

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2841

To improve voter access to the ballot box through automatic voter registration,  
and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To improve voter access to the ballot box through automatic  
voter registration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Register America to  
5 Vote Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.—

8 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (A) the right to vote is a fundamental  
2 right of citizens of the United States;

3 (B) it is the responsibility of Federal and  
4 State governments to ensure that every eligible  
5 citizen is registered to vote;

6 (C) existing voter registration systems can  
7 be inaccurate, costly, inaccessible, and con-  
8 fusing, with damaging effects on voter partici-  
9 pation in elections for Federal office and dis-  
10 proportionate impacts on young people, individ-  
11 uals with disabilities, and racial and ethnic mi-  
12 norities; and

13 (D) voter registration systems must be up-  
14 dated with 21st century technologies and proce-  
15 dures to maintain their security.

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

17 (A) to establish that it is the responsibility  
18 of government to ensure that all eligible citizens  
19 are registered to vote in elections for Federal  
20 office;

21 (B) to enable the State governments to  
22 register all eligible citizens to vote with accu-  
23 rate, cost-efficient, and up-to-date procedures;

1 (C) to modernize voter registration and list  
2 maintenance procedures with electronic and  
3 internet capabilities; and

4 (D) to protect and enhance the integrity,  
5 accuracy, efficiency, and accessibility of the  
6 electoral process for all eligible citizens.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

9 (1) The term “chief State election official”  
10 means, with respect to a State, the individual des-  
11 ignated by the State under section 10 of the Na-  
12 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.  
13 20509) to be responsible for coordination of the re-  
14 sponsibilities under that Act.

15 (2) The term “State” means each of the several  
16 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth  
17 of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands,  
18 Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of  
19 the Northern Mariana Islands.

20 **SEC. 4. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS TURN-**  
21 **ING 18 YEARS OF AGE.**

22 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in sub-  
23 section (b), the chief State election official of each State  
24 shall establish and operate a system of automatic registra-  
25 tion for the registration of any eligible individual on the

1 date on which the individual turns 18 in order that the  
 2 individual may vote in elections for Federal office in the  
 3 State.

4 (b) EXCEPTION.—The requirement under paragraph  
 5 (1) shall not apply to a State in which, under a State law  
 6 in effect continuously on and after the date of the enact-  
 7 ment of this section, there is no voter registration require-  
 8 ment for individuals in the State with respect to elections  
 9 for Federal office.

10 **SEC. 5. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVID-**  
 11 **UALS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Voter Registration  
 13 Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504) is amended by inserting  
 14 after section 5 the following new section:

15 **“SEC. 5A. AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION BY STATE MOTOR VE-**  
 16 **HICLE AUTHORITY.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

18 “(1) APPLICABLE AGENCY.—The term ‘applica-  
 19 ble agency’ means, with respect to a State, the State  
 20 motor vehicle authority responsible for motor vehicle  
 21 driver’s licenses under State law.

22 “(2) APPLICABLE TRANSACTION.—The term  
 23 ‘applicable transaction’ means—

24 “(A) an application to an applicable agency  
 25 for a motor vehicle driver’s license; and

1           “(B) any other service or assistance (in-  
2           cluding for a change of address) provided by an  
3           applicable agency.

4           “(3) AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION.—The term  
5           ‘automatic registration’ means a system that reg-  
6           isters an individual to vote and updates existing  
7           voter registration in elections for Federal office in a  
8           State, if eligible, by electronically transferring the  
9           information necessary for registration from the ap-  
10          plicable agency to election officials of the State in  
11          order that, unless the individual affirmatively de-  
12          clines to be registered or to update any voter reg-  
13          istration, the individual will be registered to vote in  
14          those elections.

15          “(4) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible  
16          individual’ means, with respect to an election for  
17          Federal office, an individual who is otherwise quali-  
18          fied to vote in that election.

19          “(5) REGISTER TO VOTE.—The term ‘register  
20          to vote’ includes updating the existing voter registra-  
21          tion of an individual.

22          “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

23                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The chief State election of-  
24                 ficial of each State shall establish and operate a sys-  
25                 tem of automatic registration for the registration of

1 eligible individuals to vote for elections for Federal  
2 office in the State, in accordance with the provisions  
3 of this section.

