

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1937

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to improve the operations of the Election Assistance Commission, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to improve the operations of the Election Assistance Commission, 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 “EAC Improvements
5 Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF COMMISSION.**

7 (a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 210 of the Help
8 America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15330) is amended
9 by striking “for each of the fiscal years 2003 through

1 2005” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 2012
2 through 2016”.

3 (b) TREATMENT OF COMMISSION IN SAME MANNER
4 AS FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR PURPOSES OF
5 PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Section 3502(1) of title
6 44, United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C),
8 and (D) as subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E); and

9 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
10 lowing new subparagraph:

11 “(B) the Election Assistance Commis-
12 sion;”.

13 **SEC. 3. REQUIRING STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN POST-GEN-
14 ERAL ELECTION SURVEYS.**

15 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Title III of the Help America
16 Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15481 et seq.) is amended
17 by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 303A. REQUIRING PARTICIPATION IN POST-GENERAL
19 ELECTION SURVEYS.**

20 “(a) REQUIREMENT.—Each State shall furnish to the
21 Commission such information as the Commission may re-
22 quest for purposes of conducting any post-election survey
23 of the States with respect to the administration of a regu-
24 larly scheduled general election for Federal office.

1 “(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply
2 with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for
3 Federal office held in November 2012 and any succeeding
4 election.”.

5 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-
6 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 15511)
7 is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and
8 303A”.

9 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
10 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
11 to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 303A. Requiring participation in post-general election surveys.”.

12 **SEC. 4. DETERMINING EXTENT TO WHICH DISABLED INDI-**
13 **VIDUALS HAVE ACCESS TO POLLING PLACES.**

14 (a) ONGOING SURVEYS OF COMPLIANCE WITH
15 ADA.—In accordance with section 241 of the Help Amer-
16 ica Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15381), not later than
17 180 days after the date of the regularly scheduled general
18 election for Federal office held in November 2012 and
19 each succeeding regularly scheduled general election for
20 Federal office, the Election Assistance Commission, shall,
21 with the assistance of the Comptroller General, conduct
22 and publish a survey of each polling place used for the
23 election to determine the percentage of such polling places
24 that were in compliance with the standards applicable to

1 such locations under the Americans With Disabilities Act
2 of 1990.

3 (b) EVALUATION OF NEED TO CONTINUE SUR-
4 VEYS.—At the time the Election Assistance Commission
5 publishes the results of the survey conducted under sub-
6 section (a) with respect to the regularly scheduled general
7 election for Federal office held in November 2020, the
8 Commission shall evaluate and make a recommendation
9 to Congress regarding whether the percentage of polling
10 places in compliance with the standards applicable to such
11 locations under the Americans With Disabilities Act of
12 1990 has increased to such an extent that there is no
13 longer a need to conduct surveys under subsection (a) with
14 respect to subsequent elections.

15 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES AND FEE**
16 **SCHEDULES FOR CONDUCTING TESTING OF**
17 **VOTING EQUIPMENT HARDWARE AND SOFT-**
18 **WARE; PAYMENT OF USER FEES FOR COM-**
19 **PENSATION OF ACCREDITED LABORATORIES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 231(b) of the Help Amer-
21 ica Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15371(b)) is amended
22 by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

23 “(3) PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING TESTING;
24 PAYMENT OF USER FEES FOR COMPENSATION OF
25 ACCREDITED LABORATORIES.—

1 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF ESCROW AC-
2 COUNT.—The Commission shall establish an es-
3 crow account (to be known as the ‘Testing Es-
4 crow Account’) that will serve as the exclusive
5 source for making payments to accredited lab-
6 oratories for the costs of the testing carried out
7 in connection with the certification, decertifica-
8 tion, and recertification of voting system hard-
9 ware and software.

10 “(B) SCHEDULE OF FEES.—In consulta-
11 tion with the accredited laboratories, the Com-
12 mission shall establish and regularly update a
13 schedule of fees for the testing carried out in
14 connection with the certification, decertification,
15 and recertification of voting system hardware
16 and software, based on the reasonable costs ex-
17 pected to be incurred by the accredited labora-
18 tories in carrying out the testing for various
19 types of hardware and software.

20 “(C) REQUESTS AND PAYMENTS BY MANU-
21 FACTURERS.—A manufacturer of voting system
22 hardware and software may not have the hard-
23 ware or software tested by an accredited labora-
24 tory under this section unless—

1 “(i) the manufacturer submits a de-
2 tailed request for the testing to the Com-
3 mission;

4 “(ii) the request provides sufficient in-
5 formation for the Commission to determine
6 the applicable fee for the testing under the
7 schedule established and in effect under
8 subparagraph (B);

9 “(iii) the Commission approves the re-
10 quest; and

11 “(iv) the manufacturer pays to the
12 Commission, for deposit into the Testing
13 Escrow Account established under sub-
14 paragraph (A), the applicable fee for the
15 testing.

