that paid Russian ads received more than
37,000,000 impressions in 2016 and 2017.

(15) A 2019 Senate Select Committee on
Intelligence’s Report on Russian Active Measures
Campaigns and Interference in the 2016 U.S. Elec-
tion Volume 2: Russia’s Use of Social Media with
Additional Views, the Committee recommended
“that Congress examine legislative approaches to en-
suring Americans know the sources of online polit-
ical advertisements. The Federal Election Campaign
Act of 1971 requires political advertisements on tele-
vision, radio and satellite to disclose the sponsor of
the advertisement. The same requirements should
apply online. This will also help to ensure that the
IRA or any similarly situated actors cannot use paid
advertisements for purposes of foreign inter-
ference.”.

(16) A 2020 study by researchers at New York
University found undisclosed political advertisement
purchases on a large social media platform by a Chi-
inese state media company in violation of that plat-
form’s supposed prohibitions on foreign spending on
ads of social, national, or electoral importance.

(17) The same study also found that “there are
persistent issues with advertisers failing to disclose
political ads” and that in one social media plat-
form’s political ad archive, 68,879 pages (54.6 per-
cent of pages with political ads included in the ar-
chive) never provided a disclosure. Overall, there
were 357,099 ads run on that platforms without a
disclosure, accounting for at least $37,000,000 in
spending on political ads.

(18) A 2020 report by the bipartisan and bi-
cameral U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission
found that “Although foreign nationals are banned
from contributing to U.S. political campaigns, they
are still allowed to purchase U.S. political advertisements online, making the internet a fertile environment for conducting a malign influence campaign to undermine American elections.” The Commission concluded that Russian interference in the 2016 election was and still is possible, “because the FECA, which establishes rules for transparency in television, radio, and print media political advertising, has not been amended to extend the same political advertising requirements to internet platforms,” and that “[a]pplying these standards across all media of communication would, among other things, increase transparency of funding for political advertisements, which would in turn strengthen regulators’ ability to reduce improper foreign influence in our elections.”

(19) On March 16, 2021, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence released the declassified Intelligence Community assessment of foreign threats to the 2020 U.S. Federal elections. The declassified report found: “Throughout the election cycle, Russia’s online influence actors sought to affect U.S. public perceptions of the candidates, as well as advance Moscow’s longstanding goals of undermining confidence in US election processes and
increasing sociopolitical divisions among the American people.” The report also determined that Iran sought to influence the election by “creating and amplifying social media content that criticized [candidates].”

(20) According to a Wall Street Journal report in April 2021, voluntary ad libraries operated by major platforms rely on foreign governments to self-report political ad purchases. These ad-buys, including those diminishing major human rights violations like the Uighur genocide, are under-reported by foreign government purchasers, with no substantial oversight or repercussions from the platforms.

(21) Multiple reports have indicated that online ads have become a key vector for strategic influence by the People’s Republic of China. An April 2021 Wall Street Journal report noted that the Chinese government and Chinese state-owned enterprises are major purchasers of ads on the U.S.’s largest social media platform, including to advance Chinese propaganda.

(22) Large online platforms have made changes to their policies intended to make it harder for foreign actors to purchase political ads. However, these private actions have not been taken by all platforms,
have not been reliably enforced, and are subject to
immediate change at the discretion of the platforms.

(23) The Federal Election Commission has
failed to take action to address online political ad-
vertisements and current regulations on political ad-
vertisements do not provide sufficient transparency
to uphold the public’s right to be fully informed
about political advertisements made online.

SEC. 4204. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the dramatic increase in digital political ad-
vertisements, and the growing centrality of online
platforms in the lives of Americans, requires the
Congress and the Federal Election Commission to
take meaningful action to ensure that laws and reg-
ulations provide the accountability and transparency
that is fundamental to our democracy;

(2) free and fair elections require both trans-
parency and accountability which give the public a
right to know the true sources of funding for polit-
ical advertisements, be they foreign or domestic, in
order to make informed political choices and hold
elected officials accountable; and

(3) transparency of funding for political adver-
tisements is essential to enforce other campaign fi-
nance laws, including the prohibition on campaign
spending by foreign nationals.

SEC. 4205. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF PUBLIC COMMUN-
ICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (22) of section 301 of
the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
30101(22)) is amended by striking “or satellite commu-
ication” and inserting “satellite, paid internet, or paid
digital communication”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDI-
tURES.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101) is
amended—

(1) in paragraph (8)(B)(v), by striking “on
broadcasting stations, or in newspapers, magazines,
or similar types of general public political adver-
tising” and inserting “in any public communica-
tion”; and

(2) in paragraph (9)(B)—

(A) by amending clause (i) to read as fol-

ows:

“(i) any news story, commentary, or
editorial distributed through the facilities
of any broadcasting station or any print,
online, or digital newspaper, magazine,
blog, publication, or periodical, unless such
broadcasting, print, online, or digital facilities are owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate;”; and

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “on broadcasting stations, or in newspapers, magazines, or similar types of general public political advertising” and inserting “in any public communication”.

(c) Disclosure and Disclaimer Statements.—

Subsection (a) of section 318 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120) is amended—

(1) by striking “financing any communication through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising” and inserting “financing any public communication”; and

(2) by striking “solicits any contribution through any broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any other type of general public political advertising” and inserting “solicits any contribution through any public communication”.
(d) Regulation.—Not later than 1 year after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election
Commission shall promulgate regulations on what con-
stitutes a paid internet or paid digital communication for
purposes of paragraph (22) of section 301 of the Federal
Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(22)), as
amended by subsection (a), except that such regulation
shall not define a paid internet or paid digital communica-
tion to include communications for which the only pay-
ment consists of internal resources, such as employee com-
pensation, of the entity paying for the communication.

SEC. 4206. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELECTION-
EERING COMMUNICATION.

(a) Expansion to Online Communications.—

(1) Application to Qualified Internet and
Digital Communications.—

(A) In general.—Subparagraph (A) of
section 304(f)(3) of the Federal Election Cam-
is amended by striking “or satellite communica-
tion” each place it appears in clauses (i) and
(ii) and inserting “satellite, or qualified internet
or digital communication”.

(B) Qualified Internet or Digital
Communication.—Paragraph (3) of section
304(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘qualified internet or digital communication’ means any communication which is placed or promoted for a fee on an online platform (as defined in subsection (k)(3)).”.

(2) NONAPPLICATION OF RELEVANT ELECTORATE TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 304(f)(3)(A)(i)(III) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)(A)(i)(III)) is amended by inserting “any broadcast, cable, or satellite” before “communication”.

(3) NEWS EXEMPTION.—Section 304(f)(3)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)(B)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) a communication appearing in a news story, commentary, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station or any online or digital newspaper, magazine, blog, publication, or periodical, unless such broadcasting, online, or digital facilities are
owned or controlled by any political party, political committee, or candidate;”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to communications made on or after January 1, 2022.

SEC. 4207. APPLICATION OF DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) Clear and Conspicuous Manner Requirement.—Subsection (a) of section 318 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “shall clearly state” each place it appears in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and inserting “shall state in a clear and conspicuous manner”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following flush sentence: “For purposes of this section, a communication does not make a statement in a clear and conspicuous manner if it is difficult to read or hear or if the placement is easily overlooked.”.

(b) Special Rules for Qualified Internet or Digital Communications.—

(1) In general.—Section 318 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:
“(e) Special Rules for Qualified Internet or Digital Communications.—

“(1) Special rules with respect to statements.—In the case of any qualified internet or digital communication (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)) which is disseminated through a medium in which the provision of all of the information specified in this section is not possible, the communication shall, in a clear and conspicuous manner—

“(A) state the name of the person who paid for the communication; and

“(B) provide a means for the recipient of the communication to obtain the remainder of the information required under this section with minimal effort and without receiving or viewing any additional material other than such required information.

“(2) Safe Harbor for Determining Clear and Conspicuous Manner.—A statement in qualified internet or digital communication (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)) shall be considered to be made in a clear and conspicuous manner as provided in subsection (a) if the communication meets the following requirements:
“(A) TEXT OR GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of a text or graphic communication, the statement—

“(i) appears in letters at least as large as the majority of the text in the communication; and

“(ii) meets the requirements of paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).

“(B) AUDIO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of an audio communication, the statement is spoken in a clearly audible and intelligible manner at the beginning or end of the communication and lasts at least 3 seconds.

“(C) VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the case of a video communication which also includes audio, the statement—

“(i) is included at either the beginning or the end of the communication; and

“(ii) is made both in—

“(I) a written format that meets the requirements of subparagraph (A) and appears for at least 4 seconds; and
“(II) an audible format that
meets the requirements of subpara-
graph (B).

“(D) OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
case of any other type of communication, the
statement is at least as clear and conspicuous
as the statement specified in subparagraph (A),
(B), or (C).”.

(2) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN EXCEP-
TIONS.—The exceptions provided in section
110.11(f)(1)(i) and (ii) of title 11, Code of Federal
Regulations, or any successor to such rules, shall
have no application to qualified internet or digital
communications (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)

(e) MODIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 318(d) of such
Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by striking “which is transmitted
through radio” and inserting “which is in an
audio format”; and

(B) by striking “BY RADIO” in the heading
and inserting “AUDIO FORMAT”; and

(2) in paragraph (1)(B)—
(A) by striking “which is transmitted through television” and inserting “which is in video format”; and

(B) by striking “BY TELEVISION” in the heading and inserting “VIDEO FORMAT”; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “transmitted through radio or television” and inserting “made in audio or video format”; and

(B) by striking “through television” in the second sentence and inserting “in video format”.

SEC. 4208. POLITICAL RECORD REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE PLATFORMS.

(a) In General.—Section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as amended by section 4002, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(k) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ONLINE ADVERTISEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE PLATFORMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An online platform shall maintain, and make available
for online public inspection in machine readable format, a complete record of any request to purchase on such online platform a qualified political advertisement which is made by a person whose aggregate requests to purchase qualified political advertisements on such online platform during the calendar year exceeds $500.

“(ii) Requirement relating to political ads sold by third party advertising vendors.—An online platform that displays a qualified political advertisement sold by a third party advertising vendor as defined in (3)(C), shall include on its own platform an easily accessible and identifiable link to the records maintained by the third-party advertising vendor under clause (i) regarding such qualified political advertisement.

“(B) Requirements for advertisers.—Any person who requests to purchase a qualified political advertisement on an online platform shall provide the online platform with such information as is necessary for the online
platform to comply with the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“(2) CONTENTS OF RECORD.—A record maintained under paragraph (1)(A) shall contain—

“(A) a digital copy of the qualified political advertisement;

“(B) a description of the audience targeted by the advertisement, the number of views generated from the advertisement, and the date and time that the advertisement is first displayed and last displayed; and

“(C) information regarding—

“(i) the average rate charged for the advertisement;

“(ii) the name of the candidate to which the advertisement refers and the office to which the candidate is seeking election, the election to which the advertisement refers, or the national legislative issue to which the advertisement refers (as applicable);

“(iii) in the case of a request made by, or on behalf of, a candidate, the name of the candidate, the authorized committee
of the candidate, and the treasurer of such committee; and

“(iv) in the case of any request not described in clause (iii), the name of the person purchasing the advertisement, the name and address of a contact person for such person, and a list of the chief executive officers or members of the executive committee or of the board of directors of such person.

“(3) Online platform.—

“(A) In general.—For purposes of this subsection, subject to subparagraph (B), the term ‘online platform’ means any public-facing website, web application, or digital application (including a social network, ad network, or search engine) which—

“(i)(I) sells qualified political advertisements; and

“(II) has 50,000,000 or more unique monthly United States visitors or users for a majority of months during the preceding 12 months; or

“(ii) is a third-party advertising vendor that has 50,000,000 or more unique
monthly United States visitors in the aggregate on any advertisement space that it has sold or bought for a majority of months during the preceding 12 months, as measured by an independent digital ratings service accredited by the Media Ratings Council (or its successor).

“(B) EXEMPTION.—Such term shall not include any online platform that is a distribution facility of any broadcasting station or newspaper, magazine, blog, publication, or periodical.

“(C) THIRD-PARTY ADVERTISING VENDOR DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘third-party advertising vendor’ includes, but is not limited to, any third-party advertising vendor network, advertising agency, advertiser, or third-party advertisement serving company that buys and sells advertisement space on behalf of unaffiliated third-party websites, search engines, digital applications, or social media sites.

“(4) QUALIFIED POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.—

For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified political advertisement’ means any advertisement
(including search engine marketing, display advertisements, video advertisements, native advertisements, and sponsorships) that—

“(A) is made by or on behalf of a candidate; or

“(B) communicates a message relating to any political matter of national importance, including—

“(i) a candidate;

“(ii) any election to Federal office; or

“(iii) a national legislative issue of public importance.

“(5) Time to maintain file.—The information required under this subsection shall be made available as soon as possible and shall be retained by the online platform for a period of not less than 4 years.

“(6) Special rule.—For purposes of this subsection, multiple versions of an advertisement that contain no material differences (such as versions that differ only because they contain a recipient’s name, or differ only in size, color, font, or layout) may be treated as a single qualified political advertisement.
“(7) PENALTIES.—For penalties for failure by online platforms, and persons requesting to purchase a qualified political advertisement on online platforms, to comply with the requirements of this subsection, see section 309.”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election Commission shall establish rules—

(1) requiring common data formats for the record required to be maintained under section 304(j) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (as added by subsection (a)) so that all online platforms submit and maintain data online in a common, machine-readable and publicly accessible format; and

(2) establishing search interface requirements relating to such record, including searches by candidate name, issue, purchaser, and date.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) matters relating to compliance with and the enforcement of the requirements of section 304(k) of
the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as
added by subsection (a);
(2) recommendations for any modifications to
such section to assist in carrying out its purposes;
and
(3) identifying ways to bring transparency and
accountability to political advertisements distributed
online for free.

SEC. 4209. PREVENTING CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES,
INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND DIS-
BURSEMENTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COM-
MUNICATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN
THE FORM OF ONLINE ADVERTISING.

Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section
4101(b), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
lowing new subsection:

“(d) Responsibilities of Broadcast Stations,
Providers of Cable and Satellite Television, and
Online Platforms.—

“(1) In general.—Each television or radio
broadcast station, provider of cable or satellite tele-
vision, or online platform (as defined in section
304(k)(3)) shall make reasonable efforts to ensure
that communications described in section 318(a) and
made available by such station, provider, or platform
are not purchased by a foreign national, directly or
indirectly.

“(2) Regulations.—Not later than 1 year
after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
the Commission shall promulgate regulations on
what constitutes reasonable efforts under paragraph
(1).”.

SEC. 4210. REQUIRING ONLINE PLATFORMS TO DISPLAY
NOTICES IDENTIFYING SPONSORS OF POLITICAL
ADVERTISEMENTS AND TO ENSURE NOTICES CONTINUE TO BE PRESENT WHEN ADVERTISEMENTS ARE SHARED.

(a) In General.—Section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as amended by section 4002 and section 4208(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) Ensuring Display and Sharing of Sponsor Identification in Online Political Advertisements.—

“(1) Requirement.—An online platform dis-
playing a qualified political advertisement shall—

“(A) display with the advertisement a visi-
ble notice identifying the sponsor of the adver-
tisement (or, if it is not practical for the plat-
form to display such a notice, a notice that the
advertisement is sponsored by a person other
than the platform); and

“(B) ensure that the notice will continue to
be displayed if a viewer of the advertisement
shares the advertisement with others on that
platform.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘online platform’ has the
meaning given such term in subsection (k)(3);
and

“(B) the term ‘qualified political advertise-
ment’ has the meaning given such term in
subsection (k)(4).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall apply with respect to advertisements
displayed on or after the 120–day period which begins on
the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Stand By Every Ad

SEC. 4301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Stand By Every
Ad Act”.

SEC. 4302. STAND BY EVERY AD.

(a) EXPANDED DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS FOR
CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 318 of the Federal
Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120), as amended by section 4207(b)(1), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) EXPANDED DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY CANDIDATES OR COMMITTEES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (6), any communication described in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) which is transmitted in an audio or video format (including an internet or digital communication), or which is an internet or digital communication transmitted in a text or graphic format, shall include, in addition to the requirements of paragraph (3) of subsection (a), the following:

“(A) The individual disclosure statement described in paragraph (2)(A) (if the person paying for the communication is an individual) or the organizational disclosure statement described in paragraph (2)(B) (if the person paying for the communication is not an individual).
“(B) If the communication is transmitted in a video format, or is an internet or digital communication which is transmitted in a text or graphic format, and is paid for in whole or in part with a payment which is treated as a campaign-related disbursement under section 324—

“(i) the Top Five Funders list (if applicable); or

“(ii) in the case of a communication which, as determined on the basis of criteria established in regulations issued by the Commission, is of such short duration that including the Top Five Funders list in the communication would constitute a hardship to the person paying for the communication by requiring a disproportionate amount of the content of the communication to consist of the Top Five Funders list, the name of a website which contains the Top Five Funders list (if applicable) or, in the case of an internet or digital communication, a hyperlink to such website.

“(C) If the communication is transmitted in an audio format and is paid for in whole or
in part with a payment which is treated as a campaign-related disbursement under section 324—

“(i) the Top Two Funders list (if applicable); or

“(ii) in the case of a communication which, as determined on the basis of criteria established in regulations issued by the Commission, is of such short duration that including the Top Two Funders list in the communication would constitute a hardship to the person paying for the communication by requiring a disproportionate amount of the content of the communication to consist of the Top Two Funders list, the name of a website which contains the Top Two Funders list (if applicable).

“(2) Disclosure statements described.—

“(A) Individual disclosure statements.—The individual disclosure statement described in this subparagraph is the following: ‘I am ____________, and I approve this message.’, with the blank filled in with the name of the applicable individual.
“(B) Organizational disclosure statements.—The organizational disclosure statement described in this subparagraph is the following: ‘I am ______________, the ______________ of ______________, and ______________ approves this message.’,

with—

“(i) the first blank to be filled in with the name of the applicable individual;

“(ii) the second blank to be filled in with the title of the applicable individual;

and

“(iii) the third and fourth blank each to be filled in with the name of the organization or other person paying for the communication.

“(3) Method of conveyance of statement.—

“(A) Communications in text or graphic format.—In the case of a communication to which this subsection applies which is transmitted in a text or graphic format, the disclosure statements required under paragraph (1) shall appear in letters at least as large as the majority of the text in the communication.
“(B) Communications transmitted in audio format.—In the case of a communication to which this subsection applies which is transmitted in an audio format, the disclosure statements required under paragraph (1) shall be made by audio by the applicable individual in a clear and conspicuous manner.

“(C) Communications transmitted in video format.—In the case of a communication to which this subsection applies which is transmitted in a video format, the information required under paragraph (1)—

“(i) shall appear in writing at the end of the communication or in a crawl along the bottom of the communication in a clear and conspicuous manner, with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the printed statement, for a period of at least 6 seconds; and

“(ii) shall also be conveyed by an unobscured, full-screen view of the applicable individual or by the applicable individual making the statement in voice-over accompanied by a clearly identifiable photograph or similar image of the individual,
except in the case of a Top Five Funders list.

“(4) Applicable individual defined.—The term ‘applicable individual’ means, with respect to a communication to which this subsection applies—

“(A) if the communication is paid for by an individual, the individual involved;

“(B) if the communication is paid for by a corporation, the chief executive officer of the corporation (or, if the corporation does not have a chief executive officer, the highest ranking official of the corporation);

“(C) if the communication is paid for by a labor organization, the highest ranking officer of the labor organization; and

“(D) if the communication is paid for by any other person, the highest ranking official of such person.

“(5) Top five funders list and top two funders list defined.—

“(A) Top five funders list.—The term ‘Top Five Funders list’ means, with respect to a communication which is paid for in whole or in part with a campaign-related disbursement (as defined in section 324), a list of the five
persons who, during the 12-month period ending on the date of the disbursement, provided the largest payments of any type in an aggregate amount equal to or exceeding $10,000 to the person who is paying for the communication and the amount of the payments each such person provided. If two or more people provided the fifth largest of such payments, the person paying for the communication shall select one of those persons to be included on the Top Five Funders list.

“(B) TOP TWO FUNDERS LIST.—The term ‘Top Two Funders list’ means, with respect to a communication which is paid for in whole or in part with a campaign-related disbursement (as defined in section 324), a list of the persons who, during the 12-month period ending on the date of the disbursement, provided the largest and the second largest payments of any type in an aggregate amount equal to or exceeding $10,000 to the person who is paying for the communication and the amount of the payments each such person provided. If two or more persons provided the second largest of such payments, the person paying for the com-
munication shall select one of those persons to be included on the Top Two Funders list.

“(C) Exclusion of certain payments.—For purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B), in determining the amount of payments made by a person to a person paying for a communication, there shall be excluded the following:

“(i) Any amounts provided in the ordinary course of any trade or business conducted by the person paying for the communication or in the form of investments in the person paying for the communication.

“(ii) Any payment which the person prohibited, in writing, from being used for campaign-related disbursements, but only if the person paying for the communication agreed to follow the prohibition and deposited the payment in an account which is segregated from any account used to make campaign-related disbursements.

“(6) Special rules for certain communications.—
“(A) Exception for Communications
paid for by political parties and certain
political committees.—This subsection does
not apply to any communication to which sub-
section (d)(2) applies.

“(B) Treatment of Video Communications lasting 10 seconds or less.—In the
case of a communication to which this sub-
section applies which is transmitted in a video
format, or is an internet or digital commu-
ication which is transmitted in a text or graphic
format, the communication shall meet the fol-
lowing requirements:

“(i) The communication shall include
the individual disclosure statement de-
scribed in paragraph (2)(A) (if the person
paying for the communication is an indi-
vidual) or the organizational disclosure
statement described in paragraph (2)(B)
(if the person paying for the communica-
tion is not an individual).

“(ii) The statement described in
clause (i) shall appear in writing at the
end of the communication, or in a crawl
along the bottom of the communication, in
a clear and conspicuous manner, with a reasonable degree of color contrast between the background and the printed statement, for a period of at least 4 seconds.

“(iii) The communication shall include, in a clear and conspicuous manner, a website address with a landing page which will provide all of the information described in paragraph (1) with respect to the communication. Such address shall appear for the full duration of the communication.

“(iv) To the extent that the format in which the communication is made permits the use of a hyperlink, the communication shall include a hyperlink to the website address described in clause (iii).”.

(b) Application of Expanded Requirements to Public Communications Consisting of Campaign-related Disbursements.—

(1) In general.—Section 318(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)) is amended by striking “for the purpose of financing communications expressly advocating the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate” and inserting “for a campaign-re-
lated disbursement, as defined in section 324, consisting of a public communication”.

(2) **Clarification of exemption from inclusion of candidate disclaimer statement in federal judicial nomination communications.**—Section 318(a)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)(3)) is amended by striking “shall state” and inserting “shall (except in the case of a Federal judicial nomination communication, as defined in section 324(d)(3)) state”.

(c) **Exception for communications paid for by political parties and certain political committees.**—Section 318(d)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “OTHERS” and inserting “CERTAIN POLITICAL COMMITTEES”;

(2) by striking “Any communication” and inserting “(A) Any communication”;

(3) by inserting “which (except to the extent provided in subparagraph (B)) is paid for by a political committee (including a political committee of a political party) and” after “subsection (a)”;

(4) by striking “or other person” each place it appears; and
(5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
paragraph:

“(B)(i) This paragraph does not apply to a
communication paid for in whole or in part during
a calendar year with a campaign-related disburse-
ment, but only if the covered organization making
the campaign-related disbursement made campaign-
related disbursements (as defined in section 324) ag-
grating more than $10,000 during such calendar
year.

“(ii) For purposes of clause (i), in determining
the amount of campaign-related disbursements made
by a covered organization during a year, there shall
be excluded the following:

“(I) Any amounts received by the covered
organization in the ordinary course of any trade
or business conducted by the covered organiza-
tion or in the form of investments in the cov-
ered organization.

“(II) Any amounts received by the covered
organization from a person who prohibited, in
writing, the organization from using such
amounts for campaign-related disbursements,
but only if the covered organization agreed to
follow the prohibition and deposited the
amounts in an account which is segregated from any account used to make campaign-related disbursements.”.

SEC. 4303. DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNICATIONS MADE THROUGH PRERECORDED TELEPHONE CALLS.

(a) Application of Requirements.—

(1) In general.—Section 318(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)), as amended by section 4205(c), is amended by striking “public communication” each place it appears and inserting the following: “public communication (including a telephone call consisting in substantial part of a prerecorded audio message)”.

(2) Application to communications subject to expanded disclaimer requirements.—Section 318(e)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(e)(1)), as added by section 4302(a), is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “which is transmitted in an audio or video format” and inserting “which is transmitted in an audio or video format or which consists of a telephone call consisting in substantial part of a prerecorded audio message”.
(b) Treatment as Communication Transmitted in Audio Format.—

(1) Communications by candidates or authorized persons.—Section 318(d) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) Prerecorded telephone calls.—Any communication described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) (other than a communication which is subject to subsection (e)) which is a telephone call consisting in substantial part of a prerecorded audio message shall include, in addition to the requirements of such paragraph, the audio statement required under subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) or the audio statement required under paragraph (2) (whichever is applicable), except that the statement shall be made at the beginning of the telephone call.”.

(2) Communications subject to expanded disclaimer requirements.—Section 318(e)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(e)(3)), as added by section 4302(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) Prerecorded telephone calls.—In the case of a communication to
which this subsection applies which is a telephone call consisting in substantial part of a prerecorded audio message, the communication shall be considered to be transmitted in an audio format.”.

SEC. 4304. NO EXPANSION OF PERSONS SUBJECT TO DISCLAIMER REQUIREMENTS ON INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle may be construed to require any person who is not required under section 318 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to include a disclaimer on communications made by the person through the internet to include any disclaimer on any such communications.

SEC. 4305. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this subtitle shall apply with respect to communications made on or after January 1, 2022, and shall take effect without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations to carry out such amendments.
Subtitle E—Deterring Foreign Interference in Elections

PART 1—DETERRENCE UNDER FEDERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN ACT OF 1971

SEC. 4401. RESTRICTIONS ON EXCHANGE OF CAMPAIGN INFORMATION BETWEEN CANDIDATES AND FOREIGN POWERS.

Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section 4101(b) and section 4209, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) Restrictions on Exchange of Information Between Candidates and Foreign Powers.—

“(1) Treatment of offer to share non-public campaign material as solicitation of contribution from foreign national.—If a candidate or an individual affiliated with the campaign of a candidate, or if a political committee or an individual affiliated with a political committee, provides or offers to provide nonpublic campaign material to a covered foreign national or to another person whom the candidate, committee, or individual knows or has reason to know will provide the material to a covered foreign national, the candidate, committee, or individual (as the case may be) shall
be considered for purposes of this section to have so-
licited a contribution or donation described in sub-
section (a)(1)(A) from a foreign national.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the fol-
lowing definitions apply:

“(A) The term ‘candidate’ means an indi-
vidual who seeks nomination for, or election to,
any Federal, State, or local public office.

“(B) The term ‘covered foreign national’
has the meaning given such term in section
304(j)(3)(C).

“(C) The term ‘individual affiliated with a
campaign’ means, with respect to a candidate,
an employee of any organization legally author-
ized under Federal, State, or local law to sup-
port the candidate’s campaign for nomination
for, or election to, any Federal, State, or local
public office, as well as any independent con-
tractor of such an organization and any indi-
vidual who performs services on behalf of the
organization, whether paid or unpaid.

“(D) The term ‘individual affiliated with a
political committee’ means, with respect to a
political committee, an employee of the com-
mittee as well as any independent contractor of
the committee and any individual who performs services on behalf of the committee, whether paid or unpaid.