4 “(2) REGISTRATION OF VOTERS BASED ON NEW  
5 AGENCY RECORDS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The chief State elec-  
7 tion official shall—

8 “(i) subject to subparagraph (B), en-  
9 sure that each eligible individual who com-  
10 pletes an applicable transaction and does  
11 not decline to register to vote is registered  
12 to vote—

13 “(I) in the next election for Fed-  
14 eral office (and subsequent elections  
15 for Federal office), if an applicable  
16 agency transmits information under  
17 subsection (c)(1)(E) with respect to  
18 the individual not later than the appli-  
19 cable date; and

20 “(II) in subsequent elections for  
21 Federal office, if an applicable agency  
22 transmits information under sub-  
23 section (c)(1)(E) with respect to the  
24 individual after the applicable date;  
25 and

1           “(ii) not later than 60 days after the  
2 receipt of information described in sub-  
3 section (c)(1)(E) with respect to an indi-  
4 vidual, send written notice to the indi-  
5 vidual, in addition to other means of notice  
6 established under this section, of the voter  
7 registration status of the individual.

8           “(B) APPLICABLE DATE.—For purposes of  
9 this subsection, the term “applicable date”  
10 means, with respect to any election for Federal  
11 office, the later of—

12           “(i) the date that is 28 days before  
13 the date of the election; or

14           “(ii) the last day of the period pro-  
15 vided by State law for voter registration  
16 with respect to such election.

17           “(C) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this  
18 subsection shall prevent a chief State election  
19 official from registering an eligible individual to  
20 vote in the next election for Federal office in  
21 the State, including if an applicable agency  
22 transmits information under subsection  
23 (c)(1)(E) with respect to the individual after  
24 the applicable date.

1           “(3) TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18  
2 YEARS OF AGE.—

3           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
4 subparagraph (B), a State may not refuse to  
5 treat an individual as an eligible individual for  
6 purposes of this section on the grounds that the  
7 individual is less than 18 years of age on the  
8 date on which an applicable agency receives in-  
9 formation with respect to the individual, pro-  
10 vided that the individual is not less than 16  
11 years of age at that time.

12           “(B) EXCEPTION.—Nothing in subpara-  
13 graph (A) may be construed to require a State  
14 to permit an individual who is less than 18  
15 years of age on the date of an election for Fed-  
16 eral office to vote in the election.

17           “(c) APPLICABLE AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.—

18           “(1) INSTRUCTIONS ON AUTOMATIC REGISTRA-  
19 TION FOR AGENCIES COLLECTING CITIZENSHIP IN-  
20 FORMATION.—

21           “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise  
22 provided in this section, in the case of any ap-  
23 plicable transaction for which an applicable  
24 agency (in the normal course of the operations)  
25 requests (either directly or as part of the overall



1 application submitted for the applicable trans-  
2 action) that an individual affirm that the indi-  
3 vidual is a United States citizen, the applicable  
4 agency shall inform each such individual who is  
5 a citizen of the United States of the following:

6 “(i) Unless the individual declines to  
7 register to vote, or is found ineligible to  
8 vote—

9 “(I) the individual will be reg-  
10 istered to vote; or

11 “(II) if applicable, the voter reg-  
12 istration of the individual will be up-  
13 dated.

14 “(ii) With respect to the qualification  
15 to register to vote—

16 “(I) the substantive qualifications  
17 of an elector in the State as listed in  
18 the mail voter registration application  
19 form for elections for Federal office  
20 prescribed pursuant to section 9;

21 “(II) the consequences of false  
22 registration; and

23 “(III) how the individual should  
24 decline to register to vote if the indi-

1                   vidual does not meet requirements for  
2                   eligibility to vote in a Federal election.

3                   “(iii) In the case of a State in which  
4                   affiliation or enrollment with a political  
5                   party is required in order to participate in  
6                   an election for Federal office to select the  
7                   candidate of the political party, the re-  
8                   quirement that the individual must, in reg-  
9                   istering to vote, affiliate or enroll with a  
10                  political party in order to participate in  
11                  such an election.

