

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10215

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 2024

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LIEU, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

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

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Our Homes, Our Votes
3 Act”.

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

7 (a) TREATMENT OF LEASE AS SIMULTANEOUS AP-
8 PPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION.—

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

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

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

17 “(1) APPLICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRA-
18 TION.—Each lease and annual income recertification
19 for a PHA-assisted dwelling unit (as such term is
20 defined in subsection (h)) submitted to the applica-
21 ble public housing agency for such unit shall serve
22 as an application for voter registration with respect
23 to elections for Federal office for each lessee who
24 signs the lease unless the lessee fails to sign the
25 voter registration application.

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

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

9 “(c) FORMS AND PROCEDURES.—

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

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

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

22 “(B) may require only the minimum
23 amount of information necessary to—

24 “(i) prevent duplicate voter registra-
25 tions; and

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

5 “(C) shall include a statement that—

6 “(i) states each eligibility requirement
7 (including citizenship);

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

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

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

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

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

24 “(iii) a statement that if an applicant
25 does register to vote, the office at which

1 the applicant submits a voter registration
2 application will remain confidential and
3 will be used only for voter registration pur-
4 poses; and

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

9 “(d) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS TO ENSURE COMPLI-
10 ANCE WITH VOTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—

11 “(1) TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES.—The owner
12 of a PHA-assisted dwelling unit shall ensure that its
13 employees receive annual training on voter registra-
14 tion procedures applicable to the PHA-assisted
15 dwelling unit under this Act.

16 “(2) LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR CITIZENS WITH
17 LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.—In accordance
18 with section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965
19 (52 U.S.C. 10503), the owner of a PHA-assisted
20 dwelling unit shall ensure that its employees provide
21 the services required under this Act in a manner
22 which ensures that individuals who are members of
23 a single language minority and are limited-English
24 proficient receive such services, including the por-
25 tions of the leasing document which serve as voter

1 registration materials and the assistance provided by
2 the owner in the administration of such materials, in
3 the language of the applicable minority group as well
4 as in the English language.

5 “(3) COMPLIANCE FOR PRIVATE LANDLORDS OF
6 SUBSIDIZED HOUSING.—The owner of a PHA-as-
7 sisted dwelling unit described in subsection
8 (h)(1)(B) shall include a clause in its contract with
9 the applicable public housing agency that mandates
10 compliance with voter registration duties under this
11 section or any other Federal law, rule, or regulation,
12 including Executive Order 14019. Failure to comply
13 may result in penalties or sanctions under the De-
14 partment of Housing and Urban Development con-
15 tract.

16 “(e) ENFORCEMENT AND OVERSIGHT.—

17 “(1) STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL RESPONSI-
18 BILITY.—The chief State election official designated
19 under section 10 to be responsible for coordination
20 of State responsibilities under this Act, in consulta-
21 tion with the Election Assistance Commission and
22 the Attorney General shall oversee the compliance of
23 owners of PHA-assisted dwelling units with the re-
24 quirements of this section, including requirements

1 for the timely transmittal of voter registration mate-
2 rials.

3 “(2) CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLI-
4 ANCE.—An owner of a PHA-assisted dwelling unit
5 who fails to comply with this section, including fail-
6 ing to transmit voter registration materials to the
7 appropriate election offices in a timely manner, shall
8 be subject to the criminal penalties described in sec-
9 tion 12.

10 “(f) REQUIREMENTS TO REPORT ON COMPLIANCE.—

11 “(1) BIENNIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR
12 OWNERS OF PHA-ASSISTED DWELLING UNITS.—The
13 owner of a PHA-assisted dwelling unit shall submit
14 biannual reports to chief State election official des-
15 ignated under section 10 to be responsible for co-
16 ordination of State responsibilities under this Act
17 detailing the compliance of the unit with the applica-
18 ble provisions of this Act, including the following:

19 “(A) REGISTERING VOTERS.—The number
20 of voter registration applications submitted on
21 behalf of eligible tenants residing in the unit.

22 “(B) TRAINING EMPLOYEES.—Documenta-
23 tion of staff participation in the annual voter
24 registration training mandated under subsection
25 (d)(1).

1 “(C) LANGUAGE ACCESS SUPPORT.—A
2 summary of language access services provided
3 to non-English-speaking tenants who are eligi-
4 ble to register to vote, as required under sub-
5 section (d)(2).

6 “(2) COORDINATION WITH STATE ELECTION
7 OFFICIALS.—The owner of a PHA-assisted dwelling
8 unit shall coordinate with State election officials to
9 ensure that the owner’s voter registration activities
10 comply with the requirements of this Act, and shall,
11 in accordance with such deadlines as may be estab-
12 lished by the chief State election official designated
13 under section 10 to be responsible for coordination
14 of State responsibilities under this Act—

15 “(A) certify to such official that the unit
16 has processed all voter registration applications
17 submitted to the owner in a timely manner and
18 in accordance with State law; and

19 “(B) submit to such official evidence of the
20 owner’s ongoing compliance with all applicable
21 voter registration provisions of this Act.

22 “(3) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON REQUIRE-
23 MENTS IN REPORTS TO COMMISSION.—The biannual
24 reports submitted by the State election official to the
25 Election Assistance Commission under the Help

1 America Vote Act of 2002 shall specifically include
2 sections detailing the efforts of owners of PHA-as-
3 sisted dwelling units to ensure that all eligible ten-
4 ants have access to voter registration forms and
5 services under this section, as well as their compli-
6 ance with the registration requirements outlined in
7 this section.

8 “(g) TRANSMITTAL.—

9 “(1) BY OWNER.—In the case of lease or an-
10 nual income recertification for a PHA-assisted dwell-
11 ing unit described in subsection (h)(1)(B), the owner
12 of the dwelling unit shall transmit a completed voter
13 registration portion of a lease or annual income re-
14 certification to the public housing agency providing
15 assistance with respect to such unit not later than
16 10 days after the date of acceptance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (A) in subsection (a)(2)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 “(N) the program for assistance for Indian
2 tribes and tribally designated housing entities
3 authorized under title I of the Native American
4 Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
5 of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.).

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

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

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

19 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
20 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to assist-
21 ance provided on or after the expiration of the 90-
22 day period beginning on the date of the enactment
23 of this Act.

○