“(E) The term ‘nonpublic campaign material’ means, with respect to a candidate or a political committee, campaign material that is produced by the candidate or the committee or produced at the candidate or committee’s expense or request which is not distributed or made available to the general public or otherwise in the public domain, including polling and focus group data and opposition research, except that such term does not include material produced for purposes of consultations relating solely to the candidate’s or committee’s position on a legislative or policy matter.”.

SEC. 4402. CLARIFICATION OF STANDARD FOR DETERMINING EXISTENCE OF COORDINATION BETWEEN CAMPAIGNS AND OUTSIDE INTERESTS.

Section 315(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(10) For purposes of paragraph (7), an expenditure or disbursement may be considered to have been made in
cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or coordinated
with, a person without regard to whether or not the co-
operation, consultation, or coordination is carried out pur-
suant to agreement or formal collaboration.”.

SEC. 4403. PROHIBITION ON PROVISION OF SUBSTANTIAL
ASSISTANCE RELATING TO CONTRIBUTION
OR DONATION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.

Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as amended by section
4101(a), section 4101(b), section 4105, section 4209, and
section 4401, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

(B) by striking the period at the end of
paragraph (3) and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) a person to knowingly provide substantial
assistance to another person in carrying out an ac-
tivity described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3).”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
sections:

“(f) KNOWINGLY DESCRIBED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection
(a)(4), the term ‘knowingly’ means actual knowl-
edge, constructive knowledge, awareness of pertinent facts that would lead a reasonable person to conclude there is a substantial probability, or awareness of pertinent facts that would lead a reasonable person to conduct a reasonable inquiry to establish—

“(A) with respect to an activity described in subsection (a)(1), that the contribution, donation, expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement is from a foreign national;

“(B) with respect to an activity described in subsection (a)(2), that the contribution or donation solicited, accepted, or received is from a foreign national; and

“(C) with respect to an activity described in subsection (a)(3), that the person directing, dictating, controlling, or directly or indirectly participating in the decision-making process is a foreign national.

“(2) PERTINENT FACTS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), pertinent facts include, but are not limited to, that the person making the contribution, donation, expenditure, independent expenditure, or disbursement, or that the person from whom the contribution or donation is solicited, accepted, or received, or that the person directing, dictating, con-
trolling, or directly or indirectly participating in the
decision-making process—

“(A) uses a foreign passport or passport
number for identification purposes;

“(B) provides a foreign address;

“(C) uses a check or other written instru-
ment drawn on a foreign bank, or by a wire
transfer from a foreign bank, in carrying out
the activity; or

“(D) resides abroad.

“(g) Substantial Assistance Defined.—As used
in this section, the term ‘substantial assistance’ means,
with respect to an activity prohibited by paragraph (1),
(2), or (3) of subsection (a), involvement with an intent
to facilitate successful completion of the activity.”.

SEC. 4404. CLARIFICATION OF APPLICATION OF FOREIGN
MONEY BAN.

(a) Clarification of Treatment of Provision
of Certain Information as Contribution or Dona-
tion of a Thing of Value.—Section 319 of the Federal
Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121), as
amended by section 4101(a), section 4101(b), section
4209, section 4401, and section 4403, is amended by add-
ing at the end the following new subsection:
“(h) Clarification of Treatment of Provision of Certain Information as Contribution or Donation of a Thing of Value.—For purposes of this section, a ‘contribution or donation of money or other thing of value’ includes the provision of opposition research, polling, or other non-public information relating to a candidate for election for a Federal, State, or local office for the purpose of influencing the election, regardless of whether such research, polling, or information has monetary value, except that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to treat the mere provision of an opinion about a candidate as a thing of value for purposes of this section.”

(b) Clarification of Application of Foreign Money Ban to All Contributions and Donations of Things of Value and to All Solicitations of Contributions and Donations of Things of Value.—Section 319(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)), as amended by section 4105 and section 4403, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “promise to make a contribution or donation” and inserting “promise to make such a contribution or donation”;

(2) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “donation” and inserting “donation of money or other thing of
value, or to make an express or implied promise to
make such a contribution or donation,”; and

(3) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-
lows:

“(2) a person to solicit, accept, or receive (di-
rectly or indirectly) a contribution, donation, or dis-
bursement described in paragraph (1), or to solicit,
accept, or receive (directly or indirectly) an express
or implied promise to make such a contribution or
donation, from a foreign national;”.

PART 2—NOTIFYING STATES OF
DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS BY FOREIGN
NATIONALS

SEC. 4411. NOTIFYING STATES OF DISINFORMATION CAM-
PAIGNS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.

(a) REQUIRING DISCLOSURE.—If the Federal Elec-
tion Commission makes a determination that a foreign na-
tional has initiated or has attempted to initiate a
disinformation campaign targeted at an election for public
office held in a State, the Commission shall notify the
State involved of the determination not later than 30 days
after making the determination.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the term “foreign
national” has the meaning given such term in section
319(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(b)).

PART 3—PROHIBITING USE OF DEEPFAKES IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

SEC. 4421. PROHIBITION ON DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE AUDIO OR VISUAL MEDIA PRIOR TO ELECTION.

(a) In General.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 325. PROHIBITION ON DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALLY DECEPTIVE MEDIA PRIOR TO ELECTION.

“(a) In General.—Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), a person, political committee, or other entity shall not, within 60 days of an election for Federal office at which a candidate for elective office will appear on the ballot, distribute, with actual malice, materially deceptive audio or visual media of the candidate with the intent to injure the candidate’s reputation or to deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate.

“(b) Exception.—

“(1) REQUIRED LANGUAGE.—The prohibition in subsection (a) does not apply if the audio or visual media includes—
“(A) a disclosure stating: “This __________ has been manipulated.”; and

“(B) filled in the blank in the disclosure under subparagraph (A), the term ‘image’, ‘video’, or ‘audio’, as most accurately describes the media.

“(2) VISUAL MEDIA.—For visual media, the text of the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer and no smaller than the largest font size of other text appearing in the visual media. If the visual media does not include any other text, the disclosure shall appear in a size that is easily readable by the average viewer. For visual media that is video, the disclosure shall appear for the duration of the video.

“(3) AUDIO-ONLY MEDIA.—If the media consists of audio only, the disclosure shall be read in a clearly spoken manner and in a pitch that can be easily heard by the average listener, at the beginning of the audio, at the end of the audio, and, if the audio is greater than 2 minutes in length, interspersed within the audio at intervals of not greater than 2 minutes each.

“(c) INAPPLICABILITY TO CERTAIN ENTITIES.—This section does not apply to the following:
“(1) A radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, that broadcasts materially deceptive audio or visual media prohibited by this section as part of a bona fide newscast, news interview, news documentary, or on-the-spot coverage of bona fide news events, if the broadcast clearly acknowledges through content or a disclosure, in a manner that can be easily heard or read by the average listener or viewer, that there are questions about the authenticity of the materially deceptive audio or visual media.

“(2) A radio or television broadcasting station, including a cable or satellite television operator, programmer, or producer, when it is paid to broadcast materially deceptive audio or visual media.

“(3) An internet website, or a regularly published newspaper, magazine, or other periodical of general circulation, including an internet or electronic publication, that routinely carries news and commentary of general interest, and that publishes materially deceptive audio or visual media prohibited by this section, if the publication clearly states that the materially deceptive audio or visual media does
not accurately represent the speech or conduct of the
candidate.

“(4) Materially deceptive audio or visual media
that constitutes satire or parody.

“(d) CIVIL ACTION.—

“(1) INJUNCTIVE OR OTHER EQUITABLE RE-
LIEF.—A candidate for elective office whose voice or
likeness appears in a materially deceptive audio or
visual media distributed in violation of this section
may seek injunctive or other equitable relief prohib-
itng the distribution of audio or visual media in vio-
lation of this section. An action under this para-
graph shall be entitled to precedence in accordance
with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

“(2) DAMAGES.—A candidate for elective office
whose voice or likeness appears in a materially de-
ceptive audio or visual media distributed in violation
of this section may bring an action for general or
special damages against the person, committee, or
other entity that distributed the materially deceptive
audio or visual media. The court may also award a
prevailing party reasonable attorney’s fees and costs.
This paragraph shall not be construed to limit or
preclude a plaintiff from securing or recovering any
other available remedy.
“(3) **Burden of Proof.**—In any civil action alleging a violation of this section, the plaintiff shall bear the burden of establishing the violation through clear and convincing evidence.

“(e) **Rule of Construction.**—This section shall not be construed to alter or negate any rights, obligations, or immunities of an interactive service provider under section 230 of title 47, United States Code.

“(f) **Materially Deceptive Audio or Visual Media Defined.**—In this section, the term ‘materially deceptive audio or visual media’ means an image or an audio or video recording of a candidate’s appearance, speech, or conduct that has been intentionally manipulated in a manner such that both of the following conditions are met:

“(1) The image or audio or video recording would falsely appear to a reasonable person to be authentic.

“(2) The image or audio or video recording would cause a reasonable person to have a fundamentally different understanding or impression of the expressive content of the image or audio or video recording than that person would have if the person were hearing or seeing the unaltered, original version of the image or audio or video recording.”.
(b) Criminal Penalties.—Section 309(d)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(d)(1)), as amended by section 4004, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
graph:

“(G) Any person who knowingly and will-
fully commits a violation of section 325 shall be
fined not more than $100,000, imprisoned not
more than 5 years, or both.”.

(c) Effect on Defamation Action.—For pur-
poses of an action for defamation, a violation of section
325 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as
added by subsection (a), shall constitute defamation per
se.

PART 4—ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION OF REG-
ISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER FARA
FOR REGISTERED LOBBYISTS

SEC. 4431. ASSESSMENT OF EXEMPTION OF REGIS-
TRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER FARA FOR REG-
ISTERED LOBBYISTS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
States shall conduct and submit to Congress an assess-
ment of the implications of the exemption provided under
the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended
(22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.) for agents of foreign principals who are also registered lobbyists under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and shall include in the assessment an analysis of the extent to which revisions in such Acts might mitigate the risk of foreign government money influencing elections or political processes in the United States.

**Subtitle F—Secret Money Transparency**

**SEC. 4501. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION OF USE OF FUNDS BY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO BRING TRANSPARENCY TO POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

Section 122 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260) is hereby repealed.
Subtitle G—Shareholder Right-to-Know

SEC. 4601. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS BY SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION TO ENSURE SHAREHOLDERS OF CORPORATIONS HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF CORPORATION POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

Section 631 of the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Public Law 116–260) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 4602. SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL OF CORPORATE POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

(a) In General.—The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 14B (15 U.S.C. 78n–2) the following:

“SEC. 14C. SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL OF CERTAIN POLITICAL EXPENDITURES AND DISCLOSURE OF VOTES OF INSTITUTIONAL INVESTORS.

“(a) Definitions.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘expenditure for political activities’—

“(A) means—

“(i) an independent expenditure (as defined in section 301(17) of the Federal
Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(17)));

“(ii) an electioneering communication (as defined in section 304(f)(3) of that Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3))) and any other public communication (as defined in section 301(22) of that Act (52 U.S.C. 30101(22))) that would be an electioneering communication if it were a broadcast, cable, or satellite communication; or

“(iii) dues or other payments to trade associations or organizations described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Code that are, or could reasonably be anticipated to be, used or transferred to another association or organization for the purposes described in clauses (i) or (ii); and

“(B) does not include—

“(i) direct lobbying efforts through registered lobbyists employed or hired by the issuer;
“(ii) communications by an issuer to its shareholders and executive or administrative personnel and their families; or

“(iii) the establishment and administration of contributions to a separate segregated fund to be utilized for political purposes by a corporation; and

“(2) the term ‘issuer’ does not include an investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–8).

“(b) Shareholder Authorization for Political Expenditures.—Each solicitation of proxy, consent, or authorization by an issuer with a class of equity securities registered under section 12 shall—

“(1) contain—

“(A) a description of the specific nature of any expenditure for political activities proposed to be made by the issuer for the forthcoming fiscal year that has not been authorized by a vote of the shareholders of the issuer, to the extent the specific nature is known to the issuer; and
“(B) the total amount of expenditures for political activities proposed to be made by the issuer for the forthcoming fiscal year; and

“(2) provide for a separate vote of the shareholders of the issuer to authorize such expenditures for political activities in the total amount described in paragraph (1).

“(c) Vote Required To Make Expenditures.— No issuer shall make an expenditure for political activities in any fiscal year unless such expenditure—

“(1) is of the nature of those proposed by the issuer in subsection (b)(1); and

“(2) has been authorized by a vote of the majority of the outstanding shares of the issuer in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

“(d) Fiduciary Duty; Liability.—

“(1) Fiduciary Duty.—A violation of subsection (c) shall be considered a breach of a fiduciary duty of the officers and directors who authorized the expenditure for political activities.

“(2) Liability.—An officer or director of an issuer who authorizes an expenditure for political activities in violation of subsection (c) shall be jointly and severally liable in any action brought in a court of competent jurisdiction to any person or class of
persons who held shares at the time the expenditure for political activities was made for an amount equal to 3 times the amount of the expenditure for political activities.

“(e) Disclosure of Votes.—

“(1) Disclosure Required.—Each institutional investment manager subject to section 13(f) shall disclose not less frequently than annually how the institutional investment manager voted on any shareholder vote under subsection (a), unless the vote is otherwise required by rule of the Commission to be reported publicly.

“(2) Rules.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall issue rules to carry out this subsection that require that a disclosure required under paragraph (1)—

“(A) be made not later than 30 days after a vote described in paragraph (1); and

“(B) be made available to the public through the EDGAR system as soon as practicable.

“(f) Safe Harbor for Certain Divestment Decisions.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, if an institutional investment manager makes
the disclosures required under subsection (e), no person
may bring any civil, criminal, or administrative action
against the institutional investment manager, or any em-
ployee, officer, or director thereof, based solely upon a de-
cision of the investment manager to divest from, or not
to invest in, securities of an issuer due to an expenditure
for political activities made by the issuer.”.

(b) REQUIRED BOARD VOTE ON CORPORATE EXPENDITURES FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—The Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78 et seq.) is amended by adding after section 16 (15 U.S.C. 78p) the following:

“SEC. 16A. REQUIRED BOARD VOTE ON CORPORATE EXPENDITURES FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘ex-
penditure for political activities’ and ‘issuer’ have the
meanings given the terms in section 14C.

“(b) LISTING ON EXCHANGES.—Not later than 180
days after the date of enactment of this section, the Com-
mission shall, by rule, direct the national securities ex-
changes and national securities associations to prohibit the
listing of any class of equity security of an issuer that
is not in compliance with the requirements of any portion
of subsection (c).
“(c) Requirement for Vote in Corporate By-Laws.—

“(1) Vote Required.—The bylaws of an issuer shall expressly provide for a vote of the board of directors of the issuer on—

“(A) any expenditure for political activities in excess of $50,000; and

“(B) any expenditure for political activities that would result in the total amount spent by the issuer for a particular election (as defined in section 301(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(1))) in excess of $50,000.

“(2) Public Availability.—An issuer shall make the votes of each member of the board of directors for a vote required under paragraph (1) publicly available not later than 48 hours after the vote, including in a clear and conspicuous location on the internet web site of the issuer.

“(d) No Effect on Determination of Coordination with Candidates or Campaigns.—For purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), an expenditure for political activities by an issuer shall not be treated as made in concert or cooperation with, or at the request or suggestion of, any can-
(c) Reporting Requirements.—Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) Reporting Requirements Relating to Certain Political Expenditures.—

“(1) Definitions.—In this subsection, the terms ‘expenditure for political activities’ and ‘issuer’ have the meanings given the terms in section 14C.

“(2) Quarterly Reports.—

“(A) Reports Required.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall amend the reporting rules under this section to require each issuer with a class of equity securities registered under section 12 of this title to submit to the Commission and the shareholders of the issuer a quarterly report containing—

“(i) a description of any expenditure for political activities made during the preceding quarter;
“(ii) the date of each expenditure for political activities;

“(iii) the amount of each expenditure for political activities;

“(iv) the votes of each member of the board of directors authorizing the expenditure for political activity, as required under section 16A(c);

“(v) if the expenditure for political activities was made in support of or opposed to a candidate, the name of the candidate and the office sought by, and the political party affiliation of, the candidate; and

“(vi) the name or identity of trade associations or organizations described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code which receive dues or other payments as described in section 14C(a)(1)(A)(iii).

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Commission shall ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, the quarterly reports required under this paragraph are publicly available through the internet web site of the Commis-
sion and through the EDGAR system in a man-
ner that is searchable, sortable, and download-
able, consistent with the requirements under 
section 24.

“(3) Annual reports.—Not later than 180 
days after the date of enactment of this subsection, 
the Commission shall, by rule, require each issuer to 
include in the annual report of the issuer to share-
holders a summary of each expenditure for political 
activities made during the preceding year in excess 
of $10,000, and each expenditure for political activi-
ties for a particular election if the total amount of 
such expenditures for that election is in excess of 
$10,000.”.

(d) Reports.—

(1) Securities and exchange commis-
sion.—The Securities and Exchange Commission 
shall—

(A) conduct an annual assessment of the 
compliance of issuers and officers and members 
of the boards of directors of issuers with sec-
tions 13(s), 14C, and 16A of the Securities Ex-
change Act of 1934, as added by this section; 
and
(B) submit to Congress an annual report
containing the results of the assessment under
paragraph (1).

(2) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE.—
The Comptroller General of the United States shall
periodically evaluate and report to Congress on the
effectiveness of the oversight by the Securities and
Exchange Commission of the reporting and disclo-
sure requirements under sections 13(s), 14C, and
16A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as
added by this section.

Subtitle H—Disclosure of Political
Spending by Government Con-
tractors

SEC. 4701. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS TO
REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF POLITICAL SPEND-
ING BY GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS.

Section 735 of the Financial Services and General
Government Appropriations Act, 2021 (division E of Pub-
lic Law 116–260) is hereby repealed.
Subtitle I—Limitation and Disclosure Requirements for Presidential Inaugural Committees

SEC. 4801. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Presidential Inaugural Committee Oversight Act”.

SEC. 4802. LIMITATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN DONATIONS TO, AND DISBURSEMENTS BY, INAUGURAL COMMITTEES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR INAUGURAL COMMITTEES.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), as amended by section 4421, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 326. INAUGURAL COMMITTEES.

“(a) PROHIBITED DONATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful—

“(A) for an Inaugural Committee—

“(i) to solicit, accept, or receive a donation from a person that is not an individual; or

“(ii) to solicit, accept, or receive a donation from a foreign national;

“(B) for a person—
“(i) to make a donation to an Inaugural Committee in the name of another person, or to knowingly authorize his or her name to be used to effect such a donation;

“(ii) to solicit or knowingly accept a donation to an Inaugural Committee made by a person in the name of another person; or

“(iii) to convert a donation to an Inaugural Committee to personal use as described in paragraph (2); and

“(C) for a foreign national to, directly or indirectly, make a donation, or make an express or implied promise to make a donation, to an Inaugural Committee.

“(2) CONVERSION OF DONATION TO PERSONAL USE.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(iii), a donation shall be considered to be converted to personal use if any part of the donated amount is used to fulfill a commitment, obligation, or expense of a person that would exist irrespective of the responsibilities of the Inaugural Committee under chapter 5 of title 36, United States Code.
“(3) NO EFFECT ON DISBURSEMENT OF UNUSED FUNDS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—
Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an Inaugural Committee from disbursing unused funds to an organization which is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

“(b) LIMITATION ON DONATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for an individual to make donations to an Inaugural Committee which, in the aggregate, exceed $50,000.

“(2) INDEXING.—At the beginning of each Presidential election year (beginning with 2028), the amount described in paragraph (1) shall be increased by the cumulative percent difference determined in section 315(c)(1)(A) since the previous Presidential election year. If any amount after such increase is not a multiple of $1,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $1,000.

“(c) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN DONATIONS AND DISBURSEMENTS.—

“(1) DONATIONS OVER $1,000.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An Inaugural Committee shall file with the Commission a report
disclosing any donation by an individual to the committee in an amount of $1,000 or more not later than 24 hours after the receipt of such donation.

“(B) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—A report filed under subparagraph (A) shall contain—

“(i) the amount of the donation;
“(ii) the date the donation is received; and
“(iii) the name and address of the individual making the donation.

“(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than the date that is 90 days after the date of the Presidential inaugural ceremony, the Inaugural Committee shall file with the Commission a report containing the following information:

“(A) For each donation of money or anything of value made to the committee in an aggregate amount equal to or greater than $200—

“(i) the amount of the donation;
“(ii) the date the donation is received; and
“(iii) the name and address of the individual making the donation.
“(B) The total amount of all disbursements, and all disbursements in the following categories:

“(i) Disbursements made to meet committee operating expenses.

“(ii) Repayment of all loans.

“(iii) Donation refunds and other offsets to donations.

“(iv) Any other disbursements.

“(C) The name and address of each person—

“(i) to whom a disbursement in an aggregate amount or value in excess of $200 is made by the committee to meet a committee operating expense, together with date, amount, and purpose of such operating expense;

“(ii) who receives a loan repayment from the committee, together with the date and amount of such loan repayment;

“(iii) who receives a donation refund or other offset to donations from the committee, together with the date and amount of such disbursement; and
“(iv) to whom any other disbursement in an aggregate amount or value in excess of $200 is made by the committee, together with the date and amount of such disbursement.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1)(A) The term ‘donation’ includes—

“(i) any gift, subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money or anything of value made by any person to the committee; or

“(ii) the payment by any person of compensation for the personal services of another person which are rendered to the committee without charge for any purpose.

“(B) The term ‘donation’ does not include the value of services provided without compensation by any individual who volunteers on behalf of the committee.

“(2) The term ‘foreign national’ has the meaning given that term by section 319(b).

“(3) The term ‘Inaugural Committee’ has the meaning given that term by section 501 of title 36, United States Code.”.
(b) Confirming Amendment Related to Reporting Requirements.—Section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h).

(c) Confirming Amendment Related to Status of Committee.—Section 510 of title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 510. Disclosure of and prohibition on certain donations

“A committee shall not be considered to be the Inaugural Committee for purposes of this chapter unless the committee agrees to, and meets, the requirements of section 326 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.”.

(d) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to Inaugural Committees established under chapter 5 of title 36, United States Code, for inaugurations held in 2025 and any succeeding year.
Subtitle J—Miscellaneous

Provisions

SEC. 4901. EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROVISIONS.
Each provision of this title and each amendment
made by a provision of this title shall take effect on the
effective date provided under this title for such provision
or such amendment without regard to whether or not the
Federal Election Commission, the Attorney General, or
any other person has promulgated regulations to carry out
such provision or such amendment.

SEC. 4902. SEVERABILITY.
If any provision of this title or amendment made by
this title, or the application of a provision or amendment
to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitu-
tional, the remainder of this title and amendments made
by this title, and the application of the provisions and
amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be
affected by the holding.

TITLE V—CAMPAIGN FINANCE
EMPOWERMENT

Subtitle A—Findings Relating to
Citizens United Decision

SEC. 5001. FINDINGS RELATING TO CITIZENS UNITED DECISION.

Congress finds the following:
(1) The American Republic was founded on the principle that all people are created equal, with rights and responsibilities as citizens to vote, be represented, speak, debate, and participate in self-government on equal terms regardless of wealth. To secure these rights and responsibilities, our Constitution not only protects the equal rights of all Americans but also provides checks and balances to prevent corruption and prevent concentrated power and wealth from undermining effective self-government.

(2) The Founders designed the First Amendment to help prevent tyranny by ensuring that the people have the tools they need to ensure self-government and to keep their elected leaders responsive to the public. The Amendment thus guarantees the right of everyone to speak, to petition the government for redress, to assemble together, and for a free press. If only the wealthiest individuals can participate meaningfully in our democracy, then these First Amendment principles become an illusion.

(3) Campaign finance laws promote these First Amendment interests. They increase robust debate from diverse voices, enhance the responsiveness of elected officeholders, and help prevent corruption. They do not censor anyone’s speech but simply en-
sure that no one’s speech is drowned out. The Supreme Court has failed to recognize that these laws are essential, proactive rules that help guarantee true democratic self-government.

(4) The Supreme Court’s decisions in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, 558 U.S. 310 (2010) and *McCutcheon v. FEC*, 572 U.S. 185 (2014), as well as other court decisions, erroneously invalidated even-handed rules about the spending of money in local, State, and Federal elections. These rules do not prevent anyone from speaking their mind, much less pick winners and losers of political debates. Although the Court has upheld other content-neutral laws like these, it has failed to apply the same logic to campaign finance laws. These flawed decisions have empowered large corporations, extremely wealthy individuals, and special interests to dominate election spending, corrupt our politics, and degrade our democracy through tidal waves of unlimited and anonymous spending. These decisions also stand in contrast to a long history of efforts by Congress and the States to regulate money in politics to protect democracy, and they illustrate a troubling deregulatory trend in campaign finance-related court decisions. Additionally, an unknown amount of
foreign money continues to be spent in our political system as subsidiaries of foreign-based corporations and hostile foreign actors sometimes connected to nation-States work to influence our elections.

(5) The Supreme Court’s misinterpretation of the Constitution to empower monied interests at the expense of the American people in elections has seriously eroded over 100 years of congressional action to promote fairness and protect elections from the toxic influence of money.

(6) In 1907, Congress passed the Tillman Act in response to the concentration of corporate power in the post-Civil War Gilded Age. The Act prohibited corporations from making contributions in connection with Federal elections, aiming “not merely to prevent the subversion of the integrity of the electoral process [but] * * * to sustain the active, alert responsibility of the individual citizen in a democracy for the wise conduct of government”.

(7) By 1910, Congress began passing disclosure requirements and campaign expenditure limits, and dozens of States passed corrupt practices Acts to prohibit corporate spending in elections. States also enacted campaign spending limits, and some States
limited the amount that people could contribute to campaigns.

(8) In 1947, the Taft-Hartley Act prohibited corporations and unions from making campaign contributions or other expenditures to influence elections. In 1962, a Presidential commission on election spending recommended spending limits and incentives to increase small contributions from more people.

(9) The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA), as amended in 1974, required disclosure of contributions and expenditures, imposed contribution and expenditure limits for individuals and groups, set spending limits for campaigns, candidates, and groups, implemented a public funding system for Presidential campaigns, and created the Federal Election Commission to oversee and enforce the new rules.

(10) In the wake of *Citizens United* and other damaging Federal court decisions, Americans have witnessed an explosion of outside spending in elections. Outside spending increased more than 700 percent between the 2008 and 2020 Presidential election years. Spending by outside groups nearly doubled again from 2016 to 2020 with super PACs,
tax-exempt groups, and others spending more than 
$3,000,000,000. And as political entities adapt to a 
post- Citizens United, post-McCutcheon landscape, 
these trends are getting worse, as evidenced by the 
record-setting 2020 elections which cost more than 
$14,000,000,000 in total.

(11) Since the landmark Citizens United deci-
sion, 21 States and more than 800 municipalities, 
including large cities like New York, Los Angeles, 
Chicago, and Philadelphia, have gone on record sup-
porting a constitutional amendment. Transcending 
political leanings and geographic location, voters in 
States and municipalities across the country that 
have placed amendment questions on the ballot have 
routinely supported these initiatives by considerably 
large margins.

(12) The Court has tied the hands of Congress 
and the States, severely restricting them from set-
ting reasonable limits on campaign spending. For 
example, the Court has held that only the Govern-
ment’s interest in preventing quid pro quo corrupt-
ion, like bribery, or the appearance of such corrupt-
ion, can justify limits on campaign contributions. 
More broadly, the Court has severely curtailed at-
tempts to reduce the ability of the Nation’s wealthi-
est and most powerful to skew our democracy in their favor by buying outsized influence in our elections. Because this distortion of the Constitution has prevented other critical regulation or reform of the way we finance elections in America, a constitutional amendment is needed to achieve a democracy for all the people.