12                  “(iv) With respect to voter registra-  
13                  tion by an individual—

14                         “(I) voter registration is vol-  
15                         untary;

16                         “(II) whether the individual reg-  
17                         isters or declines to register to vote  
18                         shall not affect the availability of any  
19                         service or benefit; and

20                         “(III) information relating to  
21                         whether the individual registers or de-  
22                         clines to register to vote may not be  
23                         used for other purposes.

24                         “(B)   INDIVIDUALS    WITH    LIMITED  
25                         ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.—

1           “(i) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—For pur-  
2           poses of this subparagraph, the term ‘cov-  
3           ered individual’ means an individual con-  
4           ducting an applicable transaction—

5                   “(I) who is a member of a group  
6                   that constitutes not less than 3 per-  
7                   cent of the overall population of the  
8                   State, as determined by the United  
9                   States Census Bureau, served by the  
10                  applicable agency; and

11                  “(II) who is limited English pro-  
12                  ficient.

13           “(ii) REQUIREMENT.—In providing  
14           information pursuant to subparagraph (A),  
15           an applicable agency shall provide the in-  
16           formation to any covered individual served  
17           by the applicable agency in a language un-  
18           derstood by the covered individual.

19           “(C) CLARIFICATION OF PROCEDURES FOR  
20           INELIGIBLE VOTERS.—An applicable agency  
21           may not provide an individual who did not af-  
22           firm United States citizenship, or for whom the  
23           applicable agency has conclusive documentary  
24           evidence obtained through the normal course of  
25           operations of the applicable agency that the in-

1           dividual is not a United States citizen, the op-  
2           portunity to register to vote under subpara-  
3           graph (A).

4           “(D) OPPORTUNITY TO DECLINE REG-  
5           ISTRATION REQUIRED.—

6           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as other-  
7           wise provided in this section, each applica-  
8           ble agency shall ensure that each applica-  
9           ble transaction described in subparagraph  
10          (A) may not be completed unless the indi-  
11          vidual is given the opportunity to decline  
12          to be registered to vote.

13          “(ii) LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT.—If  
14          an individual is a covered individual, as de-  
15          fined in subparagraph (B)(i), the covered  
16          individual shall be given the opportunity to  
17          decline to be registered to vote in a lan-  
18          guage understood by the covered indi-  
19          vidual.

20          “(E) INFORMATION TRANSMITTAL.—Not  
21          later than 10 days after an applicable trans-  
22          action with an eligible individual, if the eligible  
23          individual did not decline to be registered to  
24          vote, the applicable agency shall electronically  
25          transmit to the appropriate State election offi-

1           cial the following information with respect to  
2           the eligible individual:

3                   “(i) The given name and surname of  
4                   the eligible individual.

5                   “(ii) The date of birth of the eligible  
6                   individual.

7                   “(iii) The residential address of the  
8                   individual.

9                   “(iv) Information showing that the in-  
10                  dividual is a citizen of the United States.

11                  “(v) The date on which information  
12                  pertaining to the eligible individual was  
13                  collected or most recently updated.

14                  “(vi) If available, the signature of the  
15                  eligible individual in electronic form.

16                  “(vii) In the case of a State in which  
17                  affiliation or enrollment with a political  
18                  party is required in order to participate in  
19                  an election to select the candidate of the  
20                  political party in an election for Federal  
21                  office, information relating to the affli-  
22                  ation or enrollment of the eligible indi-  
23                  vidual with a political party, if the eligible  
24                  individual provides that information.

1           “(viii) Any additional information list-  
2           ed in the mail voter registration applica-  
3           tion form for elections for Federal office  
4           prescribed pursuant to section 9, including,  
5           if the eligible individual provides such in-  
6           formation—

7                   “(I) the valid driver’s license  
8                   number of the eligible individual; and

9                   “(II) the last 4 digits of the so-  
10                  cial security number of the eligible in-  
11                  dividual.