16 “(D) SELECTION OF LABORATORY.—Upon
17 approving a request for testing and receiving
18 the payment from a manufacturer required
19 under subparagraph (C), the Commission shall
20 select at random (to the greatest extent prac-
21 ticable), from all laboratories which are accred-
22 ited under this section to carry out the specific
23 testing requested by the manufacturer, an ac-
24 credited laboratory to carry out the testing.

1 “(E) PAYMENTS TO LABORATORIES.—
2 Upon determining that a laboratory selected to
3 carry out testing pursuant to subparagraph (D)
4 has completed the testing in accordance with
5 the approved request, the Commission shall
6 make a payment to the laboratory from the
7 Testing Escrow Account established under sub-
8 paragraph (A) in an amount equal to the appli-
9 cable fee paid by the manufacturer under sub-
10 paragraph (C)(iv).

11 “(4) DISSEMINATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMA-
12 TION ON ACCREDITED LABORATORIES.—

13 “(A) LIST OF ACCREDITED LABORA-
14 TORIES.—The Commission shall maintain and
15 publish an updated list of all accredited labora-
16 tories under this section.

17 “(B) INFORMATION ON STATUS OF LAB-
18 ORATORIES.—In addition to updating the list
19 maintained and published under subparagraph
20 (A), the Commission shall promptly notify Con-
21 gress, the chief State election official of each
22 State, and the public whenever—

23 “(i) the Commission revokes, termi-
24 nates, or suspends the accreditation of a
25 laboratory under this section;

1 “(ii) the Commission restores the ac-
2 creditation of a laboratory under this sec-
3 tion which has been revoked, terminated,
4 or suspended; or

5 “(iii) the Commission has credible evi-
6 dence of a significant security failure at an
7 accredited laboratory.

8 “(C) INFORMATION ON TESTING.—Upon
9 completion of the testing of a voting system
10 under this section, the Commission shall
11 promptly disseminate to the public the identi-
12 fication of the laboratory which carried out the
13 testing.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 231 of
15 such Act (42 U.S.C. 15371) is further amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “testing,
17 certification,” and all that follows and inserting the
18 following: “testing of voting system hardware and
19 software by accredited laboratories in connection
20 with the certification, decertification, and recertifi-
21 cation of the hardware and software for purposes of
22 this Act.”;

23 (2) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “testing,
24 certification,” and all that follows and inserting the
25 following: “testing of its voting system hardware and

1 software by the laboratories accredited by the Com-
2 mission under this section in connection with certi-
3 fying, decertifying, and recertifying the hardware
4 and software.”;

5 (3) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “testing,
6 certification, decertification, and recertification” and
7 inserting “testing”; and

8 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “testing, cer-
9 tification, decertification, and recertification” each
10 place it appears and inserting “testing”.

11 (c) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ESCROW AC-
12 COUNT AND SCHEDULE OF FEES.—The Election Assist-
13 ance Commission shall establish the Testing Escrow Ac-
14 count and schedule of fees described in section 231(b)(3)
15 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (as added by sub-
16 section (a)) not later than January 1, 2012.

17 **SEC. 6. STUDIES OF METHODS TO REDUCE COSTS OF AD-**
18 **MINISTERING ELECTIONS.**

19 (a) ANALYSIS OF FACTORS AFFECTING COSTS OF
20 ADMINISTERING ELECTIONS.—The Election Assistance
21 Commission shall conduct a study analyzing various fac-
22 tors that affect the costs to States and units of local gov-
23 ernment of administering elections for Federal office, in-
24 cluding the following specific factors:

1 (1) The durability of the equipment used in vot-
2 ing systems.

3 (2) The extent to which States and units of
4 local government must replace existing systems be-
5 cause such systems are not capable of using en-
6 hanced software or are not capable of being up-
7 graded in a cost-effective manner.

8 (3) The lack of competition among vendors and
9 manufacturers of the equipment used in voting sys-
10 tems because of consolidation in the voting system
11 industry.

12 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STEPS TO REDUCE
13 COSTS.—The Commission shall include in the study con-
14 ducted under this section such recommendations as the
15 Commission shall consider appropriate to reduce the costs
16 incurred by States and units of local government in ad-
17 ministering elections for Federal office, including rec-
18 ommendations for legislative action by Congress or the
19 States.

20 (c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
22 submit the study conducted under this section to Con-
23 gress.

1 **SEC. 7. STUDY OF METHODS FOR INCREASING EFFICIENCY**
2 **AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTION AS-**
3 **SISTANCE COMMISSION.**

4 (a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General shall conduct
5 a study of the administrative operations of the Election
6 Assistance Commission, and shall include in the study an
7 analysis of various methods for increasing the efficiency
8 and cost-effectiveness of such operations.

9 (b) **DEADLINE; REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
11 troller General shall submit to Congress a report on the
12 study conducted under subsection (a), and shall include
13 in the report such recommendations as the Comptroller
14 General considers appropriate.

15 (c) **PARTICIPATION OF ELECTION ASSISTANCE COM-**
16 **MISSION.**—The Election Assistance Commission shall pro-
17 vide the Comptroller General with such assistance as the
18 Comptroller General may require to carry out this section.

○