(13) The torrent of money flowing into our political system has a profound effect on the democratic process for everyday Americans, whose voices and policy preferences are increasingly being drowned out by those of wealthy special interests. The more campaign cash from wealthy special interests can flood our elections, the more policies that favor those interests are reflected in the national political agenda. When it comes to policy preferences, our Nation’s wealthiest tend to have fundamentally different views than do average Americans when it comes to issues ranging from unemployment benefits to the minimum wage to health care coverage.

(14) At the same time millions of Americans have signed petitions, marched, called their Members of Congress, written letters to the editor, and otherwise demonstrated their public support for a constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United*
that will allow Congress to reign in the outsized influence of unchecked money in politics. Dozens of organizations, representing tens of millions of individuals, have come together in a shared strategy of supporting such an amendment.

(15) In order to protect the integrity of democracy and the electoral process and to ensure political equality for all, the Constitution should be amended so that Congress and the States may regulate and set limits on the raising and spending of money to influence elections and may distinguish between natural persons and artificial entities, like corporations, that are created by law, including by prohibiting such artificial entities from spending money to influence elections.

Subtitle B—Senate Elections

SEC. 5100. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Fair Elections Now Act of 2021”.

PART 1—SMALL DONOR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

SEC. 5101. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING SMALL DONOR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS.

It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should take steps to allow more Americans to fully participate in our democracy through authorizing publicly financed
small donor incentive programs, including small-dollar voucher programs that broaden and diversify the number of Americans who are able to have their voice heard in the marketplace of ideas.

PART 2—SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING OF SENATE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

SEC. 5111. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND BENEFITS OF FAIR ELECTIONS FINANCING OF SENATE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE V—FAIR ELECTIONS FINANCING OF SENATE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

“Subtitle A—General Provisions

“SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) ALLOCATION FROM THE FUND.—The term ‘allocation from the Fund’ means an allocation of money from the Freedom From Influence Fund to a participating candidate pursuant to section 522.

“(2) COMMISSION.—The term ‘Commission’ means the Federal Election Commission.
“(3) Enhanced matching contribution.—

The term ‘enhanced matching contribution’ means an enhanced matching payment provided to a participating candidate for qualified small dollar contributions, as provided under section 524.

“(4) Enhanced support qualifying period.—The term ‘enhanced support qualifying period’ means, with respect to a general election, the period which begins 60 days before the date of the election and ends 14 days before the date of the election.

“(5) Fair elections qualifying period.—The term ‘Fair Elections qualifying period’ means, with respect to any candidate for Senator, the period—

“(A) beginning on the date on which the candidate files a statement of intent under section 511(a)(1); and

“(B) ending on the date that is 30 days before—

“(i) the date of the primary election; or

“(ii) in the case of a State that does not hold a primary election, the date prescribed by State law as the last day to
qualify for a position on the general election ballot.

“(6) FAIR ELECTIONS START DATE.—The term ‘Fair Elections start date’ means, with respect to any candidate, the date that is 180 days before—

“(A) the date of the primary election; or

“(B) in the case of a State that does not hold a primary election, the date prescribed by State law as the last day to qualify for a position on the general election ballot.

“(7) FUND.—The term ‘Fund’ means the Freedom From Influence Fund established by section 502.

“(8) IMMEDIATE FAMILY.—The term ‘immediate family’ means, with respect to any candidate—

“(A) the candidate’s spouse;

“(B) a child, stepchild, parent, grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the candidate or the candidate’s spouse; and

“(C) the spouse of any person described in subparagraph (B).

“(9) MATCHING CONTRIBUTION.—The term ‘matching contribution’ means a matching payment provided to a participating candidate for qualified
small dollar contributions, as provided under section 523.

“(10) NONPARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—The term ‘nonparticipating candidate’ means a candidate for Senator who is not a participating candidate.

“(11) PARTICIPATING CANDIDATE.—The term ‘participating candidate’ means a candidate for Senator who is certified under section 514 as being eligible to receive an allocation from the Fund.

“(12) QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION.—The term ‘qualifying contribution’ means, with respect to a candidate, a contribution that—

“(A) is in an amount that is—

“(i) not less than $5; and

“(ii) not more than $200;

“(B) is made by an individual who is not otherwise prohibited from making a contribution under this Act;

“(C) is made during the Fair Elections qualifying period; and

“(D) meets the requirements of section 512(b).

“(13) QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION.—The term ‘qualified small dollar contribution’
means, with respect to a candidate, any contribution
(or series of contributions)—

“(A) which is not a qualifying contribution
(or does not include a qualifying contribution);

“(B) which is made by an individual who
is not prohibited from making a contribution
under this Act; and

“(C) the aggregate amount of which does
not exceed $200 per election.

“(14) QUALIFYING MULTICANDIDATE POLITICAL COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualifying multicandidate political committee contribution’
means any contribution to a candidate that is
made from a qualified account of a multi-
candidate political committee (within the mean-
ing of section 315(a)(2)).

“(B) QUALIFIED ACCOUNT.—For purposes
of subparagraph (A), the term ‘qualified ac-
count’ means, with respect to a multicandidate
political committee, a separate, segregated ac-
count of the committee that consists solely of
contributions which meet the following require-
ments:
“(i) All contributions to such account are made by individuals who are not pro-
hibited from making contributions under this Act.

“(ii) The aggregate amount of con-
tributions from each individual to such ac-
count and all other accounts of the polit-
ical committee do not exceed the amount
described in paragraph (13)(C).

“SEC. 502. FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND.

“(a) Establishment.—There is established in the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Freedom From Influence Fund’.

“(b) Amounts Held by Fund.—The Fund shall consist of the following amounts:

“(1) Assessments Against Fines, Settle-

“(2) Deposits.—Amounts deposited into the Fund under—

“(A) section 513(e) (relating to exceptions to contribution requirements);
“(B) section 521(c) (relating to remittance of unused payments from the Fund); and

“(C) section 532 (relating to violations).

“(e) USE OF FUND TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.—

“(1) PAYMENTS TO PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation to make payments to participating candidates as provided in this title.

“(2) MANDATORY REDUCTION OF PAYMENTS IN CASE OF INSUFFICIENT AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

“(A) ADVANCE AUDITS BY COMMISSION.—

Not later than 90 days before the first day of each election cycle (beginning with the first election cycle that begins after the date of the enactment of this title), the Commission shall—

“(i) audit the Fund to determine whether the amounts in the Fund will be sufficient to make payments to participating candidates in the amounts provided in this title during such election cycle; and

“(ii) submit a report to Congress describing the results of the audit.
“(B) Reductions in amount of payments.—

“(i) Automatic reduction on pro rata basis.—If, on the basis of the audit described in subparagraph (A), the Commission determines that the amount anticipated to be available in the Fund with respect to the election cycle involved is not, or may not be, sufficient to satisfy the full entitlements of participating candidates to payments under this title for such election cycle, the Commission shall reduce each amount which would otherwise be paid to a participating candidate under this title by such pro rata amount as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate amount of payments anticipated to be made with respect to the election cycle will not exceed the amount anticipated to be available for such payments in the Fund with respect to such election cycle.

“(ii) Restoration of reductions in case of availability of sufficient funds during election cycle.—If, after reducing the amounts paid to parti-
participating candidates with respect to an election cycle under clause (i), the Commission determines that there are sufficient amounts in the Fund to restore the amount by which such payments were reduced (or any portion thereof), to the extent that such amounts are available, the Commission may make a payment on a prorata basis to each such participating candidate with respect to the election cycle in the amount by which such candidate’s payments were reduced under clause (i) (or any portion thereof, as the case may be).

“(iii) NO USE OF AMOUNTS FROM OTHER SOURCES.—In any case in which the Commission determines that there are insufficient moneys in the Fund to make payments to participating candidates under this title, moneys shall not be made available from any other source for the purpose of making such payments.

“(d) NO TAXPAYER FUNDS PERMITTED.—No taxpayer funds may be deposited into the Fund.

“(e) USE OF FUND TO MAKE OTHER PAYMENTS.—In addition to the use described in subsection (d), amounts
in the Fund shall be available without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation—

“(1) to make payments to candidates under chapter 95 of subtitle H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, subject to reductions under section 9013(b) of such Code; and

“(2) to make payments to candidates under chapter 96 of subtitle H of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, subject to reductions under section 9043(b) of such Code.

“(f) Effective Date.—This section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this title.

“Subtitle B—Eligibility and Certification

“SEC. 511. ELIGIBILITY.

“(a) In General.—A candidate for Senator is eligible to receive an allocation from the Fund for any election if the candidate meets the following requirements:

“(1) The candidate files with the Commission a statement of intent to seek certification as a participating candidate under this title during the period beginning on the Fair Elections start date and ending on the last day of the Fair Elections qualifying period.
“(2) The candidate meets the qualifying contribution requirements of section 512.

“(3) The candidate files with the Commission a statement certifying that the authorized committees of the candidate meet the requirements of section 513(d)(2).

“(4) Not later than the last day of the Fair Elections qualifying period, the candidate files with the Commission an affidavit signed by the candidate and the treasurer of the candidate’s principal campaign committee declaring that the candidate—

“(A) has complied and, if certified, will comply with the contribution and expenditure requirements of section 513;

“(B) if certified, will not run as a non-participating candidate during such year in any election for the office that such candidate is seeking; and

“(C) has either qualified or will take steps to qualify under State law to be on the ballot.

“(b) GENERAL ELECTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a candidate shall not be eligible to receive an allocation from the Fund for a general election or a general runoff election unless the candidate’s party nominated the candidate to be placed on the ballot for the general
658
1 election or the candidate otherwise qualified to be on the
2 ballot under State law.
3 **SEC. 512. QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT.**
4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A candidate for Senator meets
5 the requirement of this section if, during the Fair Elec-
6 tions qualifying period, the candidate obtains—
7 “(1) a number of qualifying contributions equal
8 to the sum of—
9 “(A) 2,000; plus
10 “(B) 500 for each congressional district in
11 the State with respect to which the candidate is
12 seeking election; and
13 “(2) a total dollar amount of qualifying con-
14 tributions equal to 10 percent of the amount of the
15 allocation such candidate would be entitled to receive
16 for the primary election under section 522(e)(1) (de-
17 termined without regard to paragraph (5) thereof) if
18 such candidate were a participating candidate.
19 “(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO RECEIPT OF
20 QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTION.—Each qualifying contribu-
21 tion—
22 “(1) may be made by means of a personal
23 check, money order, debit card, credit card, or elec-
24 tronic payment account;
“(2) shall be accompanied by a signed statement containing the contributor’s name and the contributor’s address in the State in which the contributor is registered to vote; and

“(3) shall be acknowledged by a receipt that is sent to the contributor with a copy kept by the candidate for the Commission and a copy kept by the candidate for the election authorities in the State with respect to which the candidate is seeking election.

“(c) Verification of Qualifying Contributions.—The Commission shall establish procedures for the auditing and verification of qualifying contributions to ensure that such contributions meet the requirements of this section.

“SEC. 513. CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) General Rule.—A candidate for Senator meets the requirements of this section if, during the election cycle of the candidate, the candidate—

“(1) except as provided in subsection (b), accepts no contributions other than—

“(A) qualifying contributions;

“(B) qualified small dollar contributions;
“(C) qualifying multicandidate political committee contributions;

“(D) allocations from the Fund under section 522;

“(E) matching contributions under section 523;

“(F) enhanced matching contributions under section 524;

“(G) subject to subsection (c), personal funds of the candidate or of any immediate family member of the candidate (other than funds received through qualified small dollar contributions); and

“(H) subject to subsection (d), contributions from individuals who are otherwise permitted to make contributions under this Act, subject to the applicable limitations of section 315, except that the aggregate amount of contributions a participating candidate may accept from any individual with respect to any election during the election cycle may not exceed $1,000; and

“(2) makes no expenditures from any amounts other than from—

“(A) qualifying contributions;
“(B) qualified small dollar contributions;

“(C) qualifying multicandidate political committee contributions;

“(D) allocations from the Fund under section 522;

“(E) matching contributions under section 523;

“(F) enhanced matching contributions under section 524;

“(G) subject to subsection (c), personal funds of the candidate or of any immediate family member of the candidate (other than funds received through qualified small dollar contributions); and

“(H) subject to subsection (d), contributions from individuals who are otherwise permitted to make contributions under this Act, subject to the applicable limitations of section 315, except that the aggregate amount of contributions a participating candidate may accept from any individual with respect to any election during the election cycle may not exceed $1,000.

For purposes of this subsection, a payment made by a political party in coordination with a participating candidate
shall not be treated as a contribution to or as an expenditure made by the participating candidate.

“(b) CONTRIBUTIONS FOR LEADERSHIP PACS, ETC.—A political committee of a participating candidate which is not an authorized committee of such candidate may accept contributions other than contributions described in subsection (a)(1) from any person if—

“(1) the aggregate contributions from such person for any calendar year do not exceed $200; and

“(2) no portion of such contributions is disbursed in connection with the campaign of the participating candidate.

“(c) SPECIAL RULES FOR PERSONAL FUNDS.—A candidate who is certified as a participating candidate may use personal funds (including personal funds of any immediate family member of the candidate) so long as—

“(1) the aggregate amount used with respect to the election cycle (including any period of the cycle occurring prior to the candidate’s certification as a participating candidate) does not exceed $50,000; and

“(2) the funds are used only for making direct payments for the receipt of goods and services which constitute authorized expenditures in connection with the election cycle involved.
“(d) Requirements Relating to Subsequent Contributions and Notification Requirements.—

“(1) Restriction on subsequent contributions.—

“(A) Prohibiting donor from making subsequent nonqualified contributions during election cycle.—An individual who makes a qualified small dollar contribution to a candidate with respect to an election may not make any subsequent contribution to such candidate with respect to the election cycle which is not a qualified small dollar contribution.

“(B) Treatment of subsequent nonqualified contributions.—If, notwithstanding the prohibition described in subparagraph (A), an individual who makes a qualified small dollar contribution to a candidate with respect to an election makes a subsequent contribution to such candidate with respect to the election which is prohibited under subparagraph (A) because it is not a qualified small dollar contribution, the candidate may take one of the following actions:

“(i) Not later than 2 weeks after receiving the contribution, the candidate may
return the subsequent contribution to the individual. In the case of a subsequent contribution which is not a qualified small dollar contribution because the contribution fails to meet the requirements of paragraph (13)(C) of section 501 (relating to the aggregate amount of qualified small dollar contributions that may be made by an individual to a candidate), the candidate may return an amount equal to the difference between the amount of the subsequent contribution and the amount described in such paragraph.

“(ii) The candidate may retain the subsequent contribution, so long as not later than 2 weeks after receiving the subsequent contribution, the candidate remits to the Commission for deposit in the Freedom from Influence Fund established by section 502 an amount equal to any payments received by the candidate under this title which are attributable to the qualified small dollar contribution made by the individual involved.
“(C) No effect on ability to make multiple contributions.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prohibit an individual from making multiple qualified small dollar contributions to any candidate or any number of candidates, so long as each contribution meets the definition of a qualified small dollar contribution under section 501(13).

“(2) Notification requirements for candidates.—

“(A) Notification.—Each authorized committee of a candidate who seeks to be a participating candidate under this title shall provide the following information in any materials for the solicitation of contributions, including any internet site through which individuals may make contributions to the committee:

“(i) A statement that if the candidate is certified as a participating candidate under this title, the candidate will receive matching payments in an amount which is based on the total amount of qualified small dollar contributions received.

“(ii) A statement that a contribution which meets the definition of a qualified
small dollar contribution under section 501(13) shall be treated as a qualified small dollar contribution under this title.

“(iii) A statement that if a contribution is treated as qualified small dollar contribution under this title, the individual who makes the contribution may not make any contribution to the candidate or the authorized committees of the candidate during the election cycle which is not a qualified small dollar contribution.

“(B) ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF MEETING REQUIREMENTS.—An authorized committee may meet the requirements of subparagraph (A)—

“(i) by including the information described in paragraph (1) in the receipt provided under section 512(b)(3) to a person making a qualified small dollar contribution; or

“(ii) by modifying the information it provides to persons making contributions which is otherwise required under title III (including information it provides through the internet).
“(e) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), a candidate shall not be treated as having failed to meet the requirements of this section if any contributions that are not qualified small dollar contributions, qualifying contributions, qualifying multicandidate political committee contributions, or contributions that meet the requirements of subsection (b) and that are accepted before the date the candidate files a statement of intent under section 511(a)(1) are—

“(1) returned to the contributor; or

“(2) submitted to the Commission for deposit in the Fund.

“SEC. 514. CERTIFICATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 days after a candidate for Senator files an affidavit under section 511(a)(4), the Commission shall—

“(1) certify whether or not the candidate is a participating candidate; and

“(2) notify the candidate of the Commission’s determination.

“(b) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may revoke a certification under subsection (a) if—
“(A) a candidate fails to qualify to appear
on the ballot at any time after the date of cer-
tification; or

“(B) a candidate otherwise fails to comply
with the requirements of this title, including
any regulatory requirements prescribed by the
Commission.

“(2) REPAYMENT OF BENEFITS.—If certifi-
cation is revoked under paragraph (1), the candidate
shall repay to the Fund an amount equal to the
value of benefits received under this title plus inter-
est (at a rate determined by the Commission) on any
such amount received.

“Subtitle C—Benefits

“SEC. 521. BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For each election with respect
to which a candidate is certified as a participating can-
didate under section 514, such candidate shall be entitled
to—

“(1) an allocation from the Fund to make or
obligate to make expenditures with respect to such
election, as provided in section 522;

“(2) matching contributions, as provided in sec-
tion 523; and
“(3) enhanced matching contributions, as provided in section 524.

“(b) **Restriction on Uses of Allocations From the Fund.**—Allocations from the Fund received by a participating candidate under section 522, matching contributions under section 523, and enhanced matching contributions under section 524 may only be used for campaign-related costs.

“(e) **Remitting Allocations From the Fund.**—

“(1) **In general.**—Not later than the date that is 180 days after an election in which the participating candidate appeared on the ballot, such participating candidate shall remit to the Commission for deposit in the Fund an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(A) the amount of money in the candidate’s campaign account; or

“(B) the sum of the allocations from the Fund received by the candidate under section 522, the matching contributions received by the candidate under section 523, and the enhanced matching contributions under section 524.

“(2) **Exceptions.**—

“(A) **Subsequent election.**—In the case of a candidate who qualifies to be on the
ballot for a primary runoff election, a general election, or a general runoff election, the amounts described in paragraph (1) may be retained by the candidate and used in such subsequent election.

“(B) Candidate seeking certification for next election cycle.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a participating candidate may withhold not more than $100,000 from the amount required to be remitted under paragraph (1) if the candidate files a signed affidavit with the Commission that the candidate will seek certification as a participating candidate with respect to the next election cycle, except that the candidate may not use any portion of the amount withheld until the candidate is certified as a participating candidate with respect to that next election cycle. If the candidate fails to seek certification as a participating candidate prior to the last day of the qualifying period for the next election cycle (as described in section 511), or if the Commission notifies the candidate of the Commission’s determination that the candidate does not meet the requirements for certification as a partici-
pating candidate with respect to such cycle, the
candidate shall immediately remit to the Com-
mmission the amount withheld.

“SEC. 522. ALLOCATIONS FROM THE FUND.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make allo-
cations from the Fund under section 521(a)(1) to a par-
ticipating candidate—

“(1) in the case of amounts provided under
subsection (d)(1), after the date on which such can-
didate is certified as a participating candidate under
section 514;

“(2) in the case of a general election after—

“(A) the date of the certification of the re-
sults of the primary election or the primary
runoff election; or

“(B) in any case in which there is no pri-
mary election, the date the candidate qualifies
to be placed on the ballot; and

“(3) in the case of a primary runoff election or
a general runoff election, after the certification of
the results of the primary election or the general
election, as the case may be.

“(b) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The Commission shall
distribute funds available to participating candidates
under this section through the use of an electronic funds
exchange or a debit card.

“(c) Timing of Payment.—The Commission shall,
in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, take
such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the Sec-
retary is able to make payments under this section from
the Treasury not later than 2 business days after date
of the applicable certification as described in subsection
(a).

“(d) Amounts.—

“(1) Primary election allocation; initial
allocation.—Except as provided in paragraph (5),
the Commission shall make an allocation from the
Fund for a primary election to a participating can-
didate in an amount equal to 67 percent of the base
amount with respect to such participating candidate.

“(2) Primary runoff election allocation.—The Commission shall make an allocation
from the Fund for a primary runoff election to a
participating candidate in an amount equal to 25
percent of the amount the participating candidate
was eligible to receive under this section for the pri-
mary election.

“(3) General election allocation.—Ex-
cept as provided in paragraph (5), the Commission
shall make an allocation from the Fund for a general election to a participating candidate in an amount equal to the base amount with respect to such candidate.

“(4) General Runoff Election Allocation.—The Commission shall make an allocation from the Fund for a general runoff election to a participating candidate in an amount equal to 25 percent of the base amount with respect to such candidate.

“(5) Uncontested Elections.—

“(A) In General.—In the case of a primary or general election that is an uncontested election, the Commission shall make an allocation from the Fund to a participating candidate for such election in an amount equal to 25 percent of the allocation which such candidate would be entitled to under this section for such election if this paragraph did not apply.

“(B) Uncontested Election Defined.—For purposes of this subparagraph, an election is uncontested if not more than 1 candidate has campaign funds (including payments from the Fund) in an amount equal to or greater than 10 percent of the allocation a partici-
pating candidate would be entitled to receive
under this section for such election if this para-
graph did not apply.

“(e) Base Amount.—

“(1) In general.—Except as otherwise pro-
vided in this subsection, the base amount for any
candidate is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(A) $750,000; plus

“(B) $150,000 for each congressional dis-

“(2) Indexing.—In each even-numbered year
after 2027—

“(A) each dollar amount under paragraph
(1) shall be increased by the percent difference
between the price index (as defined in section
315(c)(2)(A)) for the 12 months preceding the
beginning of such calendar year and the price
index for calendar year 2022;

“(B) each dollar amount so increased shall
remain in effect for the 2-year period beginning
on the first day following the date of the last
general election in the year preceding the year
in which the amount is increased and ending on
the date of the next general election; and
“(C) if any amount after adjustment under
subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of $100,
such amount shall be rounded to the nearest
multiple of $100.

“SEC. 523. MATCHING PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFIED SMALL
DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.

“(a) In General.—The Commission shall pay to
each participating candidate an amount equal to 600 per-
cent of the amount of qualified small dollar contributions
received by the candidate from individuals after the date
on which such candidate is certified under section 514.

“(b) Limitation.—The aggregate payments under
subsection (a) with respect to any candidate shall not ex-
ceed 400 percent of the allocation such candidate is enti-
tled to receive for such election under section 522 (deter-
mined without regard to subsection (d)(5) thereof).

“(c) Time of Payment.—The Commission shall
make payments under this section not later than 2 busi-
ness days after the receipt of a report made under sub-
section (d).

“(d) Reports.—

“(1) In General.—Each participating can-
didate shall file reports of receipts of qualified small
dollar contributions at such times and in such man-
ner as the Commission may by regulations prescribe.
“(2) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—Each report under this subsection shall disclose—

“(A) the amount of each qualified small dollar contribution received by the candidate; and

“(B) the name, address, and occupation of each individual who made a qualified small dollar contribution to the candidate.

“(3) FREQUENCY OF REPORTS.—Reports under this subsection shall be made no more frequently than—

“(A) once every month until the date that is 90 days before the date of the election; and

“(B) once every week after the period described in subparagraph (A) and until the date of the election.

“(4) LIMITATION ON REGULATIONS.—The Commission may not prescribe any regulations with respect to reporting under this subsection with respect to any election after the date that is 180 days before the date of such election.

“(e) APPEALS.—The Commission shall provide a written explanation with respect to any denial of any payment under this section and shall provide the opportunity
for review and reconsideration within 5 business days of
such denial.

“SEC. 524. ENHANCED MATCHING SUPPORT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the payments
made under section 523, the Commission shall make an
additional payment to an eligible candidate under this sec-
tion.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A candidate is eligible to receive
an additional payment under this section if the candidate
meets each of the following requirements:

“(1) The candidate is on the ballot for the gen-
eral election for the office the candidate seeks.

“(2) The candidate is certified as a partici-
pating candidate under this title with respect to the
election.

“(3) During the enhanced support qualifying
period, the candidate receives qualified small dollar
contributions in a total amount of not less than the
sum of $15,000 for each congressional district in the
State with respect to which the candidate is seeking
election.

“(4) During the enhanced support qualifying
period, the candidate submits to the Commission a
request for the payment which includes—
“(A) a statement of the number and amount of qualified small dollar contributions received by the candidate during the enhanced support qualifying period;

“(B) a statement of the amount of the payment the candidate anticipates receiving with respect to the request; and

“(C) such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

“(5) After submitting a request for the additional payment under paragraph (4), the candidate does not submit any other application for an additional payment under this title.

“(c) AMOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the amount of the additional payment made to an eligible candidate under this subtitle shall be an amount equal to 50 percent of—

“(A) the amount of the payment made to the candidate under section 523 with respect to the qualified small dollar contributions which are received by the candidate during the enhanced support qualifying period (as included in the request submitted by the candidate under (b)(4)(A)); or
“(B) in the case of a candidate who is not eligible to receive a payment under section 523 with respect to such qualified small dollar contributions because the candidate has reached the limit on the aggregate amount of payments under section 523, the amount of the payment which would have been made to the candidate under section 523 with respect to such qualified small dollar contributions if the candidate had not reached such limit.

“(2) Limit.—The amount of the additional payment determined under paragraph (1) with respect to a candidate may not exceed the sum of $150,000 for each congressional district in the State with respect to which the candidate is seeking election.

“(3) No effect on aggregate limit.—The amount of the additional payment made to a candidate under this section shall not be included in determining the aggregate amount of payments made to a participating candidate with respect to an election cycle under section 523.
“Subtitle D—Administrative
Provisions

“SEC. 531. DUTIES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

“(a) DUTIES AND POWERS.—

“(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The Commission shall have the power to administer the provisions of this title and shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this title, including regulations—

“(A) to establish procedures for—

“(i) verifying the amount of valid qualifying contributions with respect to a candidate;

“(ii) effectively and efficiently monitoring and enforcing the limits on the raising of qualified small dollar contributions;

“(iii) monitoring the raising of qualifying multicandidate political committee contributions through effectively and efficiently monitoring and enforcing the limits on individual contributions to qualified accounts of multicandidate political committees;

“(iv) effectively and efficiently monitoring and enforcing the limits on the use
of personal funds by participating can-
didates; and

“(v) monitoring the use of allocations
from the Fund and matching contributions
under this title through audits or other
mechanisms; and

“(B) regarding the conduct of debates in a
manner consistent with the best practices of
States that provide public financing for elec-
tions.

“(2) REVIEW OF FAIR ELECTIONS FINANC-
ing.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—After each general
election for Federal office, the Commission shall
conduct a comprehensive review of the Fair
Elections financing program under this title, in-
cluding—

“(i) the maximum dollar amount of
qualified small dollar contributions under
section 501(13);

“(ii) the maximum and minimum dol-
lar amounts for qualifying contributions
under section 501(12);

“(iii) the number and value of quali-
fying contributions a candidate is required
to obtain under section 512 to qualify for allocations from the Fund;

“(iv) the amount of allocations from the Fund that candidates may receive under section 522;

“(v) the maximum amount of matching contributions a candidate may receive under section 523;

“(vi) the maximum amount of enhanced matching contributions a candidate may receive under section 524;

“(vii) the overall satisfaction of participating candidates and the American public with the program; and

“(viii) such other matters relating to financing of Senate campaigns as the Commission determines are appropriate.