12           “(F) PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELAT-  
13           ING TO PARTICIPATION IN PRIMARY ELEC-  
14           TIONS.—In the case of a State in which affili-  
15           ation or enrollment with a political party is re-  
16           quired in order to participate in an election to  
17           select the candidate of a political party in an  
18           election for Federal office, if the information  
19           transmitted under subparagraph (E) with re-  
20           spect to an eligible individual does not include  
21           information regarding the affiliation or enroll-  
22           ment with a political party of the eligible indi-  
23           vidual, the chief State election official shall—

24                   “(i) notify the eligible individual that  
25                   such affiliation or enrollment is required to

1           participate in any primary election for  
2           Federal office; and

3           “(ii) provide an opportunity for the el-  
4           igible individual to update the registration  
5           of the eligible individual to denote the  
6           party affiliation or enrollment of the eligi-  
7           ble individual.

8           “(G) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this  
9           section shall be construed to require an applica-  
10          ble agency to transmit to an election official the  
11          information described in subparagraph (E) with  
12          respect to an individual who is ineligible to vote  
13          in an election for Federal office in the State,  
14          except to the extent required to pre-register a  
15          citizen between 16 and 18 years of age.

16          “(2) ALTERNATE PROCEDURE FOR CERTAIN  
17          OTHER APPLICABLE AGENCIES.—With each applica-  
18          ble transaction for which an applicable agency (in  
19          the normal course of the operations of the applicable  
20          agency) does not request an individual to affirm  
21          United States citizenship (either directly or as part  
22          of the overall application for service or assistance),  
23          the applicable agency shall—

24                  “(A) complete the requirements under sec-  
25                  tion 5;

1           “(B) ensure that each transaction by an  
2 individual with the applicable agency may not  
3 be completed unless the individual indicates  
4 whether the individual wishes to register to vote  
5 or declines to register to vote in elections for  
6 Federal office held in the State; and

7           “(C) for each individual who wishes to reg-  
8 ister to vote, transmit the information relating  
9 to the individual described in paragraph (1)(E),  
10 unless the applicable agency has conclusive doc-  
11 umentary evidence obtained through the normal  
12 course of operations of the applicable agency  
13 that the individual is not a United States cit-  
14 izen.

15           “(3) REQUIRED AVAILABILITY OF AUTOMATIC  
16 REGISTRATION OPPORTUNITY WITH EACH APPLICA-  
17 TION FOR SERVICE OR ASSISTANCE.—Each applica-  
18 ble agency shall offer each eligible individual, in con-  
19 ducting each applicable transaction, the opportunity  
20 to register to vote as prescribed by this section with-  
21 out regard to whether the individual previously de-  
22 clined an opportunity to register to vote.

23           “(d) VOTER PROTECTION.—

24           “(1) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION BY APPLI-  
25 CABLE AGENCIES.—Nothing in this section may be



1 construed to authorize an applicable agency to col-  
 2 lect, retain, transmit, or publicly disclose any of the  
 3 following, except as necessary to comply with title  
 4 III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960 (52 U.S.C.  
 5 20701 et seq.):

6 “(A) The decision of an individual to de-  
 7 cline to register to vote.

8 “(B) The decision of an individual not to  
 9 affirm the citizenship of the individual.

10 “(C) Any information that an applicable  
 11 agency transmits pursuant to subsection  
 12 (c)(1)(E), except in carrying out the ordinary  
 13 course of business of the applicable agency.

14 “(2) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION BY ELEC-  
 15 TIONS OFFICIALS.—

16 “(A) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE PROHIBITED.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-  
 18 vided in clause (ii), with respect to any in-  
 19 dividual with respect to whom any appro-  
 20 priate State election official receives infor-  
 21 mation from an applicable agency, the  
 22 State election official shall not publicly dis-  
 23 close—

24 “(I) any information not nec-  
 25 essary to voter registration;

1           “(II) any information of the indi-  
2           vidual otherwise protected from disclo-  
3           sure pursuant to section 8(a) or State  
4           law;

5           “(III) any portion of the social  
6           security number of the individual;

7           “(IV) any portion of the motor  
8           vehicle driver’s license number of the  
9           individual;

10          “(V) the signature of the indi-  
11          vidual;

12          “(VI) the telephone number of  
13          the individual; or

14          “(VII) the email address of the  
15          individual.

16          “(ii) SPECIAL RULE FOR INDIVIDUALS  
17          REGISTERED TO VOTE.—The prohibition  
18          on public disclosure under clause (i) shall  
19          not apply with respect to the telephone  
20          number or email address of any indi-  
21          vidual—

22          “(I) for whom any State election  
23          official receives information from the  
24          applicable agency; and

1                   “(II) who, on the basis of such  
2                   information, is registered to vote in  
3                   the State under this section.

4                   “(e) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—

5                   “(1) ACCESSIBILITY OF REGISTRATION SERV-  
6                   ICES.—Each applicable agency shall ensure that the  
7                   voter registration services the applicable agency pro-  
8                   vides under this section are made available to indi-  
9                   viduals with disabilities to the same extent as serv-  
10                  ices are made available to all other individuals.

11                  “(2) TRANSMISSION THROUGH SECURE THIRD  
12                  PARTY PERMITTED.—Nothing in the Register Amer-  
13                  ica to Vote Act of 2023 or this section shall be con-  
14                  strued to prevent an applicable agency from con-  
15                  tracting with a third party to assist the applicable  
16                  agency in meeting the information transmittal re-  
17                  quirements under this section, provided that the in-  
18                  formation transmittal complies with the applicable  
19                  requirements of this section, including provisions re-  
20                  lating privacy and security.

21                  “(3) NONPARTISAN, NONDISCRIMINATORY PRO-  
22                  VISION OF SERVICES.—The services made available  
23                  by applicable agencies under this section shall be  
24                  made in a manner consistent with paragraphs (4),  
25                  (5), and (6)(C) of section 7(a).

1           “(4) NOTICES.—

2                   “(A) ELECTRONIC NOTICES.—Each State  
3           may send notices under this section via elec-  
4           tronic mail if the individual has provided an  
5           electronic mail address and consented to elec-  
6           tronic mail communications for election-related  
7           materials.

8                   “(B) RESPONSE.—Any notice sent pursu-  
9           ant to this section that requires a response shall  
10          offer the individual to whom the notice is sent  
11          the opportunity to respond to the notice at no  
12          cost to the individual.

13                  “(5) REGISTRATION AT OTHER STATE OFFICES  
14          PERMITTED.—Nothing in this section may be con-  
15          strued to prohibit a State from offering voter reg-  
16          istration services described in this section at offices  
17          of the State other than the State motor vehicle au-  
18          thority.

19                  “(f) APPLICABILITY.—

20                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall not apply  
21          to an exempt State.

22                   “(2) EXEMPT STATE.—The term ‘exempt State’  
23          means a State that, under law that is in effect on  
24          or after the date of enactment of this Act, either—

1           “(A) has no voter registration requirement  
2 for any voter in the State with respect to a  
3 Federal election; or

4           “(B) operates a system of automatic reg-  
5 istration (as defined in subsection (a))—

6           “(i) at the motor vehicle authority of  
7 the State; or

8           “(ii) a Permanent Dividend Fund of  
9 the State under which an individual is pro-  
10 vided the opportunity to decline to register  
11 to vote—

12           “(I) during the transaction; or

13           “(II) by notice sent by mail or  
14 electronically after the transaction.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16           (1) Section 4(a) of the National Voter Registra-  
17 tion Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503(a)) is amended  
18 by—

19           (A) redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3)  
20 as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

21           (B) inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
22 lowing:

23           “(2) by application made simultaneously with  
24 an application for a motor vehicle driver’s license  
25 pursuant to section 5A;”.

1           (2) Section 4(b) of the National Voter Registra-  
2           tion Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503(b)) is amend-  
3           ed—

4                   (A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and  
5                   (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively,  
6                   and indenting appropriately;

7                   (B) by striking “STATES.—This Act” and  
8                   inserting “STATES.—

9                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
10                  graph (2), this Act”; and

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

13                  “(2) APPLICATION OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRA-  
14                  TION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 5A shall apply to a  
15                  State described in paragraph (1), unless the State is  
16                  an exempt State as defined in subsection (f)(2) of  
17                  that section.”.

18           (3) Section 8(a)(1) of the National Voter Reg-  
19           istration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)) is  
20           amended by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C),  
21           and (D) as subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E), respec-  
22           tively, and by inserting after subparagraph (A) the  
23           following:

1                   “(B) in the case of registration under sec-  
2                   tion 5A, within the period provided in section  
3                   5A(b)(2);”.