“(B) CRITERIA FOR REVIEW.—In conducting the review under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall consider the following:

“(i) QUALIFYING CONTRIBUTIONS AND QUALIFIED SMALL DOLLAR CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Commission shall consider whether the number and dollar amount of qualifying contributions re-
quired and maximum dollar amount for
such qualifying contributions and qualified
small dollar contributions strikes a balance
regarding the importance of voter involve-
ment, the need to assure adequate incent-
tives for participating, and fiscal responsi-
bility, taking into consideration the num-
ber of primary and general election partici-
pating candidates, the electoral perform-
ance of those candidates, program cost,
and any other information the Commission
determines is appropriate.

“(ii) Review of program bene-
fits.—The Commission shall consider
whether the totality of the amount of
funds allowed to be raised by participating
candidates (including through qualifying
contributions and small dollar contribu-
tions), allocations from the Fund under
section 522, matching contributions under
section 523, and enhanced matching con-
tributions under section 524 are sufficient
for voters in each State to learn about the
candidates to cast an informed vote, taking
into account the historic amount of spend-
ing by winning candidates, media costs, 
primary election dates, and any other in-
formation the Commission determines is 
appropriate.

“(C) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADJUST-
MENT OF AMOUNTS.—Based on the review con-
ducted under subparagraph (A), the Commis-
sion shall make recommendations to Congress 
for any adjustment of the following amounts:

“(i) The maximum dollar amount of 
qualified small dollar contributions under 
section 501(13)(C).

“(ii) The maximum and minimum dol-
lar amounts for qualifying contributions 
under section 501(12)(A).

“(iii) The number and value of quali-
fying contributions a candidate is required 
to obtain under section 512(a)(1).

“(iv) The base amount for candidates 
under section 522(d).

“(v) The maximum amount of match-
ing contributions a candidate may receive 
under section 523(b).
“(vi) The maximum amount of enhanced matching contributions a candidate may receive under section 524(c).

“(D) REPORT.—Not later than March 30 following any general election for Federal office, the Commission shall submit a report to Congress on the review conducted under subparagraph (A) and any recommendations developed under subparagraph (C). Such report shall contain a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Commission based on such review.

“(b) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30, 2026, and every 2 years thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration a report documenting, evaluating, and making recommendations relating to the administrative implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this title.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

“SEC. 532. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

“(a) CIVIL PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENTS.—If a candidate who has been certified as a participating candidate
under section 514 accepts a contribution or makes an ex-
penditure that is prohibited under section 513, the Com-
mission shall assess a civil penalty against the candidate
in an amount that is not more than 3 times the amount
of the contribution or expenditure. Any amounts collected
under this subsection shall be deposited into the Fund.

“(b) Repayment for Improper Use of Freedom From Influence Fund.—

“(1) In general.—If the Commission deter-
nines that any benefit made available to a partici-
pating candidate under this title was not used as
provided for in this title or that a participating can-
didate has violated any of the dates for remission of
funds contained in this title, the Commission shall
so notify the candidate and the candidate shall pay
to the Fund an amount equal to—

“(A) the amount of benefits so used or not
remitted, as appropriate; and

“(B) interest on any such amounts (at a
rate determined by the Commission).

“(2) Other action not precluded.—Any
action by the Commission in accordance with this
subsection shall not preclude enforcement pro-
ceedings by the Commission in accordance with sec-
tion 309(a), including a referral by the Commission
to the Attorney General in the case of an apparent knowing and willful violation of this title.”.

SEC. 5112. PROHIBITION ON JOINT FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES.

Section 302(e) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) No authorized committee of a participating candidate (as defined in section 501) may establish a joint fundraising committee with a political committee other than an authorized committee of a candidate.”.

SEC. 5113. EXCEPTION TO LIMITATION ON COORDINATED EXPENDITURES BY POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES WITH PARTICIPATING CANDIDATES.

Section 315(d) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “in the case of” and inserting “except as provided in paragraph (6), in the case of”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6)(A) The limitation under paragraph (3)(A) shall not apply with respect to any expenditure from
a qualified political party-participating candidate co-
ordinated expenditure fund.

“(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘qualified po-
litical party-participating candidate coordinated ex-
penditure fund’ means a fund established by the na-
tional committee of a political party, or a State com-
mittee of a political party, including any subordinate
committee of a State committee, for purposes of
making expenditures in connection with the general
election campaign of a candidate for election to the
office of Senator who is a participating candidate (as
defined in section 501), that only accepts qualified
coordinated expenditure contributions.

“(C) In this paragraph, the term ‘qualified co-
ordinated expenditure contribution’ means, with re-
spect to the general election campaign of a candidate
for election to the office of Senator who is a partici-
pating candidate (as defined in section 501), any
contribution (or series of contributions)—

“(i) which is made by an individual who is
not prohibited from making a contribution
under this Act; and

“(ii) the aggregate amount of which does
not exceed $500 per election.”.
SEC. 5114. ASSESSMENTS AGAINST FINES AND PENALTIES.

(a) Assessments Relating to Criminal Offenses.—

(1) In general.—Chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 3015. Special assessments for Freedom from Influence Fund

“(a) Assessments.—

“(1) Convictions of crimes.—In addition to any assessment imposed under this chapter, the court shall assess on any organizational defendant or any defendant who is a corporate officer or person with equivalent authority in any other organization who is convicted of a criminal offense under Federal law an amount equal to 4.75 percent of any fine imposed on that defendant in the sentence imposed for that conviction.

“(2) Settlements.—The court shall assess on any organizational defendant or defendant who is a corporate officer or person with equivalent authority in any other organization who has entered into a settlement agreement or consent decree with the United States in satisfaction of any allegation that the defendant committed a criminal offense under
Federal law an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of the settlement.

“(b) MANNER OF COLLECTION.—An amount assessed under subsection (a) shall be collected in the manner in which fines are collected in criminal cases.

“(c) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of title 31, there shall be transferred from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Freedom From Influence Fund under section 502 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 201 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“3015. Special assessments for Freedom From Influence Fund.”.

(b) ASSESSMENTS RELATING TO CIVIL PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 9707. Special assessments for Freedom from Influence fund

“(a) ASSESSMENTS.—

“(1) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Any entity of the Federal Government which is authorized under any law, rule, or regulation to impose a civil penalty shall as-
sess on each person, other than a natural person
who is not a corporate officer or person with equiva-
luent authority in any other organization, on whom
such a penalty is imposed an amount equal to 4.75
percent of the amount of the penalty.

“(2) ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES.—Any entity
of the Federal Government which is authorized
under any law, rule, or regulation to impose an ad-
ministrative penalty shall assess on each person,
other than a natural person who is not a corporate
officer or person with equivalent authority in any
other organization, on whom such a penalty is im-
posed an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the
amount of the penalty.

“(3) SETTLEMENTS.—Any entity of the Federal
Government which is authorized under any law, rule,
or regulation to enter into a settlement agreement or
consent decree with any person, other than a natural
person who is not a corporate officer or person with
equivalent authority in any other organization, in
satisfaction of any allegation of an action or omis-
sion by the person which would be subject to a civil
penalty or administrative penalty shall assess on
such person an amount equal to 4.75 percent of the
amount of the settlement.
“(b) MANNER OF COLLECTION.—An amount assessed under subsection (a) shall be collected—

“(1) in the case of an amount assessed under paragraph (1) of such subsection, in the manner in which civil penalties are collected by the entity of the Federal Government involved;

“(2) in the case of an amount assessed under paragraph (2) of such subsection, in the manner in which administrative penalties are collected by the entity of the Federal Government involved; and

“(3) in the case of an amount assessed under paragraph (3) of such subsection, in the manner in which amounts are collected pursuant to settlement agreements or consent decrees entered into by the entity of the Federal Government involved.

“(c) TRANSFERS.—In a manner consistent with section 3302(b) of this title, there shall be transferred from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Freedom From Influence Fund under section 502 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 an amount equal to the amount of the assessments collected under this section.

“(d) EXCEPTION FOR PENALTIES AND SETTLEMENTS UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—No assessment shall be made under subsection (a) with respect to any civil or administrative penalty imposed, or any settlement agreement or consent decree entered into, under the authority of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) CROSS REFERENCE.—For application of special assessments for the Freedom From Influence Fund with respect to certain penalties under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, see section 6761 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections of chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“9706. Special assessments for Freedom From Influence Fund.”.

(e) ASSESSMENTS RELATING TO CERTAIN PENALTIES UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 68 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subchapter:
Subchapter D—Special Assessments for Freedom From Influence Fund

SEC. 6761. SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR FREEDOM FROM INFLUENCE FUND.

(a) In General.—Each person required to pay a covered penalty shall pay an additional amount equal to 4.75 percent of the amount of such penalty.

(b) Covered Penalty.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘covered penalty’ means any addition to tax, additional amount, penalty, or other liability provided under subchapter A or B.

(c) Exception for Certain Individuals.—

(1) In General.—In the case of a taxpayer who is an individual, subsection (a) shall not apply to any covered penalty if such taxpayer is an exempt taxpayer for the taxable year for which such covered penalty is assessed.

(2) Exempt Taxpayer.—For purposes of this subsection, a taxpayer is an exempt taxpayer for any taxable year if the taxable income of such taxpayer for such taxable year does not exceed the dollar amount at which begins the highest rate bracket in effect under section 1 with respect to such taxpayer for such taxable year.
“(d) Application of Certain Rules.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the additional amount determined under subsection (a) shall be treated for purposes of this title in the same manner as the covered penalty to which such additional amount relates.

“(e) Transfer to Freedom From Influence Fund.—The Secretary shall deposit any additional amount under subsection (a) in the General Fund of the Treasury and shall transfer from such General Fund to the Freedom From Influence Fund established under section 502 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 an amount equal to the amounts so deposited (and, notwithstanding subsection (d), such additional amount shall not be the basis for any deposit, transfer, credit, appropriation, or any other payment, to any other trust fund or account). Rules similar to the rules of section 9601 shall apply for purposes of this subsection.”.

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The table of subchapters for chapter 68 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Subchapter D—Special Assessments for Freedom From Influence Fund

“Sec. 6761. Special assessments for freedom from influence fund.”.

(d) Effective Dates.—

(1) In General.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section
shall apply with respect to convictions, agreements, and penalties which occur on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) Assessments relating to certain penalties under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.—The amendments made by subsection (c) shall apply to covered penalties assessed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5115. STUDY AND REPORT ON SMALL DOLLAR FINANCING PROGRAM.

(a) Study and Report.—Not later than 2 years after the completion of the first election cycle in which the program established under title V of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as added by section 5111, is in effect, the Federal Election Commission shall—

(1) assess—

(A) the amount of payment referred to in section 523 of such Act; and

(B) the amount of a qualified small dollar contribution referred to in section 501(13) of such Act; and

(2) submit to Congress a report that discusses whether such amounts are sufficient to meet the goals of the program.
(b) UPDATE.—The Commission shall update and revise the study and report required by subsection (a) on a biennial basis.

(c) TERMINATION.—The requirements of this section shall terminate 10 years after the date on which the first study and report required by subsection (a) is submitted to Congress.

SEC. 5116. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as may otherwise be provided in this part and in the amendments made by this part, this part and the amendments made by this part shall apply with respect to elections occurring during 2028 or any succeeding year, without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated the final regulations necessary to carry out this part and the amendments made by this part by the deadline set forth in subsection (b).

(b) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than June 30, 2026, the Federal Election Commission shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this part and the amendments made by this part.
PART 3—RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

SEC. 5121. PETITION FOR CERTIORARI.

Section 307(a)(6) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30107(a)(6)) is amended by inserting “(including a proceeding before the Supreme Court on certiorari)” after “appeal”.

SEC. 5122. ELECTRONIC FILING OF FEC REPORTS.

Section 304(a)(11) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(a)(11)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “under this Act—” and all that follows and inserting “under this Act shall be required to maintain and file such designation, statement, or report in electronic form accessible by computers.”;

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “48 hours” and all that follows through “filed electronically)” and inserting “24 hours”; and

(3) by striking subparagraph (D).

PART 4—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 5131. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this subtitle or amendment made by this subtitle, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this subtitle and amendments made by this subtitle, and the application of the provisions
and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

Subtitle C—Presidential Elections

SEC. 5200. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Empower Act of 2021”.

PART 1—PRIMARY ELECTIONS

SEC. 5201. INCREASE IN AND MODIFICATIONS TO MATCHING PAYMENTS.

(a) INCREASE AND MODIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of section 9034(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) by striking “an amount equal to the amount of each contribution” and inserting “an amount equal to 600 percent of the amount of each matchable contribution (disregarding any amount of contributions from any person to the extent that the total of the amounts contributed by such person for the election exceeds $200)”;

and

(B) by striking “authorized committees” and all that follows through “$250” and inserting “authorized committees”.
(2) Matchable Contributions.—Section 9034 of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking the last sentence of subsection (a); and

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

“(c) Matchable Contribution Defined.—For purposes of this section and section 9033(b)—

“(1) Matchable contribution.—The term ‘matchable contribution’ means, with respect to the nomination for election to the office of President of the United States, a contribution by an individual to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate with respect to which the candidate has certified in writing that—

“(A) the individual making such contribution has not made aggregate contributions (including such matchable contribution) to such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate in excess of $1,000 for the election,

“(B) such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate will not accept contributions from such individual (including such matchable contribution) aggregating more
than the amount described in subparagraph
(A), and

“(C) such contribution was a direct con-
tribution.

“(2) CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this
subsection, the term ‘contribution’ means a gift of
money made by a written instrument which identi-
fies the individual making the contribution by full
name and mailing address, but does not include a
subscription, loan, advance, or deposit of money, or
anything of value or anything described in subpara-
graph (B), (C), or (D) of section 9032(4).

“(3) DIRECT CONTRIBUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
subsection, the term ‘direct contribution’
means, with respect to a candidate, a contribu-
tion which is made directly by an individual to
the candidate or an authorized committee of the
candidate and is not—

“(i) forwarded from the individual
making the contribution to the candidate
or committee by another person, or

“(ii) received by the candidate or com-
mittee with the knowledge that the con-
tribution was made at the request, suggestion, or recommendation of another person.

“(B) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—In subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the term ‘person’ does not include an individual (other than an individual described in section 304(i)(7) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971), a political committee of a political party, or any political committee which is not a separate segregated fund described in section 316(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 and which does not make contributions or independent expenditures, does not engage in lobbying activity under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and is not established by, controlled by, or affiliated with a registered lobbyist under such Act, an agent of a registered lobbyist under such Act, or an organization which retains or employs a registered lobbyist under such Act, and

“(ii) a contribution is not ‘made at the request, suggestion, or recommendation
of another person’s solely on the grounds
that the contribution is made in response
to information provided to the individual
making the contribution by any person, so
long as the candidate or authorized com-
mittee does not know the identity of the
person who provided the information to
such individual.”.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 9032(4) of such Code is
amended by striking “section 9034(a)” and in-
serting “section 9034”.

(B) Section 9033(b)(3) of such Code is
amended by striking “matching contributions”
and inserting “matchable contributions”.

(b) MODIFICATION OF PAYMENT LIMITATION.—Sec-
tion 9034(b) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “The total” and inserting the
following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The total”;

(2) by striking “shall not exceed” and all that
follows and inserting “shall not exceed
$250,000,000.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new
paragraph:
“(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any applicable period beginning after 2029, the dollar amount in paragraph (1) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(i) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year following the year which such applicable period begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2027’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(B) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘applicable period’ means the 4-year period beginning with the first day following the date of the general election for the office of President and ending on the date of the next such general election.

“(C) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under subparagraph (A) is not a multiple of $10,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $10,000.”.
SEC. 5202. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR MATCHING PAYMENTS.

(a) Amount of Aggregate Contributions Per State; Disregarding of Amounts Contributed in Excess of $200.—Section 9033(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “$5,000” and inserting “$25,000”; and

(2) by striking “20 States” and inserting the following: “20 States (disregarding any amount of contributions from any such resident to the extent that the total of the amounts contributed by such resident for the election exceeds $200)”.

(b) Contribution Limit.—

(1) In general.—Paragraph (4) of section 9033(b) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(4) the candidate and the authorized committees of the candidate will not accept aggregate contributions from any person with respect to the nomination for election to the office of President of the United States in excess of $1,000 for the election.”.

(2) Conforming amendments.—

(A) Section 9033(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new flush sentence:
“For purposes of paragraph (4), the term ‘contribution’ has the meaning given such term in section 301(8) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.”.

(B) Section 9032(4) of such Code, as amended by section 5201(a)(3)(A), is amended by inserting “or 9033(b)” after “9034”.

(c) Participation in System for Payments for General Election.—Section 9033(b) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “, and”; and

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

“(5) if the candidate is nominated by a political party for election to the office of President, the candidate will apply for and accept payments with respect to the general election for such office in accordance with chapter 95.”.

(d) Prohibition on Joint Fundraising Committees.—Section 9033(b) of such Code, as amended by subsection (e), is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (4);
(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting ‘‘; and’’; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) adding at the end the following new paragraph:

‘‘(6) the candidate will not establish a joint fundraising committee with a political committee other than another authorized committee of the candidate, except that candidate established a joint fundraising committee with respect to a prior election for which the candidate was not eligible to receive payments under section 9037 and the candidate does not terminate the committee, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of this paragraph so long as that joint fundraising committee does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements during the election cycle for which the candidate is eligible to receive payments under such section.’’.

SEC. 5203. REPEAL OF EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 9035 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

‘‘(a) PERSONAL EXPENDITURE LIMITATION.—No candidate shall knowingly make expenditures from his personal funds, or the personal funds of his immediate family,
in connection with his campaign for nomination for election to the office of President in excess of, in the aggregate, $50,000.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 9033(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(1) the candidate will comply with the personal expenditure limitation under section 9035,”.

SEC. 5204. PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF MATCHING PAYMENTS.

Section 9032(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “the beginning of the calendar year in which a general election for the office of President of the United States will be held” and inserting “the date that is 6 months prior to the date of the earliest State primary election”.

SEC. 5205. EXAMINATION AND AUDITS OF MATCHABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

Section 9038(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “and matchable contributions accepted by” after “qualified campaign expenses of”.
SEC. 5206. MODIFICATION TO LIMITATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CANDIDATES.

Section 315(a)(6) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(6)) is amended by striking “calendar year” and inserting “four-year election cycle”.

PART 2—GENERAL ELECTIONS

SEC. 5211. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC FINANCING.

Subsection (a) of section 9003 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) In General.—In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidates of a political party in a Presidential election shall meet the following requirements:

“(1) Participation in primary payment system.—The candidate for President received payments under chapter 96 for the campaign for nomination for election to be President.

“(2) Agreements with Commission.—The candidates, in writing—

“(A) agree to obtain and furnish to the Commission such evidence as it may request of the qualified campaign expenses of such candidates,
“(B) agree to keep and furnish to the Commission such records, books, and other information as it may request, and

“(C) agree to an audit and examination by the Commission under section 9007 and to pay any amounts required to be paid under such section.

“(3) Prohibition on Joint Fundraising Committees.—

“(A) Prohibition.—The candidates certify in writing that the candidates will not establish a joint fundraising committee with a political committee other than another authorized committee of the candidate.

“(B) Status of Existing Committees for Prior Elections.—If a candidate established a joint fundraising committee described in subparagraph (A) with respect to a prior election for which the candidate was not eligible to receive payments under section 9006 and the candidate does not terminate the committee, the candidate shall not be considered to be in violation of subparagraph (A) so long as that joint fundraising committee does not receive any contributions or make any disbursements
with respect to the election for which the candidate is eligible to receive payments under section 9006.”.

SEC. 5212. REPEAL OF EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS AND USE OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) Use of Qualified Campaign Contributions Without Expenditure Limits; Application of Same Requirements for Major, Minor, and New Parties.—Section 9003 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsections (b) and (c) and inserting the following:

“(b) Use of Qualified Campaign Contributions To Defray Expenses.—

“(1) In general.—In order to be eligible to receive any payments under section 9006, the candidates of a party in a Presidential election shall certify to the Commission, under penalty of perjury, that—

“(A) such candidates and their authorized committees have not and will not accept any contributions to defray qualified campaign expenses other than—

“(i) qualified campaign contributions,
“(ii) contributions to the extent necessary to make up any deficiency payments received out of the fund on account of the application of section 9006(c), and

“(B) such candidates and their authorized committees have not and will not accept any contribution to defray expenses which would be qualified campaign expenses but for subparagraph (C) of section 9002(11).

“(2) TIMING OF CERTIFICATION.—The candidate shall make the certification required under this subsection at the same time the candidate makes the certification required under subsection (a)(3).”.

(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.—Section 9002 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) QUALIFIED CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION.—The term ‘qualified campaign contribution’ means, with respect to any election for the office of President of the United States, a contribution from an individual to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate which—

“(A) does not exceed $1,000 for the election, and
“(B) with respect to which the candidate has certified in writing that—

“(i) the individual making such contribution has not made aggregate contributions (including such qualified contribution) to such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (A), and

“(ii) such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate will not accept contributions from such individual (including such qualified contribution) aggregating more than the amount described in subparagraph (A) with respect to such election.”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) REPEAL OF EXPENDITURE LIMITS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 315 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116) is amended by striking subsection (b).

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 315(c) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30116(c)) is amended—
(i) in paragraph (1)(B)(i), by striking “, (b)”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by striking “subsections (b) and (d)” and inserting “subsection (d)”. 

(2) REPEAL OF REPAYMENT REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 9007(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 9007(b) of such Code, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended—

(i) by striking “a major party” and inserting “a party”; 

(ii) by striking “contributions (other than” and inserting “contributions (other than qualified contributions”; and

(iii) by striking “(other than qualified campaign expenses with respect to which payment is required under paragraph (2))”. 

(3) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—
(A) **Repeal of penalty for excess expenses.**—Section 9012 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subsection (a).

(B) **Penalty for acceptance of disallowed contributions; application of same penalty for candidates of major, minor, and new parties.**—Subsection (b) of section 9012 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **Contributions.**—

“(1) **Acceptance of disallowed contributions.**—It shall be unlawful for an eligible candidate of a party in a Presidential election or any of his authorized committees knowingly and willfully to accept—

“(A) any contribution other than a qualified campaign contribution to defray qualified campaign expenses, except to the extent necessary to make up any deficiency in payments received out of the fund on account of the application of section 9006(c), or

“(B) any contribution to defray expenses which would be qualified campaign expenses but for subparagraph (C) of section 9002(11).
“(2) PENALTY.—Any person who violates paragraph (1) shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. In the case of a violation by an authorized committee, any officer or member of such committee who knowingly and willfully consents to such violation shall be fined not more than $5,000, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.”.

SEC. 5213. MATCHING PAYMENTS AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO PAYMENT AMOUNTS.

(a) In General.—

(1) Amount of payments; application of same amount for candidates of major, minor, and new parties.—Subsection (a) of section 9004 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“(a) In General.—Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the eligible candidates of a party in a Presidential election shall be entitled to equal payment under section 9006 in an amount equal to 600 percent of the amount of each matchable contribution received by such candidate or by the candidate’s authorized committees (disregarding any amount of contributions from any person to the extent that the total of the amounts contributed by such person for the election exceeds $200), except that total amount
to which a candidate is entitled under this paragraph shall not exceed $250,000,000.”.

(2) **Repeal of separate limitations for candidates of minor and new parties; inflation adjustment.**—Subsection (b) of section 9004 of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(b) **Inflation Adjustment.**—

“(1) **In general.**—In the case of any applicable period beginning after 2029, the $250,000,000 dollar amount in subsection (a) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

“(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

“(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year following the year which such applicable period begins, determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2028’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(2) **Applicable period.**—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘applicable period’ means the 4-year period beginning with the first day following the date of the general election for the office of President and ending on the date of the next such general election.
“(3) Rounding.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of $10,000, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $10,000.”.

(3) Conforming Amendment.—Section 9005(a) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “The Commission shall make such additional certifications as may be necessary to receive payments under section 9004.”.

(b) Matchable Contribution.—Section 9002 of such Code, as amended by section 5212(b), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(14) Matchable contribution.—The term ‘matchable contribution’ means, with respect to the election to the office of President of the United States, a contribution by an individual to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate with respect to which the candidate has certified in writing that—

“(A) the individual making such contribution has not made aggregate contributions (including such matchable contribution) to such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate in excess of $1,000 for the election,
“(B) such candidate and the authorized committees of such candidate will not accept contributions from such individual (including such matchable contribution) aggregating more than the amount described in subparagraph (A) with respect to such election, and

“(C) such contribution was a direct contribution (as defined in section 9034(c)(3)).”.

SEC. 5214. INCREASE IN LIMIT ON COORDINATED PARTY EXPENDITURES.

(a) In General.—Section 315(d)(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) The national committee of a political party may not make any expenditure in connection with the general election campaign of any candidate for President of the United States who is affiliated with such party which exceeds $100,000,000.

“(B) For purposes of this paragraph—

“(i) any expenditure made by or on behalf of a national committee of a political party and in connection with a Presidential election shall be considered to be made in connection with the general election campaign of a candidate for President of the United States who is affiliated with such party; and
“(ii) any communication made by or on behalf
of such party shall be considered to be made in con-
nection with the general election campaign of a can-
didate for President of the United States who is af-
filiated with such party if any portion of the commu-
nication is in connection with such election.

“(C) Any expenditure under this paragraph shall be
in addition to any expenditure by a national committee
of a political party serving as the principal campaign com-
mittee of a candidate for the office of President of the
United States.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO TIM-
ING OF COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 315(c)(1) of such
Act (52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ““(d)”
and inserting ““(d)(2)””; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new

subparagraph:

“(D) In any calendar year after 2028—

“(i) the dollar amount in subsection (d)(2) shall
be increased by the percent difference determined
under subparagraph (A);

“(ii) the amount so increased shall remain in
effect for the calendar year; and
“(iii) if the amount after adjustment under clause (i) is not a multiple of $100, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of $100.”.

(2) Base year.—Section 315(c)(2)(B) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30116(c)(2)(B)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking “(d)” and inserting “(d)(3)”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) for purposes of subsection (d)(2), calendar year 2027.”.

SEC. 5215. USE OF GENERAL ELECTION PAYMENTS FOR GENERAL ELECTION LEGAL AND ACCOUNTING COMPLIANCE.

Section 9002(11) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “For purposes of subparagraph (A), an expense incurred by a candidate or authorized committee for general election legal and accounting compliance purposes shall be considered to be an expense to further the election of such candidate.”.
PART 3—EFFECTIVE DATE

SEC. 5221. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) In General.—Except as otherwise provided, this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall apply with respect to the Presidential election held in 2028 and each succeeding Presidential election, without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated the final regulations necessary to carry out this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle by the deadline set forth in subsection (b).

(b) Deadline for Regulations.—Not later than June 30, 2026, the Federal Election Commission shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle.

Subtitle D—Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditures

SEC. 5301. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) Short Title.—This subtitle may be cited as the “Help America Run Act”.

(b) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Everyday Americans experience barriers to entry before they can consider running for office to serve their communities.
(2) Current law states that campaign funds cannot be spent on everyday expenses that would exist whether or not a candidate were running for office, like childcare and food. While the law seems neutral, its actual effect is to privilege the independently wealthy who want to run, because given the demands of running for office, candidates who must work to pay for childcare or to afford health insurance are effectively being left out of the process, even if they have sufficient support to mount a viable campaign.