4 **SEC. 6. VOTER PROTECTION AND SECURITY IN AUTOMATIC**  
5 **REGISTRATION.**

6           (a) PROTECTIONS FOR ERRORS IN REGISTRATION.—

7 An individual shall not be prosecuted under any Federal  
8 or State law, adversely affected in any civil adjudication  
9 concerning immigration status or naturalization, or sub-  
10 ject to an allegation in any legal proceeding that the indi-  
11 vidual is not a citizen of the United States for any of the  
12 following reasons:

13           (1) The individual notifies an election office of  
14           the individual’s automatic registration to vote.

15           (2) The individual is not eligible to vote in elec-  
16           tions for Federal office but was automatically reg-  
17           istered to vote due to individual or applicable agency  
18           error.

19           (3) The individual was automatically registered  
20           to vote at an address that is not the correct residen-  
21           tial address of the individual.

22           (4) The individual declined the opportunity to  
23           register to vote or did not make an affirmation of  
24           citizenship when registering to vote, including  
25           through automatic registration.

1           (b) LIMITS ON USE OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRA-  
 2 TION.—The automatic registration (as defined in section  
 3 5A of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993) of any  
 4 individual, or the fact that an individual declined the op-  
 5 portunity to register to vote or did not make an affirma-  
 6 tion of citizenship (including through automatic registra-  
 7 tion), may not be used as evidence against that individual  
 8 in any State or Federal law enforcement proceeding or any  
 9 civil adjudication concerning immigration status or natu-  
 10 ralization, and the lack of knowledge or willfulness of the  
 11 individual in such registration may be demonstrated by  
 12 the testimony of the individual alone.

13           (c) PROTECTION OF ELECTION INTEGRITY.—Noth-  
 14 ing in subsection (a) or (b) shall be construed to prohibit  
 15 or restrict any action under color of law against an indi-  
 16 vidual who—

17                 (1) knowingly and willfully makes a false state-  
 18 ment to effectuate or perpetuate automatic voter  
 19 registration by any individual; or

20                 (2) casts a ballot knowingly and willfully in vio-  
 21 lation of State law or the laws of the United States.

22           (d) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION BY ELECTIONS  
 23 OFFICIALS.—

24                 (1) VOTER RECORD CHANGES.—Each State  
 25 shall maintain for at least 2 years, and shall make



1 available for public inspection (and, where available,  
2 photocopying at a reasonable cost), including in elec-  
3 tronic form and through electronic methods, all  
4 records of changes to voter records, including remov-  
5 als, the reasons for removals, and updates.

6 (2) DATABASE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS.—  
7 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment  
8 of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of  
9 Standards and Technology, in consultation with  
10 State and local election officials representing geo-  
11 graphic and socio-economic diversity, and the Elec-  
12 tion Assistance Commission, shall, after providing  
13 the public with notice and the opportunity to com-  
14 ment—

15 (A) establish standards governing the com-  
16 parison of data for voter registration list main-  
17 tenance purposes, identifying as part of those  
18 standards the specific data elements, the  
19 matching rules used, and how a State may use  
20 the data to determine and deem that an indi-  
21 vidual is ineligible under State law to vote in an  
22 election, or to deem a record to be a duplicate  
23 or outdated;

24 (B) ensure that the standards developed  
25 under this paragraph are uniform and non-

1 discriminatory and are applied in a uniform and  
2 nondiscriminatory manner;

3 (C) not later than 45 days after the dead-  
4 line for public notice and comment;

5 (i) publish the standards developed  
6 under this paragraph on the website of the  
7 National Institute of Standards and Tech-  
8 nology; and

9 (ii) make the standards developed  
10 under this paragraph available in written  
11 form upon request; and

12 (D) ensure that the standards developed  
13 under this paragraph are maintained and up-  
14 dated in a manner that reflects innovations and  
15 best practices in the security of database man-  
16 agement.

17 (3) SECURITY POLICY.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-  
20 rector of the National Institute of Standards  
21 and Technology shall, after providing the public  
22 with notice and the opportunity to comment,  
23 publish privacy and security standards for voter  
24 registration information not later than 45 days

1 after the deadline for public notice and com-  
2 ment.

3 (B) REQUIREMENT.—The standards devel-  
4 oped under this paragraph shall require the  
5 chief State election official of each State to  
6 adopt a policy that shall specify—

7 (i) each class of users who have au-  
8 thorized access to the computerized state-  
9 wide voter registration list—

10 (I) specifying for each class the  
11 permission and levels of access to be  
12 granted; and

13 (II) setting forth other safe-  
14 guards to protect the privacy, secu-  
15 rity, and accuracy of the information  
16 on voter registration lists; and

17 (ii) security safeguards to protect per-  
18 sonal information transmitted through—

19 (I) the information transmittal  
20 processes of section 5A(b) of the Na-  
21 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993;

22 (II) any telephone interface;

23 (III) the maintenance of the  
24 voter registration database; and

1 (IV) any audit procedure to track  
2 access to the system.

3 (C) MAINTENANCE AND UPDATING.—The  
4 Director of the National Institute of Standards  
5 and Technology shall ensure that the standards  
6 developed under this paragraph are maintained  
7 and updated in a manner that reflects innova-  
8 tions and best practices in the privacy and secu-  
9 rity of voter registration information.

10 (4) STATE COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL  
11 STANDARDS.—

12 (A) CERTIFICATION.—Each chief State  
13 election official of the State shall annually file  
14 with the Election Assistance Commission a  
15 statement certifying to the Director of the Na-  
16 tional Institute of Standards and Technology  
17 that the State is in compliance with the stand-  
18 ards developed under paragraphs (2) and (3),  
19 which requirement may be met if the chief  
20 State election official submits to the Election  
21 Assistance Commission a statement that states,  
22 “\_\_\_\_\_ hereby certifies that \_\_\_\_\_  
23 is in compliance with the standards referred to  
24 in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 6(d) of the  
25 Register America to Vote Act of 2023.”, with

1 the blank spaces to be completed with the name  
2 of the relevant State.

3 (B) PUBLICATION OF POLICIES AND PRO-  
4 CEDURES.—The chief State election official of a  
5 State shall—

6 (i) publish on the website of the chief  
7 State election official the policies and pro-  
8 cedures established under this section; and

9 (ii) make those policies and proce-  
10 dures available in written form upon public  
11 request.

12 (C) FUNDING DEPENDENT ON CERTIFI-  
13 CATION.—If a State does not timely file the cer-  
14 tification required under subparagraph (A), it  
15 shall not receive any payment under this Act  
16 for the upcoming fiscal year in which the State  
17 fails to make such certification.

18 (D) COMPLIANCE OF STATES THAT RE-  
19 QUIRE CHANGES TO STATE LAW.—In the case  
20 of a State that requires State legislation to  
21 carry out an activity covered by any certifi-  
22 cation submitted under this paragraph—

23 (i) for a period of not more than 2  
24 years, the State shall be permitted to make  
25 the certification notwithstanding that the

1                   legislation has not been enacted on the  
2                   date on which the State submits the cer-  
3                   tification; and

4                   (ii) the State shall submit an addi-  
5                   tional certification once such legislation is  
6                   enacted.

7           (e) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF INFORMATION.—No  
8 person acting under color of law may discriminate against  
9 any individual based on, or use for any purpose other than  
10 voter registration, election administration, juror selection,  
11 or enforcement relating to an election crime, any of the  
12 following:

13                   (1) Voter registration records.

14                   (2) The declination of an individual to register  
15 to vote or complete an affirmation of citizenship  
16 under section 5A of the National Voter Registration  
17 Act of 1993.

18                   (3) The voter registration status of an indi-  
19 vidual.

20           (f) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF VOTER REGISTRA-  
21 TION INFORMATION FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.—

22                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Information collected under  
23 this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall  
24 not be used for commercial purposes.

1           (2) DISSEMINATION FOR POLITICAL PUR-  
2           POSES.—Nothing in this subsection shall be con-  
3           strued to prohibit the transmission, exchange, or dis-  
4           semination of information for political purposes, in-  
5           cluding the support of campaigns for election for  
6           Federal, State, or local public office or the activities  
7           of political committees (including committees of po-  
8           litical parties) under the Federal Election Campaign  
9           Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 7. PAYMENTS AND GRANTS.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance Commis-  
12           sion shall make grants to each eligible State under sub-  
13           section (b) to assist the State in implementing the require-  
14           ments of this Act and the amendments made by this Act  
15           (or, in the case of an exempt State, in implementing the  
16           existing automatic voter registration program of the ex-  
17           empt State or expanding the automatic voter registration  
18           program of the State in a manner consistent with the re-  
19           quirements of this Act) with respect to the offices of the  
20           State motor vehicle authority and any other offices of the  
21           State at which the State offers voter registration services  
22           as described in this Act and the amendments made by this  
23           Act.