(3) Thus current practice favors those prospective candidates who do not need to rely on a regular paycheck to make ends meet. The consequence is that everyday Americans who have firsthand knowledge of the importance of stable childcare, a safety net, or great public schools are less likely to get a seat at the table. This governance by the few is antithetical to the democratic experiment, but most importantly, when lawmakers do not share the concerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect that.

(4) These circumstances have contributed to a Congress that does not always reflect everyday Americans. The New York Times reported in 2019
that fewer than 5 percent of representatives cite blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies. A 2015 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics showed that the median net worth of lawmakers was just over $1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth of the typical American household.

(5) These circumstances have also contributed to a governing body that does not reflect the nation it serves. For instance, women are 51 percent of the American population. Yet even with a record number of women serving in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, the Pew Research Center notes that more than three out of four Members of this Congress are male. The Center for American Women And Politics found that one third of women legislators surveyed had been actively discouraged from running for office, often by political professionals. This type of discouragement, combined with the prohibitions on using campaign funds for domestic needs like childcare, burdens that still fall disproportionately on American women, particularly disadvantages working mothers. These barriers may explain why only 10 women in history have given birth while serving in Congress, in spite of the prevalence of working parents in other professions. Yet working
mothers and fathers are best positioned to create
policy that reflects the lived experience of most
Americans.

(6) Working mothers, those caring for their el-
derly parents, and young professionals who rely on
their jobs for health insurance should have the free-
dom to run to serve the people of the United States.
Their networks and net worth are simply not the
best indicators of their strength as prospective pub-
lic servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to
run may create better policy for all Americans.

(c) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subtitle to
ensure that all Americans who are otherwise qualified to
serve this Nation are able to run for office, regardless of
their economic status. By expanding permissible uses of
campaign funds and providing modest assurance that test-
ing a run for office will not cost one’s livelihood, the Help
America Run Act will facilitate the candidacy of represent-
atives who more accurately reflect the experiences, chal-
lenges, and ideals of everyday Americans.

SEC. 5302. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE
AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.

(a) Personal Use Services as Authorized Cam-
paign Expenditure.—Section 313 of the Federal Elec-
tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) Treatment of Payments for Child Care and Other Personal Use Services as Authorized Campaign Expenditure.—

“(1) Authorized expenditures.—For purposes of subsection (a), the payment by an authorized committee of a candidate for any of the personal use services described in paragraph (3) shall be treated as an authorized expenditure if the services are necessary to enable the participation of the candidate in campaign-connected activities.

“(2) Limitations.—

“(A) Limit on total amount of payments.—The total amount of payments made by an authorized committee of a candidate for personal use services described in paragraph (3) may not exceed the limit which is applicable under any law, rule, or regulation on the amount of payments which may be made by the committee for the salary of the candidate (without regard to whether or not the committee makes payments to the candidate for that purpose).
“(B) CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN AMOUNT OF SALARY PAID TO CANDIDATE.—To the extent that an authorized committee of a candidate makes payments for the salary of the candidate, any limit on the amount of such payments which is applicable under any law, rule, or regulation shall be reduced by the amount of any payments made to or on behalf of the candidate for personal use services described in paragraph (3), other than personal use services described in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.

“(C) EXCLUSION OF CANDIDATES WHO ARE OFFICEHOLDERS.—Paragraph (1) does not apply with respect to an authorized committee of a candidate who is a holder of Federal office.

“(3) PERSONAL USE SERVICES DESCRIBED.—The personal use services described in this paragraph are as follows:

“(A) Child care services.

“(B) Elder care services.

“(C) Services similar to the services described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B) which are provided on behalf of any de-
dependent who is a qualifying relative under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(D) Health insurance premiums.”.

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

Subtitle E—Empowering Small Dollar Donations

SEC. 5401. PERMITTING POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES TO PROVIDE ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES THROUGH USE OF SEPARATE SMALL DOLLAR ACCOUNTS.

(a) INCREASE IN LIMIT ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES.—Section 315(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “exceed $5,000” and inserting “exceed $5,000 or, in the case of a contribution made by a national committee of a political party from an account described in paragraph (11), exceed $10,000”.

(b) ELIMINATION OF LIMIT ON COORDINATED EXPENDITURES.—Section 315(d)(5) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30116(d)(5)) is amended by striking “subsection (a)(9)” and inserting “subsection (a)(9) or subsection (a)(11)”.

(c) ACCOUNTS DESCRIBED.—Section 315(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)), as amended by section 4402(a),
is amended by adding at the end the following new para-
graph:

“(11) An account described in this paragraph is a
separate, segregated account of a national committee of
a political party (including a national congressional cam-
paign committee of a political party) consisting exclusively
of contributions made during a calendar year by individ-
uals whose aggregate contributions to the committee dur-
ing the year do not exceed $200.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
this section shall apply with respect to elections held on
or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle F—Severability

SEC. 5501. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by
this title, or the application of a provision or amendment
to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitu-
tional, the remainder of this title and amendments made
by this title, and the application of the provisions and
amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be
affected by the holding.
TITLE VI—CAMPAIGN FINANCE OVERSIGHT

Subtitle A—Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections

SEC. 6001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Restoring Integrity to America’s Elections Act”.

SEC. 6002. MEMBERSHIP OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.

(a) REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS; REMOVAL OF SECRETARY OF SENATE AND CLERK OF HOUSE AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL; QUORUM.—Section 306(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) by striking the second and third sentences and inserting the following: “The Commission is composed of 5 members appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, of whom no more than 2 may be affiliated with the same political party. A member shall be treated as affiliated with a political party if the member was affiliated, including as a registered voter, employee, consultant, donor, officer, or attorney, with such polit-
ical party or any of its candidates or elected
public officials at any time during the 5-year
period ending on the date on which such indi-
vidual is nominated to be a member of the
Commission. 3 members of the Commission
shall constitute a quorum.”;

(B) by inserting “(A)” after “(1)”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new
subparagraph:

“(B) An individual shall not be treated as affiliated
with a political party under subparagraph (A) solely on
the basis that the individual has made contributions or
donations to a candidate or political committee affiliated
with such political party unless such individual has, within
the 5-year period ending on the date on which such indi-
vidual is nominated to be a member of the Commission—

“(i) made one or more contributions in an
amount equal to the maximum permitted by law at
the time of the contribution to any individual can-
didate, political action committee, or party com-
mmittee that is affiliated with such political party; or

“(ii) made 5 or more contributions in excess of
$100 to any candidate, political action committee, or
party committee that is affiliated with such political
party.”.
(2) Conforming amendments relating to reduction in number of members.—(A) Section 306(c) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(c)) is amended by striking the period at the end of the first sentence and all that follows and inserting the following: “, except that an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time shall be required in order for the Commission to take any action in accordance with paragraph (6), (7), (8), or (9) of section 307(a) or with chapter 95 or chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. A member of the Commission may not delegate to any person his or her vote or any decisionmaking authority or duty vested in the Commission by the provisions of this Act”.

(B) Such Act is further amended by striking “affirmative vote of 4 of its members” and inserting “affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time, provided a quorum is present” in the following sections:

(i) Section 309(a)(2) (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(2)).

(iii) Section 309(a)(5)(C) (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(5)(C)).
(iv) Section 309(a)(6)(A) (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(6)(A)).
(v) Section 311(b) (52 U.S.C. 30111(b)).

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO REMOVAL OF EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—Section 306(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)) is amended by striking “(other than the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives)” each place it appears in paragraphs (4) and (5).

(b) TERMS OF SERVICE.—Section 306(a)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) TERMS OF SERVICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Commission shall serve for a single term of 6 years.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Of the members first appointed to serve terms that begin in January 2022, the President shall designate 2 to serve for a 3-year term.

“(C) NO REAPPOINTMENT PERMITTED.—

An individual who served a term as a member
of the Commission may not serve for an additional term, except that—

“(i) an individual who served a 3-year term under subparagraph (B) may also be appointed to serve a 6-year term under subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) for purposes of this subparagraph, an individual who is appointed to fill a vacancy under subparagraph (D) shall not be considered to have served a term if the portion of the unexpired term the individual fills is less than 50 percent of the period of the term.

“(D) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as in the case of the original appointment. Except as provided in subparagraph (C), an individual appointed to fill a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term of office shall be appointed only for the unexpired term of the member he or she succeeds.

“(E) LIMITATION ON SERVICE AFTER EXPIRATION OF TERM.—A member of the Commission may continue to serve on the Commis-
sion after the expiration of the member’s term for an additional period, but only until the ear-
lier of—

“(i) the date on which the member’s successor has taken office as a member of the Commission; or

“(ii) the expiration of the 1-year pe-
riod that begins on the last day of the member’s term.”.

(c) QUALIFICATIONS.—Section 306(a)(3) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The President may select an individual for service as a member of the Commission if the individual has experience in election law and has a demonstrated record of integrity, impartiality, and good judgment.

“(B) ASSISTANCE OF BLUE RIBBON ADVIS-
sory Panel.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the regu-
larly scheduled expiration of the term of a member of the Commission and upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the membership of the Commission prior to the expiration of a term, the President shall convene a
Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel that includes individuals representing each major political party and individuals who are independent of a political party and that consists of an odd number of individuals selected by the President from retired Federal judges, former law enforcement officials, or individuals with experience in election law, except that the President may not select any individual to serve on the panel who holds any public office at the time of selection. The President shall also make reasonable efforts to encourage racial, ethnic, and gender diversity on the panel.

“(ii) RECOMMENDATIONS.—With respect to each member of the Commission whose term is expiring or each vacancy in the membership of the Commission (as the case may be), the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel shall recommend to the President at least one but not more than 3 individuals for nomination for appointment as a member of the Commission.

“(iii) PUBLICATION.—At the time the President submits to the Senate the nomi-
nations for individuals to be appointed as members of the Commission, the President shall publish the Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel’s recommendations for such nominations.

“(iv) **Exemption from Federal Advisory Committee Act.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) does not apply to a Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel convened under this subparagraph.

“(C) **Prohibiting Engagement with Other Business or Employment During Service.**—A member of the Commission shall not engage in any other business, vocation, or employment. Any individual who is engaging in any other business, vocation, or employment at the time of his or her appointment to the Commission shall terminate or liquidate such activity no later than 90 days after such appointment.”

**SEC. 6003. ASSIGNMENT OF POWERS TO CHAIR OF FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION.**

(a) **Appointment of Chair by President.**—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 306(a)(5) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30106(a)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) CHAIR.—

“(A) INITIAL APPOINTMENT.—Of the members first appointed to serve terms that begin in January 2022, one such member (as designated by the President at the time the President submits nominations to the Senate) shall serve as Chair of the Commission.

“(B) SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS.—Any individual who is appointed to succeed the member who serves as Chair of the Commission for the term beginning in January 2022 (as well as any individual who is appointed to fill a vacancy if such member does not serve a full term as Chair) shall serve as Chair of the Commission.

“(C) VICE CHAIR.—The Commission shall select, by majority vote of its members, one of its members to serve as Vice Chair, who shall act as Chair in the absence or disability of the Chair or in the event of a vacancy in the position of Chair.”.
(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 309(a)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(2)) is amended by striking “through its chairman or vice chairman” and inserting “through the Chair”.

(b) **POWERS.**—

(1) **ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN POWERS TO CHAIR.**—Section 307(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30107(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) **DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN CHAIR AND COMMISSION.**—

“(1) **POWERS ASSIGNED TO CHAIR.**—

“(A) **ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS.**—The Chair of the Commission shall be the chief administrative officer of the Commission and shall have the authority to administer the Commission and its staff, and (in consultation with the other members of the Commission) shall have the power—

“(i) to appoint and remove the staff director of the Commission;

“(ii) to request the assistance (including personnel and facilities) of other agencies and departments of the United States, whose heads may make such assistance
available to the Commission with or without reimbursement; and

“(iii) to prepare and establish the budget of the Commission and to make budget requests to the President, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress.

“(B) OTHER POWERS.—The Chair of the Commission shall have the power—

“(i) to appoint and remove the general counsel of the Commission with the concurrence of at least 2 other members of the Commission;

“(ii) to require by special or general orders, any person to submit, under oath, such written reports and answers to questions as the Chair may prescribe;

“(iii) to administer oaths or affirmations;

“(iv) to require by subpoena, signed by the Chair, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of all documentary evidence relating to the execution of its duties;
“(v) in any proceeding or investigation, to order testimony to be taken by deposition before any person who is designated by the Chair, and shall have the power to administer oaths and, in such instances, to compel testimony and the production of evidence in the same manner as authorized under clause (iv); and

“(vi) to pay witnesses the same fees and mileage as are paid in like circumstances in the courts of the United States.

“(2) POWERS ASSIGNED TO COMMISSION.—The Commission shall have the power—

“(A) to initiate (through civil actions for injunctive, declaratory, or other appropriate relief), defend (in the case of any civil action brought under section 309(a)(8) of this Act) or appeal (including a proceeding before the Supreme Court on certiorari) any civil action in the name of the Commission to enforce the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, through its general counsel;
“(B) to render advisory opinions under section 308 of this Act;

“(C) to develop such prescribed forms and to make, amend, and repeal such rules, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act and chapter 95 and chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

“(D) to conduct investigations and hearings expeditiously, to encourage voluntary compliance, and to report apparent violations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities; and

“(E) to transmit to the President and Congress not later than June 1 of each year a report which states in detail the activities of the Commission in carrying out its duties under this Act, and which includes any recommendations for any legislative or other action the Commission considers appropriate.

“(3) Permitting commission to exercise other powers of chair.—With respect to any investigation, action, or proceeding, the Commission, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members
who are serving at the time, may exercise any of the powers of the Chair described in paragraph (1)(B).”.

(2) Conforming amendments relating to personnel authority.—Section 306(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking the first sentence of paragraph (1) and inserting the following: “The Commission shall have a staff director who shall be appointed by the Chair of the Commission in consultation with the other members and a general counsel who shall be appointed by the Chair with the concurrence of at least two other members.”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “With the approval of the Commission” and inserting “With the approval of the Chair of the Commission”; and

(C) by striking paragraph (3).

(3) Conforming amendment relating to budget submission.—Section 307(d)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30107(d)(1)) is amended by striking “the Commission submits any budget” and inserting “the Chair (or, pursuant to subsection (a)(3), the Commission) submits any budget”.

(4) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 306(c) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30106(c)) is amended by striking “All decisions” and inserting “Subject to section 307(a), all decisions”.

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading of section 307 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30107) is amended by striking “THE COMMISSION” and inserting “THE CHAIR AND THE COMMISSION”.

SEC. 6004. REVISION TO ENFORCEMENT PROCESS.

(a) STANDARD FOR INITIATING INVESTIGATIONS AND DETERMINING WHETHER VIOLATIONS HAVE OCCURRED.—

(1) REVISION OF STANDARDS.—Section 309(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2)(A) The general counsel, upon receiving a complaint filed with the Commission under paragraph (1) or upon the basis of information ascertained by the Commission in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities, shall make a determination as to whether or not there is reason to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of this Act or chapter 95 or chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and as to whether or not the Commission should
either initiate an investigation of the matter or that the complaint should be dismissed. The general counsel shall promptly provide notification to the Commission of such determination and the reasons therefore, together with any written response submitted under paragraph (1) by the person alleged to have committed the violation. Upon the expiration of the 30-day period which begins on the date the general counsel provides such notification, the general counsel’s determination shall take effect, unless during such 30-day period the Commission, by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time, overrules the general counsel’s determination. If the determination by the general counsel that the Commission should investigate the matter takes effect, or if the determination by the general counsel that the complaint should be dismissed is overruled as provided under the previous sentence, the general counsel shall initiate an investigation of the matter on behalf of the Commission.

“(B) If the Commission initiates an investigation pursuant to subparagraph (A), the Commission, through the Chair, shall notify the subject of the investigation of the alleged violation. Such notification shall set forth the factual basis for such alleged violation. The Commission shall make an investigation of such alleged violation, which may include a field investigation or audit, in accordance
with the provisions of this section. The general counsel shall provide notification to the Commission of any intent to issue a subpoena or conduct any other form of discovery pursuant to the investigation. Upon the expiration of the 15-day period which begins on the date the general counsel provides such notification, the general counsel may issue the subpoena or conduct the discovery, unless during such 15-day period the Commission, by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time, prohibits the general counsel from issuing the subpoena or conducting the discovery.

“(3)(A) Upon completion of an investigation under paragraph (2), the general counsel shall promptly submit to the Commission the general counsel’s recommendation that the Commission find either that there is probable cause or that there is not probable cause to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of this Act or chapter 95 or chapter 96 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and shall include with the recommendation a brief stating the position of the general counsel on the legal and factual issues of the case.

“(B) At the time the general counsel submits to the Commission the recommendation under subparagraph (A), the general counsel shall simultaneously notify the respondent of such recommendation and the reasons there-
fore, shall provide the respondent with an opportunity to submit a brief within 30 days stating the position of the respondent on the legal and factual issues of the case and replying to the brief of the general counsel. The general counsel shall promptly submit such brief to the Commission upon receipt.

“(C) Not later than 30 days after the general counsel submits the recommendation to the Commission under subparagraph (A) (or, if the respondent submits a brief under subparagraph (B), not later than 30 days after the general counsel submits the respondent’s brief to the Commission under such subparagraph), the Commission shall approve or disapprove the recommendation by vote of a majority of the members of the Commission who are serving at the time.”.

(2) Conforming amendment relating to initial response to filing of complaint.—Section 309(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in the third sentence, by striking “the Commission” and inserting “the general counsel”; and

(B) by amending the fourth sentence to read as follows: “Not later than 15 days after receiving notice from the general counsel under
the previous sentence, the person may provide
the general counsel with a written response that
no action should be taken against such person
on the basis of the complaint.”.

(b) Revision of Standard for Review of Dis-
missal of Complaints.—

(1) In general.—Section 309(a)(8) of such
Act (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(8)) is amended to read as
follows:

“(8)(A)(i) Any party aggrieved by an order of the
Commission dismissing a complaint filed by such party
may file a petition with the United States District Court
for the District of Columbia. Any petition under this sub-
paragraph shall be filed within 60 days after the date on
which the party received notice of the dismissal of the
complaint.

“(ii) In any proceeding under this subparagraph, the
court shall determine by de novo review whether the agen-
cy’s dismissal of the complaint is contrary to law. In any
matter in which the penalty for the alleged violation is
greater than $50,000, the court should disregard any
claim or defense by the Commission of prosecutorial dis-
cretion as a basis for dismissing the complaint.

“(B)(i) Any party who has filed a complaint with the
Commission and who is aggrieved by a failure of the Com-
mission, within one year after the filing of the complaint, to act on such complaint, may file a petition with the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

“(ii) In any proceeding under this subparagraph, the court shall determine by de novo review whether the agency’s failure to act on the complaint is contrary to law.

“(C) In any proceeding under this paragraph the court may declare that the dismissal of the complaint or the failure to act is contrary to law, and may direct the Commission to conform with such declaration within 30 days, failing which the complainant may bring, in the name of such complainant, a civil action to remedy the violation involved in the original complaint.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall apply—

(A) in the case of complaints which are dismissed by the Federal Election Commission, with respect to complaints which are dismissed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) in the case of complaints upon which the Federal Election Commission failed to act, with respect to complaints which were filed on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 6005. PERMITTING APPEARANCE AT HEARINGS ON REQUESTS FOR ADVISORY OPINIONS BY PERSONS OPPOSING THE REQUESTS.

(a) In General.—Section 308 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30108) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) To the extent that the Commission provides an opportunity for a person requesting an advisory opinion under this section (or counsel for such person) to appear before the Commission to present testimony in support of the request, and the person (or counsel) accepts such opportunity, the Commission shall provide a reasonable opportunity for an interested party who submitted written comments under subsection (d) in response to the request (or counsel for such interested party) to appear before the Commission to present testimony in response to the request.”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to requests for advisory opinions under section 308 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 which are made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6006. PERMANENT EXTENSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY AUTHORITY.

(a) Extension of Authority.—Section 309(a)(4)(C)(v) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)(4)(C)(v)) is amended by strik-
ing “, and that end on or before December 31, 2023”.

(b) **Effective Date.**—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall take effect on December 31, 2021.

SEC. 6007. RESTRICTIONS ON EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS.

Section 306(e) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30106(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(e) The Commission” and in-
serting “(e)(1) The Commission”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new
paragraph:

“(2) Members and employees of the Commission shall
be subject to limitations on ex parte communications, as
provided in the regulations promulgated by the Commis-
sion regarding such communications which are in effect
on the date of the enactment of this paragraph.”.

SEC. 6008. CLARIFYING AUTHORITY OF FEC ATTORNEYS TO

REPRESENT FEC IN SUPREME COURT.

(a) **Clarifying Authority.**—Section 306(f)(4) of
the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
30106(f)(4)) is amended by striking “any action instituted
under this Act, either (A) by attorneys” and inserting
“any action instituted under this Act, including an action
before the Supreme Court of the United States, either (A)
by the General Counsel of the Commission and other attorneys’.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to actions instituted before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6009. REQUIRING FORMS TO PERMIT USE OF ACCENT MARKS.

(a) Requirement.—Section 311(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30111(a)(1)) is amended by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “, and shall ensure that all such forms (including forms in an electronic format) permit the person using the form to include an accent mark as part of the person’s identification;”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect upon the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.


(a) Civil Offenses.—Section 309(a) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30109(a)) is
amended by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) No person shall be subject to a civil penalty under this subsection with respect to a violation of this Act unless a complaint is filed with the Commission with respect to the violation under paragraph (1), or the Commission responds to information with respect to the violation which is ascertained in the normal course of carrying out its supervisory responsibilities under paragraph (2), not later than 10 years after the date on which the violation occurred.”.

(b) CRIMINAL OFFENSES.—Section 406(a) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30145(a)) is amended by striking “5 years” and inserting “10 years”.

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

SEC. 6011. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, the amendments made by this subtitle shall apply beginning January 1, 2022.

(b) TRANSITION.—

(1) TERMINATION OF SERVICE OF CURRENT MEMBERS.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, the term of
any individual serving as a member of the Federal Election Commission as of December 31, 2021, shall expire on that date.

(2) No effect on existing cases or proceedings.—Nothing in this subtitle or in any amendment made by this subtitle shall affect any of the powers exercised by the Federal Election Commission prior to December 31, 2021, including any investigation initiated by the Commission prior to such date or any proceeding (including any enforcement action) pending as of such date.

Subtitle B—Stopping Super PAC–Candidate Coordination

SEC. 6101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Stop Super PAC–Candidate Coordination Act”.

SEC. 6102. CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF COORDINATED EXPENDITURES AS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES.

(a) Treatment as contribution to candidate.—Section 301(8)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(8)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of clause (i);

(2) by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and inserting “; or”; and
(3) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) any payment made by any person (other than a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, or a political committee of a political party) for a coordinated expenditure (as such term is defined in section 326) which is not otherwise treated as a contribution under clause (i) or clause (ii).”.

(b) Definitions.—Title III of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), as amended by section 4421 and section 4802(a), is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 327. PAYMENTS FOR COORDINATED EXPENDITURES.

“(a) Coordinated Expenditures.—

“(1) In general.—For purposes of section 301(8)(A)(iii), the term ‘coordinated expenditure’ means—

“(A) any expenditure, or any payment for a covered communication described in subsection (d), which is made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, a political committee of
a political party, or agents of the candidate or
committee, as defined in subsection (b); or

“(B) any payment for any communication
which republishes, disseminates, or distributes,
in whole or in part, any video or broadcast or
any written, graphic, or other form of campaign
material prepared by the candidate or com-
mittee or by agents of the candidate or com-
mittee (including any excerpt or use of any
video from any such broadcast or written,
graphic, or other form of campaign material).

“(2) Exception for payments for certain
communications.—A payment for a communication
(including a covered communication described in
subsection (d)) shall not be treated as a coordinated
expenditure under this subsection if—

“(A) the communication appears in a news
story, commentary, or editorial distributed
through the facilities of any broadcasting sta-
tion, newspaper, magazine, or other periodical
publication, unless such facilities are owned or
controlled by any political party, political com-
mittee, or candidate; or

“(B) the communication constitutes a can-
didate debate or forum conducted pursuant to
regulations adopted by the Commission pursuant to section 304(f)(3)(B)(iii), or which solely promotes such a debate or forum and is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or forum.

“(b) Coordination Described.—

“(1) In general.—For purposes of this section, a payment is made ‘in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of,’ a candidate, an authorized committee of a candidate, a political committee of a political party, or agents of the candidate or committee, if the payment, or any communication for which the payment is made, is not made entirely independently of the candidate, committee, or agents. For purposes of the previous sentence, a payment or communication not made entirely independently of the candidate or committee includes any payment or communication made pursuant to any general or particular understanding with, or pursuant to any communication with, the candidate, committee, or agents about the payment or communication.

“(2) No finding of coordination based solely on sharing of information regarding legislative or policy position.—For purposes
of this section, a payment shall not be considered to be made by a person in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate or committee, solely on the grounds that the person or the person’s agent engaged in discussions with the candidate or committee, or with any agent of the candidate or committee, regarding that person’s position on a legislative or policy matter (including urging the candidate or committee to adopt that person’s position), so long as there is no communication between the person and the candidate or committee, or any agent of the candidate or committee, regarding the candidate’s or committee’s campaign advertising, message, strategy, policy, polling, allocation of resources, fundraising, or other campaign activities.

“(3) NO EFFECT ON PARTY COORDINATION STANDARD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the determination of coordination between a candidate and a political committee of a political party for purposes of section 315(d).

“(4) NO SAFE HARBOR FOR USE OF FIREWALL.—A person shall be determined to have made a payment in cooperation, consultation, or concert with, or at the request or suggestion of, a candidate
or committee, in accordance with this section without regard to whether or not the person established and used a firewall or similar procedures to restrict the sharing of information between individuals who are employed by or who are serving as agents for the person making the payment.

“(c) Payments by Coordinated Spenders for Covered Communications.—

“(1) Payments made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with candidates.—For purposes of subsection (a)(1)(A), if the person who makes a payment for a covered communication, as defined in subsection (d), is a coordinated spender under paragraph (2) with respect to the candidate as described in subsection (d)(1), the payment for the covered communication is made in cooperation, consultation, or concert with the candidate.

“(2) Coordinated spender defined.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘coordinated spender’ means, with respect to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate, a person (other than a political committee of a political party) for which any of the following applies:

“(A) During the 4-year period ending on the date on which the person makes the pay-
ment, the person was directly or indirectly formed or established by or at the request or suggestion of, or with the encouragement of, the candidate (including an individual who later becomes a candidate) or committee or agents of the candidate or committee, including with the approval of the candidate or committee or agents of the candidate or committee.

“(B) The candidate or committee or any agent of the candidate or committee solicits funds, appears at a fundraising event, or engages in other fundraising activity on the person’s behalf during the election cycle involved, including by providing the person with names of potential donors or other lists to be used by the person in engaging in fundraising activity, regardless of whether the person pays fair market value for the names or lists provided. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘election cycle’ means, with respect to an election for Federal office, the period beginning on the day after the date of the most recent general election for that office (or, if the general election resulted in a runoff election, the date of the runoff election) and ending on the date of the
next general election for that office (or, if the
general election resulted in a runoff election,
the date of the runoff election).

“(C) The person is established, directed, or
managed by the candidate or committee or by
any person who, during the 4-year period end-
ing on the date on which the person makes the
payment, has been employed or retained as a
political, campaign media, or fundraising ad-
viser or consultant for the candidate or com-
mittee or for any other entity directly or indi-
rectly controlled by the candidate or commit-
tee or for any other entity directly or indi-
rectly controlled by the candidate or commit-
tee (including a position as an em-
ployee of the office of the candidate at any time
the candidate held any Federal, State, or local
public office during the 4-year period).

“(D) The person has retained the profes-
sional services of any person who, during the 2-
year period ending on the date on which the
person makes the payment, has provided or is
providing professional services relating to the
campaign to the candidate or committee, with-
out regard to whether the person providing the
professional services used a firewall. For pur-
poses of this subparagraph, the term ‘professional services’ includes any services in support of the candidate’s or committee’s campaign activities, including advertising, message, strategy, policy, polling, allocation of resources, fundraising, and campaign operations, but does not include accounting or legal services.

“(E) The person is established, directed, or managed by a member of the immediate family of the candidate, or the person or any officer or agent of the person has had more than incidental discussions about the candidate’s campaign with a member of the immediate family of the candidate. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘immediate family’ has the meaning given such term in section 9004(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(d) COVERED COMMUNICATION DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘covered communication’ means, with respect to a candidate or an authorized committee of a candidate, a public communication (as defined in section 301(22)) which—

“(A) expressly advocates the election of the candidate or the defeat of an opponent of the
candidate (or contains the functional equivalent of express advocacy);

“(B) promotes or supports the election of the candidate, or attacks or opposes the election of an opponent of the candidate (regardless of whether the communication expressly advocates the election or defeat of a candidate or contains the functional equivalent of express advocacy); or

“(C) refers to the candidate or an opponent of the candidate but is not described in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B), but only if the communication is disseminated during the applicable election period.

“(2) APPLICABLE ELECTION PERIOD.—In paragraph (1)(C), the ‘applicable election period’ with respect to a communication means—

“(A) in the case of a communication which refers to a candidate in a general, special, or runoff election, the 120-day period which ends on the date of the election; or

“(B) in the case of a communication which refers to a candidate in a primary or preference election, or convention or caucus of a political party that has authority to nominate a can-
candidate, the 60-day period which ends on the
date of the election or convention or caucus.

“(3) Special rules for communications in-
volving congressional candidates.—For pur-
poses of this subsection, a public communication
shall not be considered to be a covered communi-
cation with respect to a candidate for election for an
office other than the office of President or Vice
President unless it is publicly disseminated or dis-
distributed in the jurisdiction of the office the can-
didate is seeking.

“(e) Penalty.—

“(1) Determination of amount.—Any per-
son who knowingly and willfully commits a violation
of this Act by making a contribution which consists
of a payment for a coordinated expenditure shall be
fined an amount equal to the greater of—

“(A) in the case of a person who makes a
contribution which consists of a payment for a
coordinated expenditure in an amount exceeding
the applicable contribution limit under this Act,
300 percent of the amount by which the
amount of the payment made by the person ex-
ceeds such applicable contribution limit; or
“(B) in the case of a person who is prohibited under this Act from making a contribution in any amount, 300 percent of the amount of the payment made by the person for the coordinated expenditure.

“(2) Joint and several liability.—Any director, manager, or officer of a person who is subject to a penalty under paragraph (1) shall be jointly and severally liable for any amount of such penalty that is not paid by the person prior to the expiration of the 1-year period which begins on the date the Commission imposes the penalty or the 1-year period which begins on the date of the final judgment following any judicial review of the Commission’s action, whichever is later.”.

e) Effective Date.—

(1) Repeal of existing regulations on coordination.—Effective upon the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) the regulations on coordinated communications adopted by the Federal Election Commission which are in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act (as set forth under the heading “Coordination” in subpart C of part
109 of title 11, Code of Federal Regulations) are repealed; and

(B) the Federal Election Commission shall promulgate new regulations on coordinated communications which reflect the amendments made by this Act.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to payments made on or after the expiration of the 120-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act, without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations in accordance with paragraph (1)(B) as of the expiration of such period.

SEC. 6103. CLARIFICATION OF BAN ON FUNDRAISING FOR SUPER PACS BY FEDERAL CANDIDATES AND OFFICEHOLDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 323(e)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30125(e)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; or”; and
(3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
paragraph:

“(C) solicit, receive, direct, or transfer
funds to or on behalf of any political committee
which accepts donations or contributions that
do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions,
and reporting requirements of this Act (or to or
on behalf of any account of a political com-
mittee which is established for the purpose of
accepting such donations or contributions), or
to or on behalf of any political organization
under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code
of 1986 which accepts such donations or con-
tributions (other than a committee of a State or
local political party or a candidate for election
for State or local office).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall apply with respect to elections occurring after January 1, 2022.
Subtitle C—Disposal of Contributions or Donations

SEC. 6201. TIMEFRAME FOR AND PRIORITIZATION OF DISPOSAL OF CONTRIBUTIONS OR DONATIONS.

Section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114), as amended by section 5113 and section 5302, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

``(c) DISPOSAL.—

``(1) TIMEFRAME.—Contributions or donations described in subsection (a) may only be used—

``(A) in the case of an individual who is not a candidate with respect to an election for any Federal office for a 6-year period beginning on the day after the date of the most recent such election in which the individual was a candidate for any such office, during such 6-year period;

``(B) in the case of an individual who becomes a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, before the date on
which such individual becomes such a registered
lobbyist; or

“(C) in the case of an individual who be-
comes an agent of a foreign principal that
would require registration under section 2 of
the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938,
as amended (22 U.S.C. 612), before the date on
which such individual becomes such an agent of
a foreign principal.

“(2) MEANS OF DISPOSAL; PRIORITIZATION.—
Beginning on the date the 6-year period described in
subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) ends (or, in the
case of an individual described in subparagraph (B)
of such paragraph, the date on which the individual
becomes a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying
Disclosure Act of 1995, or, in the case of an indi-
vidual described in subparagraph (C) of such para-
graph, the date on which the individual becomes a
registered agent of a foreign principal under the
Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amend-
ed), contributions or donations that remain available
to an individual described in such paragraph shall be
disposed of, not later than 30 days after such date,
as follows:
“(A) First, to pay any debts or obligations owed in connection with the campaign for election for Federal office of the individual.

“(B) Second, to the extent such contribution or donations remain available after the application of subparagraph (A), through any of the following means of disposal (or a combination thereof), in any order the individual considers appropriate:

“(i) Returning such contributions or donations to the individuals, entities, or both, who made such contributions or donations.

“(ii) Making contributions to an organization described in section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(iii) Making transfers to a national, State, or local committee of a political party.”.

SEC. 6202. 1-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an individual described in subsection (b), any contributions or donations remaining available to the individual shall be disposed of—
(1) not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section; and

(2) in accordance with the prioritization specified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of subsection (c)(2) of section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114), as amended by section 6201.

(b) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subsection is an individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this section—

(1)(A) is not a candidate with respect to an election for any Federal office for a period of not less than 6 years beginning on the day after the date of the most recent such election in which the individual was a candidate for any such office; or

(B) is an individual who becomes a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995; and

(2) would be in violation of subsection (c) of section 313 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114), as amended by section 6201.
Subtitle D—Recommendations to Ensure Filing of Reports Before Date of Election

SEC. 6301. RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENSURE FILING OF REPORTS BEFORE DATE OF ELECTION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election Commission shall submit a report to Congress providing recommendations, including recommendations for changes to existing law, on how to ensure that each political committee under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, including a committee which accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with the limitations, prohibitions, and reporting requirements of such Act, will file a report under section 304 of such Act prior to the date of the election for which the committee receives contributions or makes disbursements, without regard to the date on which the committee first registered under such Act, and shall include specific recommendations to ensure that such committees will not delay until after the date of the election the reporting of the identification of persons making contributions that will be used to repay debt incurred by the committee.
Subtitle E—Severability

SEC. 6401. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

DIVISION C—ETHICS

TITLE VII—ETHICAL STANDARDS

Subtitle A—Supreme Court Ethics

SEC. 7001. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FEDERAL JUDGES.

(a) In General.—Chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 964. Code of conduct

“Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Judicial Conference shall issue a code of conduct, which applies to each justice and judge of the United States, except that the code of conduct may include provisions that are applicable only to certain categories of judges or justices.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 28, United States Code, is amended
by adding after the item related to section 963 the follow-
lowing:

"(964. Code of conduct."

Subtitle B—Foreign Agents
Registration

SEC. 7101. ESTABLISHMENT OF FARA INVESTIGATION AND
ENFORCEMENT UNIT WITHIN DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE.

Section 8 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of
1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 618) is amended by adding
at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) DEDICATED ENFORCEMENT UNIT.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180
days after the date of enactment of this subsection,
the Attorney General shall establish a unit within
the counterespionage section of the National Secu-

"(2) POWERS.—The unit established under this
subsection is authorized to—

"(A) take appropriate legal action against
individuals suspected of violating this Act; and

"(B) coordinate any such legal action with
the United States Attorney for the relevant ju-


“(3) Consultation.—In operating the unit established under this subsection, the Attorney General shall, as appropriate, consult with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of State.

“(4) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities of the unit established under this subsection $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2021 and each succeeding fiscal year.”.

SEC. 7102. AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.

(a) Establishing Authority.—Section 8 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 618), is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) Civil Money Penalties.—

“(1) Registration statements.—A person who fails to file timely, or to complete, a registration statement in accordance with section 2(a) shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $10,000 per violation.

“(2) Supplements.—A person who fails to file timely, or to complete, any supplement in accordance
with section 2(b) shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $1,000 per violation.

“(3) Other violations.—

“(A) Definition of covered person.—

In this paragraph, the term ‘covered person’ means a person that knowingly fails—

“(i) to remedy a defective filing by the date that is 60 days after the date of receipt of a notice from the Attorney General describing the defect; or

“(ii) to comply with any other applicable provision of this Act.

“(B) Penalty.—On proof, by a preponderance of the evidence, of a knowing failure described in subparagraph (A), the applicable covered person shall be subject to a civil money penalty of not more than $200,000, as determined based on the extent and gravity of the failure.

“(4) No fines paid by foreign principals.—A civil money penalty under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) may not be paid, directly or indirectly, by a foreign principal.

“(5) Use of fines.—All civil money penalties collected under this subsection shall be used to pay
the costs of the enforcement unit established under subsection (i)(1).”.

(b) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7103. DISCLOSURE OF TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THINGS OF FINANCIAL VALUE CONFERRED ON OFFICEHOLDERS.

(a) Requiring Agents To Disclose Known Transactions.—

(1) In general.—Section 2(a) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(a)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (10) and (11) as paragraphs (11) and (12); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

“(10) To the extent that the registrant has knowledge of any transaction which occurred in the preceding 60 days and in which the foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting as an agent conferred on a Federal or State officeholder any thing of financial value, including a gift, profit, salary, favorable regulatory treatment, or any other direct or
indirect economic or financial benefit, a detailed
statement describing each such transaction.”

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to state-
ments filed on or after the expiration of the 90-day
period which begins on the date of the enactment of
this Act.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE FOR CURRENT
REGISTRANTS.—Not later than the expiration of the 90-
day period which begins on the date of the enactment of
this Act, each registrant who (prior to the expiration of
such period) filed a registration statement with the Attor-
ney General under section 2(a) of the Foreign Agents Reg-
istration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(a)) and
who has knowledge of any transaction described in para-
graph (10) of section 2(a) of such Act (as added by sub-
section (a)(1)) which occurred at any time during which
the registrant was an agent of the foreign principal in-
volved, shall file with the Attorney General a supplement
to such statement under oath, on a form prescribed by
the Attorney General, containing a detailed statement de-
scribing each such transaction.
SEC. 7104. ENSURING ONLINE ACCESS TO REGISTRATION STATEMENTS.

(a) Digitized Format Required.—Section 2(g) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612(g)), is amended by striking “in electronic form” and inserting “in a digitized format in order to enable the Attorney General to meet the requirements of section 6(d)(1)”.

(b) Requirements for Electronic Database of Registration Statements and Updates.—Section 6(d)(1) of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 616(d)(1)), is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “to the extent technically practicable,”;

and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, in a digitized format,” after “includes”.

(c) Effective Date.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to statements, supplements, and amendments filed under section 2 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 612), on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
Subtitle C—Lobbying Disclosure Reform

SEC. 7201. EXPANDING SCOPE OF INDIVIDUALS AND ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS OF LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995.

(a) Treatment of Counseling Services in Support of Lobbying Contacts as Lobbying Activity.—Section 3(7) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602(7)) is amended—

(1) by striking “efforts” and inserting “any efforts”; and

(2) by striking “research and other background work” and inserting the following: “counseling in support of such preparation and planning activities, research, and other background work”.

(b) Treatment of Lobbying Contact Made With Support of Counseling Services as Lobbying Contact Made by Individual Providing Services.—

Section 3(8) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1602(8)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) Treatment of providers of counseling services.—Any individual, with authority to direct or substantially influence a lobbying contact or contacts made by another individual, and for financial or other compensa-
tion provides counseling services in support of
preparation and planning activities which are
treated as lobbying activities under paragraph
(7) for that other individual’s lobbying contact
or contacts and who has knowledge that the
specific lobbying contact or contacts were made,
shall be considered to have made the same lob-
bying contact at the same time and in the same
manner to the covered executive branch official
or covered legislative branch official involved.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
this section shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts
made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 7202. REQUIRING LOBBYISTS TO DISCLOSE STATUS AS
LOBBYISTS UPON MAKING ANY LOBBYING
CONTACTS.

(a) MANDATORY DISCLOSURE AT TIME OF CON-
TACT.—Section 14 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995
(2 U.S.C. 1609) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
serting the following:

“(a) REQUIRING IDENTIFICATION AT TIME OF LOB-
BYING CONTACT.—Any person or entity that makes a lob-
bying contact with a covered legislative branch official or
a covered executive branch official shall, at the time of
the lobbying contact—

“(1) indicate whether the person or entity is
registered under this chapter and identify the client
on whose behalf the lobbying contact is made; and

“(2) indicate whether such client is a foreign
entity and identify any foreign entity required to be
disclosed under section 4(b)(4) that has a direct in-
terest in the outcome of the lobbying activity.”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
section (b).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
subsection (a) shall apply with respect to lobbying contacts
made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Recusal of Presidential
Appointees

SEC. 7301. RECUSAL OF APPOINTEES.

Section 208 of title 18, United States Code, is
amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e)(1) Any officer or employee appointed by the
President, other than an officer or employee who serves
in the Executive Office of the President, shall recuse him-
self or herself from any particular matter involving specific
parties in which a party to that matter is—
“(A) the President who appointed the officer or employee, which—

“(i) shall include a party that is an entity in which the President has a substantial interest; and

“(ii) shall not include a particular matter in which—

“(I) the President is a party to litigation in his or her official capacity; or

“(II) the outcome of the particular matter would have a direct bearing on the President’s ability to carry out his or her constitutional duties; or

“(B) the spouse of the President who appointed the officer or employee, which shall include a party that is an entity in which the spouse of the President has a substantial interest.

“(2)(A)(i) Subject to subparagraph (B), if an officer or employee is recused under paragraph (1), a career appointee in the agency of the officer or employee shall perform the functions and duties of the officer or employee with respect to the matter.

“(ii) The most senior career appointee in the agency, or component of the agency if applicable, of an officer or employee recused under paragraph (1) (or the designee
of such career appointee) shall perform the functions and

duties of the recused officer or employee, and such career

appointee shall perform those functions and duties until

the particular matter concludes, unless the head of the

agency determines in writing that good cause exists to re-

assign those functions and duties to a different career ap-

pointee.

“(B)(i) In this subparagraph, the term ‘Commission’

means a board, commission, or other agency for which the

authority of the agency is vested in more than 1 member.

“(ii) If the recusal of a member of a Commission

from a matter under paragraph (1) would result in there

not being a statutorily required quorum of members of the

Commission available to participate in the matter, not-

withstanding such statute or any other provision of law,

the members of the Commission not recused under para-

graph (1) may—

“(I) consider the matter without regard to the

quorum requirement under such statute;

“(II) delegate the authorities and responsibil-

ities of the Commission with respect to the matter

to a subcommittee of the Commission; or

“(III) designate an officer or employee of the

Commission who was not appointed by the President

who appointed the member of the Commission
recused from the matter to exercise the authorities
and duties of the recused member with respect to
the matter.

“(3) Any officer or employee who violates paragraph
(1) shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section
216.

“(f) For purposes of this section, the term ‘particular
matter’ shall have the meaning given the term in section
207(i).”.

Subtitle E—Clearinghouse on
Lobbying Information

SEC. 7401. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARINGHOUSE.

(a) Establishment.—The Attorney General shall
establish and operate within the Department of Justice
a clearinghouse through which members of the public may
obtain copies (including in electronic form) of registration
statements filed under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) and the Foreign Agents Regis-
tration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.).

(b) Format.—The Attorney General shall ensure
that the information in the clearinghouse established
under this section is maintained in a searchable and sort-
able format.

(c) Agreements With Clerk of House and Sec-
retary of the Senate.—The Attorney General shall
enter into such agreements with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate as may be necessary for the Attorney General to obtain registration statements filed with the Clerk and the Secretary under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 for inclusion in the clearinghouse.

Subtitle F—Foreign Lobbying

SEC. 7501. PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN LOBBYING.

(a) In General.—The Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 26 (2 U.S.C. 1614) as section 27; and

(2) by inserting after section 25 (2 U.S.C. 1613) the following:

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“SEC. 26. PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN LOBBYING.

“(a) DEFINITION.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘covered lobbyist’ means—

“(A) a lobbyist that is registered or is required to register under section 4(a)(1);

“(B) an organization that employs 1 or more lobbyists and is registered, or is required to register, under section 4(a)(2); and

“(C) an employee listed or required to be listed as a lobbyist by a registrant under section 4(b)(6) or 5(b)(2)(C); and
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“(2) the terms ‘information-service employee’, ‘public-relations counsel’, and ‘publicity agent’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended (22 U.S.C. 611).

“(b) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in subsection (c), a covered lobbyist may not accept financial or other compensation for services that include lobbying activities on behalf of a foreign entity.

“(c) EXEMPTIONS.—The prohibition under subsection (b) shall not apply the following covered lobbyists:

“(1) DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR OFFICERS.—A duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer of a foreign government who is so recognized by the Department of State, while the officer is engaged exclusively in activities that are recognized by the Department of State as being within the scope of the functions of the officer.

“(2) OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—An official of a foreign government, if that government is recognized by the United States, who is not a public-relations counsel, a publicity agent, or an information-service employee, or a citizen of the United States, whose name and status and the character of whose duties as an official are of public
record in the Department of State, while said official
is engaged exclusively in activities that are recog-
nized by the Department of State as being within
the scope of the functions of the official.

“(3) STAFF MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC OR CON-
SULAR OFFICERS.—A member of the staff of, or any
person employed by, a duly accredited diplomatic or
consular officer of a foreign government who is so
recognized by the Department of State, other than
a public-relations counsel, a publicity agent, or an
information-service employee, whose name and sta-
tus and the character of whose duties as such mem-
ber or employee are of public record in the Depart-
ment of State, while the member or employee is en-
gaged exclusively in the performance of activities
that are recognized by the Department of State as
being within the scope of the functions of the mem-
ber or employee.

“(4) PERSONS ENGAGING OR AGREEING TO EN-
GAGE IN THE SOLICITING OR COLLECTING OF FUNDS
FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.—A person engaging or
agreeing to engage only in the soliciting or collecting
of funds and contributions within the United States
to be used only for medical aid and assistance, or for
food and clothing to relieve human suffering, if the
solicitation or collection of funds and contributions is in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of the Neutrality Act of 1939 (22 U.S.C. 441 et seq.), and such rules and regulations as may be pre-
scribed thereunder.

“(5) CERTAIN PERSONS QUALIFIED TO PRACTICE LAW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A person qualified to practice law, insofar as the person engages, or agrees to engage in, the legal representation of a disclosed foreign entity before any court of law or any agency of the Government of the United States.

“(B) LEGAL REPRESENTATION.—For the purpose of this paragraph, legal representation does not include any attempt to influence or persuade agency personnel or officials other than in the course of—

“(i) a judicial proceeding;

“(ii) a criminal or civil law enforce-
ment inquiry, investigation, or proceeding;
or

“(iii) an agency proceeding required by statute or regulation to be conducted on the record.
“(d) Penalties.—Any person who knowingly violates this section shall be fined not more than $200,000, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, and any compensation received for engaging in the unlawful activity shall be subject to disgorgement.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 7 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Whoever” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in this Act, whoever”;

and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “Whoever” and inserting “Except as otherwise provided in this Act, whoever”.

Subtitle G—Severability

Sec. 7601. Severability.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by this title, or the application of a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and amendments made by this title, and the application of the provisions and amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.
TITLE VIII—ETHICS REFORMS FOR THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

Subtitle A—Executive Branch

Conflict of Interest

SEC. 8001. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Executive Branch Conflict of Interest Act”.

SEC. 8002. RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE SECTOR PAYMENT FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Section 209 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a),

(A) by striking “any salary” and inserting “any salary (including a bonus)”; and

(B) by striking “as compensation for his services” and inserting “at any time, as compensation for serving”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(b)”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a pension, retirement, group life, health or accident insurance, profit-sharing, stock bonus, or other employee welfare or benefit plan
that makes payment of any portion of compensation con-
tingent on accepting a position in the United States Gov-
ernment shall not be considered bona fide.”.

SEC. 8003. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SLOWING REV-
VOLVING DOOR.

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C.
App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE VI—ENHANCED RE-
QUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN
EMPLOYEES

“SEC. 601. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) COVERED AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered
agency’ means—

“(i) an Executive agency (as defined
in section 105 of title 5, United States
Code);

“(ii) the Postal Service; and

“(iii) the Postal Rate Commission.

“(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘covered
agency’ includes the Executive Office of the
President.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘covered
agency’ does not include—
“(i) the Government Accountability Office; or

“(ii) the government of the District of Columbia.

“(2) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘covered employee’ means an officer or employee referred to in subsection (c)(2) or (d)(1) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code.

“(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

“(4) EXECUTIVE BRANCH.—The term ‘executive branch’ has the meaning given the term in section 109.

“(5) FORMER CLIENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘former client’, with respect to a covered employee, means a person for whom the covered employee served personally as an agent, attorney, or consultant during the 2-year period ending on the day before the date on which the covered employee begins service in the Federal Government.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘former client’ does not include—
“(i) an entity in the Federal Government, including an executive branch agency;

“(ii) a State or local government;

“(iii) the District of Columbia;

“(iv) an Indian Tribe included on the list published under section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131); or

“(v) the government of a territory or possession of the United States.

“(6) FORMER EMPLOYER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘former employer’, with respect to a covered employee, means a person for whom the covered employee served as an employee, officer, director, trustee, agent, attorney, consultant, or contractor during the 2-year period ending on the day before the date on which the covered employee begins service in the Federal Government.

“(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘former employer’ does not include—

“(i) an entity in the Federal Government, including an executive branch agency;
“(ii) a State or local government;

“(iii) the District of Columbia;

“(iv) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

“(v) the government of a territory or possession of the United States.

“(7) PARTICULAR MATTER.—The term ‘particular matter’ has the meaning given the term in section 207(i) of title 18, United States Code.

“SEC. 602. CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS.

“(a) Prohibition.—

“(1) In general.—A covered employee may not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties by which the covered employee knows that a material financial interest of a former employer or former client will be directly and predictably affected.

“(2) Exemptions.—

“(A) Regulations.—The Director shall publish in the Federal Register regulations applicable to all or a portion of covered employees
providing exemptions to the prohibition under paragraph (1).

“(B) INCLUSION.—The regulations under subparagraph (A) shall include an exemption for any covered employee in a case in which a particular matter involves a financial interest described in paragraph (1) that is too remote or too inconsequential to affect the integrity of the services provided by the covered employee.

“(b) WAIVERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) COVERED AGENCY HEADS.—With respect to a head of a covered agency who is a covered employee, the designated agency ethics official for the Executive Office of the President, in consultation with the Director, may grant a written waiver of the prohibition under subsection (a) before the covered agency head engages in an action otherwise prohibited by that subsection, if the designated agency ethics official determines and certifies in writing that, in consideration of all relevant circumstances, the interest of the Federal Government in the participation of the covered agency head outweighs the concern that a reasonable person
may question the integrity of the programs or
operations of the covered agency.

“(B) Other covered employees.—With
respect to any covered employee not described
in subparagraph (A), the head of the covered
agency employing the covered employee, in con-
sultation with the Director, may grant a written
waiver of the prohibition under subsection (a)
before the covered employee engages in an ac-
tion otherwise prohibited by that subsection, if
the head of the covered agency determines and
certifies in writing that, in consideration of all
relevant circumstances, the interest of the Fed-
eral Government in the participation of the cov-
ered employee outweighs the concern that a rea-
sonable person may question the integrity of the
programs or operations of the covered agency.

“(2) Notice and publication.—For any
waiver granted under paragraph (1), the individual
who granted the waiver shall—

“(A) not later than 48 hours after the
waiver is granted, submit to the Director a copy
of the waiver; and

“(B) not later than 30 calendar days after
the date on which the waiver is granted, publish
the waiver on the website of the applicable covered agency.

“(3) Directorial review.—On receipt of a written waiver under paragraph (2)(A), the Director shall—

“(A) review the waiver to determine whether the Director has any objection to the issuance of the waiver; and

“(B) if the Director has an objection described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) provide reasons for the objection, in writing, to the head of the covered agency who granted the waiver by not later than 15 calendar days after the date on which the waiver was granted; and

“(ii) publish the objection on the website of the Office of Government Ethics by not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the waiver was granted.

“SEC. 603. ENFORCEMENT.

“(a) Criminal Penalties.—

“(1) In general.—Any person who violates section 602 shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.
“(2) WILLFUL VIOLATIONS.—Any person who willfully violates section 602 shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

“(b) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States against any person who violates, or whom the Attorney General has reason to believe is engaging in conduct that violates, section 602.

“(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the court finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that a person violated section 602, the court shall impose against the person a civil penalty of not more than the greater of—

“(i) $100,000 for each violation; and

“(ii) the amount of compensation the person received or was offered for the conduct constituting the violation.

“(B) TREATMENT.—A civil penalty under this subsection may be in addition to any other criminal or civil statutory, common law, or administrative remedy available to—
“(1) the United States; or

“(2) any other person.

“(3) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In a civil action
brought against a person under paragraph (1),
the Attorney General may petition the court for
an order prohibiting the person from engaging
in conduct that violates section 602.

“(B) STANDARD.—The court may issue an
order under subparagraph (A) if the court
finds, by a preponderance of the evidence, that
the conduct of the person violates section 602.

“(C) TREATMENT.—The filing of a peti-
tion seeking injunctive relief under this para-
graph shall not preclude any other remedy
available by law to—

“(i) the United States; or

“(ii) any other person.”.

SEC. 8004. PROHIBITION OF PROCUREMENT OFFICERS AC-
CEPTING EMPLOYMENT FROM GOVERNMENT
CONTRACTORS.

(a) EXPANSION OF PROHIBITION ON ACCEPTANCE
BY FORMER OFFICIALS OF COMPENSATION FROM CON-
TRACTORS.—Section 2104 of title 41, United States Code,
(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “or consultant” and inserting “attorney, consultant, subcontractor, or lobbyist”; and

(ii) by striking “one year” and inserting “2 years”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “personally made for the Federal agency” and inserting “participated personally and substantially in”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) Prohibition on Compensation From Affiliates and Subcontractors.—A former official responsible for a Government contract referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) may not accept compensation for 2 years after awarding the contract from any division, affiliate, or subcontractor of the contractor.”.

(b) Requirement for Procurement Officers To Disclose Job Offers Made to Relatives.—Section 2103(a) of title 41, United States Code, is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by inserting after
“that official” the following: “, or for a relative (as defined in section 3110 of title 5) of that official,”.