24           (b) ELIGIBILITY; APPLICATION.—A State is eligible  
25           to receive a grant under this section if the State submits

1 to the Election Assistance Commission, at such time and  
2 in such form as the Election Assistance Commission may  
3 require, an application containing—

4 (1) a description of the activities the State will  
5 carry out with the grant;

6 (2) an assurance that the State shall carry out  
7 such activities without partisan bias and without  
8 promoting any particular point of view regarding  
9 any issue; and

10 (3) any other information and assurances as  
11 the Election Assistance Commission may require.

12 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT; PRIORITIES.—

13 (1) AMOUNT.—The Commission shall determine  
14 the amount of a grant made to an eligible State  
15 under this section.

16 (2) PRIORITIES.—In determining the amount of  
17 a grant, the Election Assistance Commission shall  
18 give priority to providing funds for those activities  
19 that are most likely to accelerate compliance with  
20 the requirements of this Act (or, in the case of an  
21 exempt State, that are most likely to enhance the  
22 ability of the exempt State to automatically register  
23 individuals to vote through the existing automatic  
24 voter registration program of the exempt State), in-  
25 cluding—



1 (A) investments supporting electronic in-  
2 formation transfer, including electronic collec-  
3 tion and transfer of signatures, between appli-  
4 cable agencies (as defined in section 5A of the  
5 National Voter Registration Act of 1993) and  
6 the appropriate State election officials;

7 (B) updates to online or electronic voter  
8 registration systems already operating as of the  
9 date of the enactment of this Act;

10 (C) introduction of online voter registra-  
11 tion systems in jurisdictions in which those sys-  
12 tems did not previously exist; and

13 (D) public education on the availability of  
14 new methods of registering to vote, updating  
15 registration, and correcting registration.

16 (d) EXEMPT STATE.—For purposes of this section,  
17 the term “exempt State”—

18 (1) has the meaning given that term under sec-  
19 tion 5A(f)(2) of the National Voter Registration Act  
20 of 1993; and

21 (2) includes a State in which, under law in ef-  
22 fect on or after the date of the enactment of the Na-  
23 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993, there is no  
24 voter registration requirement for any voter in the  
25 State with respect to an election for Federal office.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

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

4 (A) \$3,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;  
5 and

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

8 (2) CONTINUING AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—

9 Any amounts appropriated pursuant to this sub-  
10 section shall remain available without fiscal year lim-  
11 itation until expended.

12 **SEC. 8. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.**

13 (a) ENFORCEMENT.—Section 11 of the National  
14 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510 et seq.),  
15 relating to civil enforcement and the availability of private  
16 rights of action, shall apply with respect to this Act in  
17 the same manner as such section applies to the National  
18 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510 et seq.).

19 (b) RELATION TO OTHER LAWS.—Except as pro-  
20 vided, nothing in this Act or the amendments made by  
21 this Act may be construed to authorize or require conduct  
22 prohibited under, or to supersede, restrict, or limit the ap-  
23 plication of any of the following:

24 (1) The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.  
25 10301 et seq.).

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

3           (3) Except as provided by the amendment made  
4           under section 5 of this Act, the National Voter Reg-  
5           istration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

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

8           (5) The Americans with Disabilities Act of  
9           1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

10 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11           (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
12 (b), this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
13 apply on and after January 1, 2024.

14           (b) WAIVER.—If a State certifies to the Elections As-  
15 sistance Commission not later than January 1, 2024, that  
16 the State will not meet the deadline described in sub-  
17 section (a) because it would be impracticable to do so and  
18 includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to  
19 meet that deadline, subsection (a) shall apply to the State  
20 as if the reference in such subsection to “January 1,  
21 2024” were a reference to “January 1, 2026”.

○