(c) Requirement on Award of Government Contracts to Former Employers.—

(1) In general.—Chapter 21 of division B of subtitle I of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§2108. Prohibition on involvement by certain former contractor employees in procurements

“An employee of the Federal Government may not participate personally and substantially in any award of a contract to, or the administration of a contract awarded to, a contractor that is a former employer of the employee during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which the employee leaves the employment of the contractor.”.

(2) Technical and conforming amendment.—The table of sections for chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2108. Prohibition on involvement by certain former contractor employees in procurements.”.

(d) Regulations.—The Director of the Office of Government Ethics, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall promulgate regulations to
carry out and ensure the enforcement of chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code, as amended by this section.

(c) Monitoring and Compliance.—The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with designated agency ethics officials (as that term is defined in section 109(3) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)), shall monitor compliance with chapter 21 of title 41, United States Code, as amended by this section, by individuals and agencies.

SEC. 8005. REVOLVING DOOR RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYEES MOVING INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

(a) In General.—Subsection (c) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “ONE-YEAR” and inserting “TWO-YEAR”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “1 year” in each instance and inserting “2 years”; and

(B) by inserting “, or conducts any lobbying activity to facilitate any communication to or appearance before,” after “any communication to or appearance before”; and

(3) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “1-year” and inserting “2-year”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by sub-
section (a) shall apply to any individual covered by sub-
section (c) of section 207 of title 18, United States Code,
separating from the civil service on or after the date of
enactment of this Act.

SEC. 8006. GUIDANCE ON UNPAID EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office
of Government Ethics shall issue guidance on ethical
standards applicable to unpaid employees of an agency.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “agency” includes the Executive
Office of the President and the White House; and

(2) the term “unpaid employee” includes any
individual occupying a position at an agency and
who is unpaid by operation of section 3110 of title
5, United States Code, or any other provision of law,
but does not include any employee who is unpaid
due to a lapse in appropriations.

SEC. 8007. LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND

CONTRACTING AT BUSINESSES OWNED BY

CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EM-

PLOYEES.

(a) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FUNDS.—Beginning in
fiscal year 2022 and in each fiscal year thereafter, no Fed-
eral funds may be obligated or expended for purposes of 
procuring goods or services at any business owned or con-
trolled by a covered individual or any family member of 
such an individual, unless such obligation or expenditure 
of funds is authorized under the Presidential Protection 

(b) Prohibition on Contracts.—No Executive 
agency may enter into or hold a contract with a business 
owned or controlled by a covered individual or any family 
member of such an individual.

c) Determination of Ownership.—For purposes 
of this section, a business shall be deemed to be owned 
or controlled by a covered individual or any family member 
of such an individual if the covered individual or member 
of family (as the case may be)—

(1) is a member of the board of directors or 
similar governing body of the business;

(2) directly or indirectly owns or controls more 
than 50 percent of the voting shares of the business;

or

(3) is the beneficiary of a trust which owns or 
controls more than 50 percent of the business and 
can direct distributions under the terms of the trust.

(d) Definitions.—In this section:
(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered individual” means—

(A) the President;

(B) the Vice President;

(C) the head of any Executive department (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 5, United States Code); and

(D) any individual occupying a position designated by the President as a Cabinet-level position.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family member” means an individual with any of the following relationships to a covered individual:

(A) Spouse, and parents thereof.

(B) Sons and daughters, and spouses thereof.

(C) Parents, and spouses thereof.

(D) Brothers and sisters, and spouses thereof.

(E) Grandparents and grandchildren, and spouses thereof.
Subtitle B—Presidential Conflicts of Interest

SEC. 8011. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the “Presidential Conflicts of Interest Act of 2021”.

SEC. 8012. DIVESTITURE OF PERSONAL FINANCIAL INTERESTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT THAT POSE A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding after title VI (as added by section 8003) the following:

“TITLE VII—DIVESTITURE OF FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

SEC. 701. DIVESTITURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS POSING A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

“(a) APPLICABILITY TO THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.—The President and Vice President shall, within 30 days of assuming office, divest of all financial interests that pose a conflict of interest because the Presi-
dent or Vice President, the spouse, dependent child, or
general partner of the President or Vice President, or any
person or organization with whom the President or Vice
President is negotiating or has any arrangement con-
cerning prospective employment, has a financial interest,
by—

“(1) converting each such interest to cash or
other investment that meets the criteria established
by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics
through regulation as being an interest so remote or
inconsequential as not to pose a conflict; or

“(2) placing each such interest in a qualified
blind trust as defined in section 102(f)(3) or a diver-
sified trust under section 102(f)(4)(B).

“(b) DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION.—Subsection (a) shall
not apply if the President or Vice President complies with
section 102.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES.—Section 102(a) of
the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)
is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(9) With respect to any such report filed by
the President or Vice President, for any corporation,
company, firm, partnership, or other business enter-
prise in which the President, Vice President, or the
spouse or dependent child of the President or Vice President, has a significant financial interest—

“(A) the name of each other person who holds a significant financial interest in the firm, partnership, association, corporation, or other entity;

“(B) the value, identity, and category of each liability in excess of $10,000; and

“(C) a description of the nature and value of any assets with a value of $10,000 or more.”.

(c) Regulations.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall promulgate regulations to define the criteria required by section 701(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (as added by subsection (a)) and the term “significant financial interest” for purposes of section 102(a)(9) of the Ethics in Government Act (as added by subsection (b)).

SEC. 8013. INITIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.

Subsection (a) of section 101 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking “position” and adding at the end the following: “position, with the exception of the President and Vice President, who must file a new report.”.
SEC. 8014. CONTRACTS BY THE PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 431 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “the President, Vice President, Cabinet Member, or a” after “Contracts by”; and

(2) in the first undesignated paragraph, by inserting “the President, Vice President, or any Cabinet member” after “Whoever, being”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 23 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 431 and inserting the following:

“431. Contracts by the President, Vice President, Cabinet Member, or a Member of Congress.”.

SEC. 8015. LEGAL DEFENSE FUNDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Government Ethics;

(2) the term “legal defense fund” means a trust—

(A) that has only one beneficiary;

(B) that is subject to a trust agreement creating an enforceable fiduciary duty on the part of the trustee to the beneficiary, pursuant
to the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which
the trust is established;

(C) that is subject to a trust agreement
that provides for the mandatory public disclo-
sure of all donations and disbursements;

(D) that is subject to a trust agreement
that prohibits the use of its resources for any
purpose other than—

(i) the administration of the trust;

(ii) the payment or reimbursement of
legal fees or expenses incurred in investiga-
tive, civil, criminal, or other legal pro-
ceedings relating to or arising by virtue of
service by the trust’s beneficiary as an offi-
cer or employee, as defined in this section,
or as an employee, contractor, consultant
or volunteer of the campaign of the Presi-
dent or Vice President; or

(iii) the distribution of unused re-
sources to a charity selected by the trustee
that has not been selected or recommended
by the beneficiary of the trust;

(E) that is subject to a trust agreement
that prohibits the use of its resources for any
other purpose or personal legal matters, includ-
ing tax planning, personal injury litigation, protection of property rights, divorces, or estate probate; and 

(F) that is subject to a trust agreement that prohibits the acceptance of donations, except in accordance with this section and the regulations of the Office of Government Ethics;

(3) the term “officer or employee” means—

(A) an officer (as that term is defined in section 2104 of title 5, United States Code) or employee (as that term is defined in section 2105 of such title) of the executive branch of the Government;

(B) the Vice President; and

(C) the President; and

(4) the term “relative” has the meaning given that term in section 3110 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL DEFENSE FUNDS.—An officer or employee may not accept or use any gift or donation for the payment or reimbursement of legal fees or expenses incurred in investigative, civil, criminal, or other legal proceedings relating to or arising by virtue of the officer or employee’s service as an officer or employee, as defined in this section, or as an employee, contractor, consultant
or volunteer of the campaign of the President or Vice President except through a legal defense fund that is certified by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

(c) LIMITS ON GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall promulgate regulations establishing limits with respect to gifts and donations described in subsection (b), which shall, at a minimum—

(1) prohibit the receipt of any gift or donation described in subsection (b)—

(A) from a single contributor (other than a relative of the officer or employee) in a total amount of more than $5,000 during any calendar year;

(B) from a registered lobbyist;

(C) from a foreign government or an agent of a foreign principal;

(D) from a State government or an agent of a State government;

(E) from any person seeking official action from, or seeking to do or doing business with, the agency employing the officer or employee;

(F) from any person conducting activities regulated by the agency employing the officer or employee;
(G) from any person whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the official duties of the officer or employee;

(H) from an officer or employee of the executive branch; or

(I) from any organization a majority of whose members are described in subparagraphs (A) through (H); and

(2) require that a legal defense fund, in order to be certified by the Director, only permit distributions to the applicable officer or employee.

(d) Written Notice.—

(1) In general.—An officer or employee who wishes to accept funds or have a representative accept funds from a legal defense fund shall first ensure that the proposed trustee of the legal defense fund submits to the Director the following information:

   (A) The name and contact information for any proposed trustee of the legal defense fund.

   (B) A copy of any proposed trust document for the legal defense fund.

   (C) The nature of the legal proceeding (or proceedings), investigation, or other matter
which gives rise to the establishment of the legal defense fund.

(D) An acknowledgment signed by the officer or employee and the trustee indicating that they will be bound by the regulations and limitations under this section.

(2) APPROVAL.—An officer or employee may not accept any gift or donation to pay, or to reimburse any person for, fees or expenses described in subsection (b) of this section except through a legal defense fund that has been certified in writing by the Director following that office’s receipt and approval of the information submitted under paragraph (1) and approval of the structure of the fund.

(e) REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An officer or employee who establishes a legal defense fund may not directly or indirectly accept distributions from a legal defense fund unless the fund has provided the Director a quarterly report for each quarter of every calendar year since the establishment of the legal defense fund that discloses, with respect to the quarter covered by the report—

(A) the source and amount of each contribution to the legal defense fund; and
(B) the amount, recipient, and purpose of each expenditure from the legal defense fund, including all distributions from the trust for any purpose.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Director shall make publicly available online—

(A) each report submitted under paragraph (1) in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable form;

(B) each trust agreement and any amendment thereto;

(C) the written notice and acknowledgment required by subsection (d); and

(D) the Director’s written certification of the legal defense fund.

(f) RECUSAL.—An officer or employee, other than the President and the Vice President, who is the beneficiary of a legal defense fund may not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which the officer or employee knows a donor of any source of a gift or donation to the legal defense fund established for the officer or employee has a financial interest, for a period of two years from the date of the most recent gift or donation to the legal defense fund.
Subtitle C—White House Ethics

  Transparency

SEC. 8021. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “White House Ethics Transparency Act of 2021”.

SEC. 8022. PROCEDURE FOR WAIVERS AND AUTHORIZATIONS RELATING TO ETHICS REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Covered employee.—

(A) In general.—The term “covered employee” means—

(i) a noncareer Presidential or Vice Presidential appointee;

(ii) a noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service (or any other SES-type system); and

(iii) an appointee to a position that has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policy-determining character (such as a position under Schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), and any other position
excepted under comparable criteria) in an Executive agency.

(B) Exclusions.—The term “covered employee” does not include any individual appointed—

(i) as a member of the Senior Foreign Service; or

(ii) solely as a uniformed service commissioned officer.

(2) Director.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Government Ethics.

(b) Procedure.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, not later than 30 days after the date on which an officer or employee issues or approves a waiver or authorization for a covered employee pursuant to section 3 of Executive Order 13770 (82 Fed. Reg. 9335) (or any subsequent similar order), the issuing officer or employee shall—

(1) submit to the Director a written copy of the waiver or authorization; and

(2) make a written copy of the waiver or authorization available to the public on the website of the employing agency of the covered employee.

(c) Public Availability.—Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a written copy of a waiver or
authorization under subsection (b)(1), the Director shall make the waiver or authorization available to the public on the website of the Office of Government Ethics.

(d) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a waiver or authorization described in subsection (b) that is issued during the period beginning on January 20, 2017, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act, the issuing officer or employee shall comply with the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) by not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to Congress a report that describes the impact of the application of paragraph (1), including the name of—

(A) each covered employee who received a waiver or authorization described in subsection (b); and

(B) each individual who, by operation of paragraph (1), submitted the information required under that subsection.
Subtitle D—Executive Branch
Ethics Enforcement

SEC. 8031. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the “Executive Branch Comprehensive Ethics Enforcement Act of 2021”.

SEC. 8032. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS.
Section 405 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking “fiscal year 2007” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

SEC. 8033. TENURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS.
Section 401(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “, subject to removal only for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. The Director may continue to serve beyond the expiration of the term until a successor is appointed and has qualified, except that the Director may not continue to serve for more than one year after the date on which the term would otherwise expire under this subsection.”.

SEC. 8034. DUTIES OF DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 402(a) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by
striking “in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management,”.

(b) Responsibilities of the Director.—Section 402(b) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “developing, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Office of Personnel Management, rules and regulations to be promulgated by the President or the Director” and inserting “developing and promulgating rules and regulations”; and

(B) by striking “title II” and inserting “title I”;

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) providing mandatory education and training programs for designated agency ethics officials, which may be delegated to each agency or the White House Counsel as determined appropriate by the Director;”;

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “title II” and inserting “title I”;

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking “problems” and inserting “issues”;
(5) in paragraph (6)—
   (A) by striking “issued by the President or
   the Director”; and
   (B) by striking “problems” and inserting
   “issues”;
(6) in paragraph (7)—
   (A) by striking “, when requested,”; and
   (B) by striking “conflict of interest prob-
   lems” and inserting “conflicts of interest, as
   well as other ethics issues”;
(7) in paragraph (9)—
   (A) by striking “ordering” and inserting
   “receiving allegations of violations of this Act or
   regulations of the Office of Government Ethics
   and, when necessary, investigating an allegation
   to determine whether a violation occurred, and
   ordering”; and
   (B) by inserting before the semicolon the
   following: “, and recommending appropriate
   disciplinary action”;
(8) in paragraph (12)—
   (A) by striking “evaluating, with the as-
   sistance of” and inserting “promulgating, with
   input from”; and
   (B) by striking “the need for”; and
(C) by striking “conflict of interest and ethical problems” and inserting “conflict of interest and ethics issues”; (9) in paragraph (13)—
(A) by striking “with the Attorney General” and inserting “with the Inspectors General and the Attorney General”;
(B) by striking “violations of the conflict of interest laws” and inserting “conflict of interest issues and allegations of violations of ethics laws and regulations and this Act”; and
(C) by striking “, as required by section 535 of title 28, United States Code”; (10) in paragraph (14), by striking “and” at the end;
(11) in paragraph (15)—
(A) by striking “, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management,”;
(B) by striking “title II” and inserting “title I”; and
(C) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(12) by adding at the end the following:
“(16) directing and providing final approval, when determined appropriate by the Director, for
designated agency ethics officials regarding the resolution of conflicts of interest as well as any other ethics issues under the purview of this Act in individual cases; and

“(17) reviewing and approving, when determined appropriate by the Director, any recusals, exemptions, or waivers from the conflicts of interest and ethics laws, rules, and regulations and making approved recusals, exemptions, and waivers made publicly available by the relevant agency available in a central location on the official website of the Office of Government Ethics.”.

(c) WRITTEN PROCEDURES.—Paragraph (1) of section 402(d) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by striking “, by the exercise of any authority otherwise available to the Director under this title,”;

(2) by striking “the agency is”;

(3) by striking “collect, review, evaluate, and if applicable, make” and insert “collects, reviews, evaluates, and, if applicable, makes”; and

(4) by inserting after “filed by” the following: “, or written documentation of recusals, waivers, or ethics authorizations relating to.”.
(d) CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—Section 402(f) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in clause (i) of subparagraph (A), by striking “of such agency”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period at the end “and determine that a violation of this Act has occurred and issue appropriate administrative or legal remedies as prescribed in paragraph (2)”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii)—

(I) in subclause (I), by inserting “to the President or the President’s designee if the matter involves em-
ployees of the Executive Office of the President or” after “may rec-
ommend”; and

(II) in subclause (II)—

(aa) by inserting “President or” after “determines that the”; and
(bb) by adding “and” at the end;

(ii) in subclause (II) of clause (iii)—

(I) by striking “notify, in writing,” and inserting “advise the President or order”;

(II) by inserting “to take appropriate disciplinary action including reprimand, suspension, demotion, or dismissal against the officer or employee (provided, however, that any order issued by the Director shall not affect an employee’s right to appeal a disciplinary action under applicable law, regulation, collective bargaining agreement, or contractual provision).” after “employee’s agency”; and

(III) by striking “of the officer’s or employee’s noncompliance, except that, if the officer or employee involved is the agency head, the notification shall instead be submitted to the President; and’”; and

(iii) by striking clause (iv);

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i)—
(i) by striking “subparagraph (A)(iii) or (iv)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)”; 
(ii) by inserting “(I)” before “In order to”; and
(iii) by adding at the end the following:
“(II)(aa) The Director may secure directly from any agency information necessary to enable the Director to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Director, the head of such agency shall furnish that information to the Director.
“(bb) The Director may require by subpoena the production of all information, documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, papers, and other data in any medium and documentary evidence necessary in the performance of the functions assigned by this Act, which subpoena, in the case of refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate United States district court.”;
(C) in subparagraph (B)(ii)(I)—
(i) by striking “Subject to clause (iv) of this subparagraph, before” and inserting “Before”; and
(ii) by striking “subparagraphs (A)

(iii) or (iv)” and inserting “subparagraph

(A)(iii)”;

(D) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking

“Subject to clause (iv) of this subparagraph,

before” and inserting “Before”; and

(E) in subparagraph (B)(iv)—

(i) by striking “title 2” and inserting

“title I”; and

(ii) by striking “section 206” and in-
serting “section 106”; and

(3) in paragraph (4), by striking “(iv),”.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Section 402 of the Ethics in Gov-
ernment Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by add-
ing at the end the following:

“(g) For purposes of this title—

“(1) the term ‘agency’ shall include the Execu-
tive Office of the President; and

“(2) the term ‘officer or employee’ shall include
any individual occupying a position, providing any
official services, or acting in an advisory capacity, in
the White House or the Executive Office of the
President.

“(h) In this title, a reference to the head of an agency
shall include the President or the President’s designee.
“(i) The Director shall not be required to obtain the prior approval, comment, or review of any officer or agency of the United States, including the Office of Management and Budget, before submitting to Congress, or any committee or subcommittee thereof, any information, reports, recommendations, testimony, or comments, if such submissions include a statement indicating that the views expressed therein are those of the Director and do not necessarily represent the views of the President.”.

SEC. 8035. AGENCY ETHICS OFFICIALS TRAINING AND DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 403 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding a period at the end of the matter following paragraph (2); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) All designated agency ethics officials and alternate designated agency ethics officials shall register with the Director as well as with the appointing authority of the official.

“(2) The Director shall provide ethics education and training to all designated and alternate designated agency ethics officials in a time and manner determined appropriate by the Director.
“(3) Each designated agency ethics official and each alternate designated agency ethics official shall biannually attend ethics education and training, as provided by the Director under paragraph (2).

“(d) Each Designated Agency Ethics Official, including the Designated Agency Ethics Official for the Executive Office of the President—

“(1) shall provide to the Director, in writing, in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable format, all approvals, authorizations, certifications, compliance reviews, determinations, directed divestitures, public financial disclosure reports, notices of deficiency in compliance, records related to the approval or acceptance of gifts, recusals, regulatory or statutory advisory opinions, waivers, including waivers under section 207 or 208 of title 18, United States Code, and any other records designated by the Director, unless disclosure is prohibited by law;

“(2) shall, for all information described in paragraph (1) that is permitted to be disclosed to the public under law, make the information available to the public by publishing the information on the website of the Office of Government Ethics, providing a link to download an electronic copy of the
information, or providing printed paper copies of
such information to the public; and

“(3) may charge a reasonable fee for the cost
of providing paper copies of the information pursu-
ant to paragraph (2).

“(e)(1) For all information that is provided by an
agency to the Director under paragraph (1) of subsection
(d), the Director shall make the information available to
the public in a searchable, sortable, downloadable format
by publishing the information on the website of the Office
of Government Ethics or providing a link to download an
electronic copy of the information.

“(2) The Director may, upon request, provide printed
paper copies of the information published under para-
graph (1) and charge a reasonable fee for the cost of print-
ing such copies.”.

(b) REPEAL.—The Ethics in Government Act of
1978 (5 U.S.C. App) is amended by striking section 408.

SEC. 8036. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN
FEDERAL EMPLOYEE TRAVEL IN CONTRA-
TRAVENTION OF CERTAIN REGULATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enact-
ment of this Act, no Federal funds appropriated or other-
wise made available in any fiscal year may be used for
the travel expenses of any senior Federal official in con-

(b) QUARTERLY REPORT ON TRAVEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act and every 90 days thereafter, the head of each Federal agency shall submit a report to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate detailing travel on Government aircraft by any senior Federal official employed at the applicable agency.

(2) APPLICATION.—Any report required under paragraph (1) shall not include any classified travel, and nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede, alter, or otherwise affect the application of section 101–37.408 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

(c) TRAVEL REGULATION REPORT.—Not later than one year after enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall submit a report to Congress detailing suggestions on strengthening Federal travel regulations. On the date such report is so submitted,
the Director shall publish such report on the Office's public website.

(d) Senior Federal Official Defined.—In this section, the term “senior Federal official” has the meaning given that term in section 101–37.100 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, and includes any senior executive branch official (as that term is defined in such section).

SEC. 8037. REPORTS ON COST OF PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL.

(a) Report Required.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Air Force, shall submit to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report detailing the direct and indirect costs to the Department of Defense in support of presidential travel. Each such report shall include costs incurred for travel to a property owned or operated by the individual serving as President or an immediate family member of such individual.

(b) Immediate Family Member Defined.—In this section, the term “immediate family member” means the spouse of such individual, the adult or minor child of such individual, or the spouse of an adult child of such individual.
SEC. 8038. REPORTS ON COST OF SENIOR FEDERAL OFFICIAL TRAVEL.

(a) Report Required.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report detailing the direct and indirect costs to the Department of Defense in support of travel by senior Federal officials on military aircraft. Each such report shall include whether spousal travel furnished by the Department was reimbursed to the Federal Government.

(b) Exception.—Required use travel, as outlined in Department of Defense Directive 4500.56, shall not be included in reports under subsection (a).

(c) Senior Federal Official Defined.—In this section, the term “senior Federal official” has the meaning given that term in section 8036(d).

Subtitle E—Conflicts From Political Fundraising

SEC. 8041. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Conflicts from Political Fundraising Act of 2021”.

SEC. 8042. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 109 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (19) as paragraphs (5) through (22), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) ‘covered contribution’ means a payment, advance, forbearance, rendering, or deposit of money, or any thing of value—

“(A)(i) that—

“(I) is—

“(aa) made by or on behalf of a covered individual; or

“(bb) solicited in writing by or at the request of a covered individual; and

“(II) is made—

“(aa) to a political organization, as defined in section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

“(bb) to an organization—

“(AA) that is described in paragraph (4) or (6) of section
501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; and

“(BB) that promotes or opposes changes in Federal laws or regulations that are (or would be) administered by the agency in which the covered individual has been nominated for appointment to a covered position or is serving in a covered position; or

“(ii) that is—

“(I) solicited in writing by or on behalf of a covered individual; and

“(II) made—

“(aa) by an individual or entity the activities of which are subject to Federal laws or regulations that are (or would be) administered by the agency in which the covered individual has been nominated for appointment to a covered position or is serving in a covered position; and

“(bb) to—
“(AA) a political organization, as defined in section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

“(BB) an organization that is described in paragraph (4) or (6) of section 501(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code; and

“(B) that is made to an organization described in item (aa) or (bb) of clause (i)(II) or clause (ii)(II)(bb) of subparagraph (A) for which the total amount of such payments, advances, forbearances, renderings, or deposits of money, or any thing of value, during the calendar year in which it is made is not less than the contribution limitation in effect under section 315(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30116(a)(1)(A)) for elections occurring during such calendar year;

“(3) ‘covered individual’ means an individual who has been nominated or appointed to a covered position; and
“(4) ‘covered position’—

“(A) means—

“(i) a position described under sections 5312 through 5316 of title 5, United States Code;

“(ii) a position placed in level IV or V of the Executive Schedule under section 5317 of title 5, United States Code;

“(iii) a position as a limited term appointee, limited emergency appointee, or noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service, as defined under paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code; and

“(iv) a position in the executive branch of the Government of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(B) does not include a position if the individual serving in the position has been excluded from the application of section 101(f)(5);”.
(b) Disclosure Requirements.—The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 101—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) by inserting “(1)” before “Within”;

(ii) by striking “unless” and inserting “and, if the individual is assuming a covered position, the information described in section 102(j), except that, subject to paragraph (2), the individual shall not be required to file a report if”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) If an individual has left a position described in subsection (f) that is not a covered position and, within 30 days, assumes a position that is a covered position, the individual shall, within 30 days of assuming the covered position, file a report containing the information described in section 102(j)(2)(A).”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1), in the first sentence, by inserting “and the information required by section 102(j)” after “described in section 102(b)”;

(2) If an individual has left a position described in subsection (f) that is not a covered position and, within 30 days, assumes a position that is a covered position, the individual shall, within 30 days of assuming the covered position, file a report containing the information described in section 102(j)(2)(A).”;}
(C) in subsection (d), by inserting “and, if the individual is serving in a covered position, the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A)” after “described in section 102(a)”; and

(D) in subsection (e), by inserting “and, if the individual was serving in a covered position, the information required by section 102(j)(2)(A)” after “described in section 102(a)”; and

(2) in section 102—

(A) in subsection (g), by striking “Political campaign funds” and inserting “Except as provided in subsection (j), political campaign funds”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘applicable period’ means—

“(i) with respect to a report filed pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of section 101, the year of filing and the 4 calendar years preceding the year of the filing; and

“(ii) with respect to a report filed pursuant to subsection (d) or (e) of section 101, the preceding calendar year; and
“(B) the term ‘covered gift’ means a gift that—

“(i) is made to a covered individual, the spouse of a covered individual, or the dependent child of a covered individual;

“(ii) is made by an entity described in item (aa) or (bb) of section 109(2)(A)(i)(II); and

“(iii) would have been required to be reported under subsection (a)(2) if the covered individual had been required to file a report under section 101(d) with respect to the calendar year during which the gift was made.

“(2)(A) A report filed pursuant to subsection (a), (b), (d), or (e) of section 101 by a covered individual shall include, for each covered contribution during the applicable period—

“(i) the date on which the covered contribution was made;

“(ii) if applicable, the date or dates on which the covered contribution was solicited;

“(iii) the value of the covered contribution;

“(iv) the name of the person making the covered contribution; and

“(v) the name of the person receiving the covered contribution.
“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), a covered contribution made by or on behalf of, or that was solicited in writing by or on behalf of, a covered individual shall constitute a conflict of interest, or an appearance thereof, with respect to the official duties of the covered individual.

“(ii) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics may exempt a covered contribution from the application of clause (i) if the Director determines the circumstances of the solicitation and making of the covered contribution do not present a risk of a conflict of interest and the exemption of the covered contribution would not affect adversely the integrity of the Government or the public’s confidence in the integrity of the Government.

“(3) A report filed pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of section 101 by a covered individual shall include the information described in subsection (a)(2) with respect to each covered gift received during the applicable period.”.

(c) Provision of Reports and Ethics Agreements to Congress.—Section 105 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Not later than 30 days after receiving a written request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of a committee or subcommittee of either House of Congress, the Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall provide
to the Chairman and Ranking Member each report filed
under this title by the covered individual and any ethics
agreement entered into between the agency and the cov-
ered individual.”.

(d) RULES ON ETHICS AGREEMENTS.—The Director
of the Office of Government Ethics shall promptly issue
rules regarding how an agency in the executive branch
shall address information required to be disclosed under
the amendments made by this subtitle in drafting ethics
agreements between the agency and individuals appointed
to positions in the agency.

(e) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5
U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(A) in section 101(f)—

(i) in paragraph (9), by striking “sec-
tion 109(12)” and inserting “section
109(15)”;

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking
“section 109(13)” and inserting “section
109(16)”;

(iii) in paragraph (11), by striking
“section 109(10)” and inserting “section
109(13)”; and
(iv) in paragraph (12), by striking “section 109(8)” and inserting “section 109(11)”;

(B) in section 103(l)—

(i) in paragraph (9), by striking “section 109(12)” and inserting “section 109(15)”; and

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking “section 109(13)” and inserting “section 109(16)”; and

(C) in section 105(b)(3)(A), by striking “section 109(8) or 109(10)” and inserting “section 109(11) or 109(13)”.  


(B) in subsection (h)(2)—


Subtitle F—Transition Team Ethics

SEC. 8051. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Transition Team Ethics Improvement Act”.

SEC. 8052. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ETHICS PROGRAMS.

The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended—
(1) in section 3(f), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) Each eligible candidate (as defined in subsection (h)(4)(A)) or the President-elect (as the case may be) shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report containing the names of the candidates for high level security positions submitted under paragraph (1)—

“(A) not later than 10 days after the date of the submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other appropriate agency under paragraph (1); and

“(B) not later than 10 days after any such candidate is granted a security clearance (including an interim clearance) under paragraph (2).”;

(2) in section 6(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

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

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:
“(C) a list of every position each transition team member has held outside of the Federal Government during the previous 12-month period, including paid and unpaid positions;

“(D) sources of compensation received by each transition team member exceeding $5,000 during the previous 12-month period;

“(E) a description of the role of each transition team member, including—

“(i) a list of any policy issues that the transition team member expects to work on; and

“(ii) a list of agencies with which the transition team member expects to interact while serving on the transition team;

“(F) a list of any issues from which each transition team member will be recused while serving as a member of the transition team pursuant to the ethics plan described in section 4(g)(3); and

“(G) an affirmation that no transition team member has a financial conflict of interest that precludes the transition team member from working on the matters of the member described in subparagraph (E).”
(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “not later than 2 business days” after “public”; and
(C) by adding at the end the following:
“(3) If the President-elect and Vice-President elect do not make information required under paragraph (1) publicly available with respect to a particular transition team member, the head of a Federal department or agency may not permit the transition team member to access the Federal department or agency or any employee of the Federal department or agency in a manner that would not be permitted to a member of the public.”.

Subtitle G—Ethics Pledge for Senior Executive Branch Employees

SEC. 8061. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Ethics in Public Service Act”.

SEC. 8062. ETHICS PLEDGE REQUIREMENT FOR SENIOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH EMPLOYEES.

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after title I the following new title:

“TITLE II—ETHICS PLEDGE

“SEC. 201. DEFINITIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this title, the following definitions apply:
“(1) The term ‘Administration’ means all terms of office of the incumbent President serving at the time of the appointment of an appointee covered by this title.

“(2) The term ‘appointee’ means any noncareer Presidential or Vice Presidential appointee, noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service (or other SES-type system), or appointee to a position that has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of being of a confidential or policymaking character (Schedule C and other positions excepted under comparable criteria) in an executive agency, but does not include any individual appointed as a member of the Senior Foreign Service or solely as a uniformed service commissioned officer.


“(4) The term ‘directly and substantially related to my former employer or former clients’ means matters in which the appointee’s former employer or a former client is a party or represents a party.
“(5) The term ‘executive agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, and includes the Executive Office of the President, the United States Postal Service, and Postal Regulatory Commission, but does not include the Government Accountability Office.

“(6) The term ‘former client’ means a person or entity for whom an appointee served personally as agent, attorney, or consultant during the 2-year period ending on the date before the date on which the appointee begins service in the Federal Government, but does not include an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government.

“(7) The term ‘former employer’—

“(A) means a person or entity for whom an appointee served as an employee, officer, director, trustee, partner, agent, attorney, consultant, or contractor during the 2-year period ending on the date before the date on which the appointee begins service in the Federal Government; and

“(B) does not include—

“(i) an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government;

“(ii) a State or local government;
“(iii) the District of Columbia;

“(iv) an Indian Tribe, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304); or

“(v) the government of a territory or possession of the United States.

“(8) The term ‘gift’—

“(A) has the meaning given that term in section 2635.203(b) of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation); and

“(B) does not include those items excluded by sections 2635.204(b), (e), (e)(1), (e)(3), (j), (k), and (l) of such title 5.

“(9) The term ‘Government official’ means any employee of the executive branch.

“(10) The term ‘lobby’ and ‘lobbied’ mean to act or have acted as a registered lobbyist.

“(11) The term ‘participate’ means to participate personally and substantially.

“(12) The term ‘pledge’ means the ethics pledge set forth in section 202 of this title.

“(13) The term ‘post-employment restrictions’ includes the provisions and exceptions in section
207(c) of title 18, United States Code, and the implement- ing regulations.

“(14) The term ‘registered lobbyist or lobbying organization’ means a lobbyist or an organization filing a registration pursuant to section 4(a) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1603(a)), and in the case of an organization filing such a registration, ‘registered lobbyist’ includes each of the lobbyists identified therein.

“(b) REFERENCES.—All references to provisions of law and regulations under subsection (a) shall refer to such provisions as in effect on the date of enactment of this title.

“SEC. 202. ETHICS PLEDGE.

Each appointee in every executive agency appointed on or after the date of enactment of this section shall be required to sign an ethics pledge upon appointment. The pledge shall be signed and dated within 30 days of taking office and shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

‘As a condition, and in consideration, of my employment in the United States Government in a position invested with the public trust, I commit myself to the following obligations, which I understand are binding on me and are enforceable under law:
“(1) Lobbyist Gift Ban.—I will not accept gifts from registered lobbyists or lobbying organizations for the duration of my service as an appointee.

“(2) Revolving Door Ban; Entering Government.—

“(A) All Appointees Entering Government.—I will not, for a period of 2 years from the date of my appointment, participate in any particular matter involving specific party or parties that is directly and substantially related to my former employer or former clients, including regulations and contracts.

“(B) Lobbyists Entering Government.—If I was a registered lobbyist within the 2 years before the date of my appointment, in addition to abiding by the limitations of subparagraph (A), I will not for a period of 2 years after the date of my appointment—

“(i) participate in any particular matter on which I lobbied within the 2 years before the date of my appointment;

“(ii) participate in the specific issue area in which that particular matter falls; or
“(iii) seek or accept employment with
any executive agency that I lobbied within
the 2 years before the date of my appoint-
ment.

“(3) Revolving Door Ban; Appointees Leaving
Government.—

“(A) All Appointees Leaving Govern-
ment.—If, upon my departure from the Govern-
ment, I am covered by the post-employment re-
strictions on communicating with employees of
my former executive agency set forth in section
207(c) of title 18, United States Code, I agree
that I will abide by those restrictions for a pe-
riod of 2 years following the end of my appoint-
ment.

“(B) Appointees Leaving Government to
Lobby.—In addition to abiding by the limita-
tions of subparagraph (A), I also agree, upon
leaving Government service, not to lobby any
covered executive branch official or noncareer
Senior Executive Service appointee for the re-
mainder of the Administration.

“(4) Employment Qualification Commit-
ment.—I agree that any hiring or other employment
decisions I make will be based on the candidate’s qualifications, competence, and experience.

“(5) Assent to Enforcement.—I acknowledge that title II of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, which I have read before signing this document, defines certain of the terms applicable to the foregoing obligations and sets forth the methods for enforcing them. I expressly accept the provisions of that title as a part of this agreement and as binding on me. I understand that the terms of this pledge are in addition to any statutory or other legal restrictions applicable to me by virtue of Federal Government service.’’.

“SEC. 203. WAIVER.

“(a) The President or the President’s designee may grant to any current or former appointee a written waiver of any restrictions contained in the pledge signed by such appointee if, and to the extent that, the President or the President’s designee certifies (in writing) that, in light of all the relevant circumstances, the interest of the Federal Government in the employee’s participation outweighs the concern that a reasonable person may question the integrity of the agency’s programs or operations.
“(b) Any waiver under this section shall take effect when the certification is signed by the President or the President’s designee.

“(c) For purposes of subsection (a), the interest of the Federal Government shall include exigent circumstances relating to national security or to the economy. De minimis contact with an executive agency shall be cause for a waiver of the restrictions contained in paragraph (2)(B) of the pledge.

“(d) For any waiver granted under this section, the individual who granted the waiver shall—

“(1) provide a copy of the waiver to the Director not more than 48 hours after the waiver is granted; and

“(2) publish the waiver on the website of the applicable agency not later than 30 calendar days after granting such waiver.

“(e) Upon receiving a written waiver under subsection (d), the Director shall—

“(1) review the waiver to determine whether the Director has any objection to the issuance of the waiver; and

“(2) if the Director so objects—

“(A) provide reasons for the objection in writing to the President or the President’s des-
ignore who granted the waiver not more than 15
calendar days after the waiver was granted; and

“(B) publish the written objection on the
website of the Office of Government Ethics not
more than 30 calendar days after the waiver
was granted.

“SEC. 204. ADMINISTRATION.

“(a) The head of each executive agency shall, in con-
sultation with the Director of the Office of Government
Ethics, establish such rules or procedures (conforming as
nearly as practicable to the agency’s general ethics rules
and procedures, including those relating to designated
agency ethics officers) as are necessary or appropriate to
ensure—

“(1) that every appointee in the agency signs
the pledge upon assuming the appointed office or
otherwise becoming an appointee;

“(2) that compliance with paragraph (2)(B) of
the pledge is addressed in a written ethics agree-
ment with each appointee to whom it applies;

“(3) that spousal employment issues and other
conflicts not expressly addressed by the pledge are
addressed in ethics agreements with appointees or,
where no such agreements are required, through eth-
ics counseling; and
“(4) compliance with this title within the agency.

“(b) With respect to the Executive Office of the President, the duties set forth in subsection (a) shall be the responsibility of the Counsel to the President.

“(c) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall—

“(1) ensure that the pledge and a copy of this title are made available for use by agencies in fulfilling their duties under subsection (a);

“(2) in consultation with the Attorney General or the Counsel to the President, when appropriate, assist designated agency ethics officers in providing advice to current or former appointees regarding the application of the pledge;

“(3) adopt such rules or procedures as are necessary or appropriate—

“(A) to carry out the responsibilities assigned by this subsection;

“(B) to apply the lobbyist gift ban set forth in paragraph 1 of the pledge to all executive branch employees;

“(C) to authorize limited exceptions to the lobbyist gift ban for circumstances that do not implicate the purposes of the ban;
“(D) to make clear that no person shall have violated the lobbyist gift ban if the person properly disposes of a gift;

“(E) to ensure that existing rules and procedures for Government employees engaged in negotiations for future employment with private businesses that are affected by their official actions do not affect the integrity of the Government’s programs and operations; and

“(F) to ensure, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, that the requirement set forth in paragraph (4) of the pledge is honored by every employee of the executive branch;

“(4) in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, report to the President, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on whether full compliance is being achieved with existing laws and regulations governing executive branch procurement lobbying disclosure and on steps the executive branch can take to expand to the fullest extent practicable disclosure of such executive branch procurement lobbying and of
lobbying for presidential pardons, and to include in
the report both immediate action the executive
branch can take and, if necessary, recommendations
for legislation; and

“(5) provide an annual public report on the ad-
ministration of the pledge and this title.
“(d) All pledges signed by appointees, and all waiver
certifications with respect thereto, shall be filed with the
head of the appointee’s agency for permanent retention
in the appointee’s official personnel folder or equivalent
folder.”.

Subtitle H—Travel on Private Air-
craft by Senior Political Ap-
pointees

SEC. 8071. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the “Stop Waste And
Misuse by Presidential Flyers Landing Yet Evading Rules
and Standards Act” or the “SWAMP FLYERS Act”.

SEC. 8072. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR TRAVEL
ON PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.
(a) In General.—Beginning on the date of enact-
ment of this subtitle, no Federal funds appropriated or
otherwise made available in any fiscal year may be used
to pay the travel expenses of any senior political appointee
for travel on official business on a non-commercial, private, or chartered flight.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The limitation in subsection (a) shall not apply—

(1) if no commercial flight is available for the travel in question, consistent with subsection (c); or

(2) to any travel on aircraft owned or leased by the Government.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any senior political appointee who travels on a non-commercial, private, or chartered flight under the exception provided in subsection (b)(1) shall, not later than 30 days after the date of such travel, submit a written statement to Congress certifying that no commercial flight was available.

(2) PENALTY.—Any statement submitted under paragraph (1) shall be considered a statement for purposes of applying section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITION OF SENIOR POLITICAL APPOINTEE.—In this subtitle, the term “senior political appointee” means any individual occupying—
(1) a position listed under the Executive Schedule (subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code);

(2) a Senior Executive Service position that is not a career appointee, as defined under section 3132(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code; or

(3) a position of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations.

Subtitle I—Severability

SEC. 8081. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or any amendment made by this title, or any application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of the provisions of this title and the amendments made by this title, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.
TITLE IX—CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS REFORM

Subtitle A—Requiring Members of Congress To Reimburse Treasury for Amounts Paid as Settlements and Awards Under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995

SEC. 9001. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR AMOUNTS PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS UNDER CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 IN ALL CASES OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION ACTS BY MEMBERS.

(a) Requiring Reimbursement.—Clause (i) of section 415(d)(1)(C) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415(d)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) a violation of section 201(a) or section 206(a); or”.

(b) Conforming Amendment Relating to Notification of Possibility of Reimbursement.—Clause (i) of section 402(b)(2)(B) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1402(b)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:
“(i) a violation of section 201(a) or section 206(a); or”.

(c) **Effective Date.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act.

**Subtitle B—Conflicts of Interests**

**SEC. 9101. PROHIBITING MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM SERVING ON BOARDS OF FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES.**

Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause 20 as clause 21; and

(2) by inserting after clause 19 the following new clause:

“20. A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner may not serve on the board of directors of any for-profit entity.”.

**SEC. 9102. CONFLICT OF INTEREST RULES FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.**

No Member, officer, or employee of a committee or Member of either House of Congress may knowingly use his or her official position to introduce or aid the progress or passage of legislation, a principal purpose of which is
to further only his or her pecuniary interest, only the pecu-

niary interest of his or her immediate family, or only the pecu-

niary interest of a limited class of persons or enter-

prises, when he or she, or his or her immediate family, or enterprises controlled by them, are members of the af-

fected class.

SEC. 9103. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.

The provisions of this subtitle are enacted by the Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, re-

spectively, and as such they shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply, and such rules shall supersede other rules only to the ex-

tent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.
Subtitle C—Campaign Finance and Lobbying Disclosure

SEC. 9201. SHORT TITLE.
This subtitle may be cited as the “Connecting Lobbyists and Electeds for Accountability and Reform Act” or the “CLEAR Act”.

SEC. 9202. REQUIRING DISCLOSURE IN CERTAIN REPORTS FILED WITH FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF PERSONS WHO ARE REGISTERED LOBBYISTS.

(a) Reports Filed by Political Committees.—Section 304(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (7);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) if any person identified in subparagraph (A), (E), (F), or (G) of paragraph (3) is a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), a separate statement that such person is a registered lobbyist under such Act.”.
(b) Reports Filed by Persons Making Independent Expenditures.—Section 304(e)(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(e)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (B);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) if the person filing the statement, or a person whose identification is required to be disclosed under subparagraph (C), is a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), a separate statement that such person is a registered lobbyist under such Act.”.

(c) Reports Filed by Persons Making Disbursements for Electioneering Communications.—Section 304(f)(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) If the person making the disbursement, or a contributor described in subparagraph (E) or (F), is a registered lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C.
1601 et seq.), a separate statement that such
person or contributor is a registered lobbyist
under such Act.”.

(d) Requiring Commission to Establish Link to
Websites of Clerk of House and Secretary of
Senate.—Section 304 of the Federal Election Campaign
Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as amended by section
4002(a), section 4208(a), and section 4210(a), is amended
by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) Requiring Information on Registered
Lobbyists to Be Linked to Websites of Clerk of
House and Secretary of Senate.—

“(1) Links to websites.—The Commission
shall ensure that the Commission’s public database
containing information described in paragraph (2) is
linked electronically to the websites maintained by
the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the
House of Representatives containing information
filed pursuant to the Lobbying Disclosure Act of
1995 (2 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

“(2) Information described.—The informa-
tion described in this paragraph is each of the fol-
lowing:

“(A) Information disclosed under para-
graph (9) of subsection (b).
“(B) Information disclosed under subparagraph (D) of subsection (c)(2).

“(C) Information disclosed under subparagraph (G) of subsection (f)(2).”

SEC. 9203. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this subtitle shall apply with respect to reports required to be filed under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) on or after the expiration of the 90-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle D—Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports

SEC. 9301. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act”.

SEC. 9302. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORT.—

The term “congressionally mandated report”—

(A) means a report that is required to be submitted to either House of Congress or any committee of Congress, or subcommittee thereof, by a statute, resolution, or conference report that accompanies legislation enacted into law; and
(B) does not include a report required under part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” has the meaning given that term under section 102 of title 40, United States Code, but does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(4) OPEN FORMAT.—The term “open format” means a file format for storing digital data based on an underlying open standard that—

(A) is not encumbered by any restrictions that would impede reuse; and

(B) is based on an underlying open data standard that is maintained by a standards organization.

(5) REPORTS ONLINE PORTAL.—The term “reports online portal” means the online portal established under section 9303(a).

SEC. 9303. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONLINE PORTAL FOR CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH ONLINE PORTAL.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish and maintain an online portal accessible by the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place. The Director may publish other reports on the online portal.

(2) EXISTING FUNCTIONALITY.—To the extent possible, the Director shall meet the requirements under paragraph (1) by using existing online portals and functionality under the authority of the Director.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subtitle, the Director shall consult with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Librarian of Congress regarding the requirements for and maintenance of congressionally mandated reports on the reports online portal.

(b) CONTENT AND FUNCTION.—The Director shall ensure that the reports online portal includes the following:

(1) Subject to subsection (c), with respect to each congressionally mandated report, each of the following:
(A) A citation to the statute, conference report, or resolution requiring the report.

(B) An electronic copy of the report, including any transmittal letter associated with the report, in an open format that is platform independent and that is available to the public without restrictions, including restrictions that would impede the re-use of the information in the report.

(C) The ability to retrieve a report, to the extent practicable, through searches based on each, and any combination, of the following:

(i) The title of the report.

(ii) The reporting Federal agency.

(iii) The date of publication.

(iv) Each congressional committee receiving the report, if applicable.

(v) The statute, resolution, or conference report requiring the report.

(vi) Subject tags.

(vii) A unique alphanumeric identifier for the report that is consistent across report editions.

(viii) The serial number, Superintendent of Documents number, or other
identification number for the report, if applicable.

(ix) Key words.

(x) Full text search.

(xi) Any other relevant information specified by the Director.

(D) The date on which the report was required to be submitted, and on which the report was submitted, to the reports online portal.

(E) Access to the report not later than 30 calendar days after its submission to Congress.

(F) To the extent practicable, a permanent means of accessing the report electronically.

(2) A means for bulk download of all congressionally mandated reports.

(3) A means for downloading individual reports as the result of a search.

(4) An electronic means for the head of each Federal agency to submit to the reports online portal each congressionally mandated report of the agency, as required by section 9304.

(5) In tabular form, a list of all congressionally mandated reports that can be searched, sorted, and downloaded by—
(A) reports submitted within the required
time;

(B) reports submitted after the date on
which such reports were required to be sub-
mitted; and

(C) to the extent practicable, reports not
submitted.

(c) NONCOMPLIANCE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) REPORTS NOT SUBMITTED.—If a Federal
agency does not submit a congressionally mandated
report to the Director, the Director shall to the ex-
tent practicable—

(A) include on the reports online portal—

(i) the information required under
clauses (i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of subsection
(b)(1)(C); and

(ii) the date on which the report was
required to be submitted; and

(B) include the congressionally mandated
report on the list described in subsection
(b)(5)(C).

(2) REPORTS NOT IN OPEN FORMAT.—If a Fed-
eral agency submits a congressionally mandated re-
port that is not in an open format, the Director shall
include the congressionally mandated report in another format on the reports online portal.

(d) Free Access.—The Director may not charge a fee, require registration, or impose any other limitation in exchange for access to the reports online portal.

(e) Upgrade Capability.—The reports online portal shall be enhanced and updated as necessary to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

SEC. 9304. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) Submission of Electronic Copies of Reports.—Concurrently with the submission to Congress of each congressionally mandated report, the head of the Federal agency submitting the congressionally mandated report shall submit to the Director the information required under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 9303(b)(1) with respect to the congressionally mandated report. Nothing in this subtitle shall relieve a Federal agency of any other requirement to publish the congressionally mandated report on the online portal of the Federal agency or otherwise submit the congressionally mandated report to Congress or specific committees of Congress, or subcommittees thereof.

(b) Guidance.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Di-
rector, shall issue guidance to agencies on the implementation of this subtitle.

(c) Structure of Submitted Report Data.—

The head of each Federal agency shall ensure that each congressionally mandated report submitted to the Director complies with the open format criteria established by the Director in the guidance issued under subsection (b).

(d) Point of Contact.—The head of each Federal agency shall designate a point of contact for a congressionally mandated report.

(e) List of Reports.—As soon as practicable each calendar year (but not later than April 1), and on a rolling basis during the year if feasible, the Librarian of Congress shall submit to the Director a list of congressionally mandated reports from the previous calendar year, in consultation with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, which shall—

(1) be provided in an open format;

(2) include the information required under clauses (i), (ii), (iv), (v) of section 9303(b)(1)(C) for each report;

(3) include the frequency of the report;

(4) include a unique alphanumeric identifier for the report that is consistent across report editions;
(5) include the date on which each report is required to be submitted; and

(6) be updated and provided to the Director, as necessary.

SEC. 9305. REMOVING AND ALTERING REPORTS.

A report submitted to be published to the reports online portal may only be changed or removed, with the exception of technical changes, by the head of the Federal agency concerned if—

(1) the head of the Federal agency consults with each congressional committee to which the report is submitted; and

(2) Congress enacts a joint resolution authorizing the changing or removal of the report.

SEC. 9306. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION; INSPECTORS GENERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to—

(1) require the disclosure of information, records, or reports that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”), or that may be withheld under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”); or
(2) impose any affirmative duty on the Director to review congressionally mandated reports submitted for publication to the reports online portal for the purpose of identifying and redacting such information or records.

(b) Withholding of Information.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to require the publication, on the online portal or otherwise, of any report containing information—

(1) that is exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or that may be withheld under section 552a of title 5, United States Code;

(2) that is classified;

(3) that is law enforcement sensitive; or

(4) the public release of which could have a harmful effect on national security.

(c) Relationship to Offices of Inspectors General.—The inspector general of each Federal agency, except for an inspector general belonging to an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003), shall be responsible for the submission of their reports to the Director.
SEC. 9307. IMPLEMENTATION.

Except as provided in section 9304(b), this subtitle shall be implemented not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to congressionally mandated reports submitted to Congress on or after the date that is 1 year after such date of enactment.

Subtitle E—Reports on Outside Compensation Earned by Congressional Employees

SEC. 9401. REPORTS ON OUTSIDE COMPENSATION EARNED BY CONGRESSIONAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) Reports.—The supervisor of an individual who performs services for any Member, committee, or other office of the Senate or House of Representatives for a period in excess of four weeks and who receives compensation therefor from any source other than the Federal Government shall submit a report identifying the identity of the source, amount, and rate of such compensation to—

(1) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, in the case of an individual who performs services for a Member, committee, or other office of the Senate; or

(2) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives, in the case of an individual who performs services for a Member (including a Dele-
gate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress),
committee, or other office of the House.

(b) TIMING.—The supervisor shall submit the report
required under subsection (a) with respect to an indi-
vidual—

(1) when such individual first begins per-
forming services described in such subparagraph;

(2) at the close of each calendar quarter during
which such individual is performing such services;
and

(3) when such individual ceases to perform such
services.

Subtitle F—Severability

SEC. 9501. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or amendment made by
this title, or the application of a provision or amendment
to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitu-
tional, the remainder of this title and amendments made
by this title, and the application of the provisions and
amendment to any person or circumstance, shall not be
affected by the holding.
TITLE X—PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY

SEC. 10001. PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL TAX TRANSPARENCY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) The term “covered candidate” means a candidate of a major party in a general election for the office of President or Vice President.

(2) The term “income tax return” means, with respect to an individual, any return (as such term is defined in section 6103(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, except that such term shall not include declarations of estimated tax) of—

(A) such individual, other than information returns issued to persons other than such individual; or

(B) of any corporation, partnership, or trust in which such individual holds, directly or indirectly, a significant interest as the sole or principal owner or the sole or principal beneficial owner (as such terms are defined in regulations prescribed by the Secretary).
(3) The term “major party” has the meaning given the term in section 9002 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Treasury or the delegate of the Secretary.

(b) Disclosure.—

(1) In general.—

(A) Candidates for president and vice president.—Not later than the date that is 15 days after the date on which an individual becomes a covered candidate, the individual shall submit to the Federal Election Commission a copy of the individual’s income tax returns for the 10 most recent taxable years for which a return has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

(B) President and vice president.—With respect to an individual who is the President or Vice President, not later than the due date for the return of tax for each taxable year, such individual shall submit to the Federal Election Commission a copy of the individual’s income tax returns for the taxable year and for the 9 preceding taxable years.
(C) Transition rule for sitting presidents and vice presidents.—Not later than the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, an individual who is the President or Vice President on such date of enactment shall submit to the Federal Election Commission a copy of the income tax returns for the 10 most recent taxable years for which a return has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

(2) Failure to disclose.—If any requirement under paragraph (1) to submit an income tax return is not met, the chairman of the Federal Election Commission shall submit to the Secretary a written request that the Secretary provide the Federal Election Commission with the income tax return.

(3) Publicly available.—The chairman of the Federal Election Commission shall make publicly available each income tax return submitted under paragraph (1) in the same manner as a return provided under section 6103(l)(23) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section).

(4) Treatment as a report under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.—For
purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (32 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.), any income tax return submitted under paragraph (1) or provided under section 6103(l)(23) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this section) shall, after redaction under paragraph (3) or subparagraph (B)(ii) of such section, be treated as a report filed under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (32 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.).

(c) Disclosure of Returns of Presidents and Vice Presidents and Certain Candidates for President and Vice President.—

(1) In general.—Section 6103(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(23) Disclosure of return information of presidents and vice presidents and certain candidates for president and vice president.—

“(A) In general.—Upon written request by the chairman of the Federal Election Commission under section 10001(b)(2) of the For the People Act of 2021, not later than the date that is 15 days after the date of such request, the Secretary shall provide copies of any return
which is so requested to officers and employees of the Federal Election Commission whose official duties include disclosure or redaction of such return under this paragraph.

“(B) DISCLOSURE TO THE PUBLIC.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The chairman of the Federal Election Commission shall make publicly available any return which is provided under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) REDACTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Before making publicly available under clause (i) any return, the chairman of the Federal Election Commission shall redact such information as the Federal Election Commission and the Secretary jointly determine is necessary for protecting against identity theft, such as social security numbers.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6103(p)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “or (22)” and inserting “(22), or (23)”;}
(B) in subparagraph (F)(ii) by striking “or (22)” and inserting “(22), or (23)”.  

(3) **Effective date.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to disclosures made on or after the date of enactment of this Act.