

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4407

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to direct the Standards Board of the Election Assistance Commission to release voluntary considerations with respect to the administration of elections for Federal office.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2023

Mr. FEENSTRA 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 direct the Standards Board of the Election Assistance Commission to release voluntary considerations with respect to the administration of elections for Federal office.

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 “Voluntarily Offered
5 Tools for Election Reforms by States Act” or the “VOT-
6 ERS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELECTION INTEGRITY VOLUNTARY CONSIDER-**
2 **ATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the Help
4 America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20981 et seq.) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by redesignating section 247 as section 248;

7 and

8 (2) by inserting after section 246 the following
9 new section:

10 **“SEC. 247. RELEASE OF VOLUNTARY CONSIDERATIONS BY**
11 **STANDARDS BOARD WITH RESPECT TO ELEC-**
12 **TION ADMINISTRATION.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Standards Board shall draw
14 from experiences in their home jurisdictions and informa-
15 tion voluntarily provided by and between States on what
16 has worked and not worked and release voluntary consid-
17 erations with respect to the administration of an election
18 for Federal office.

19 “(b) MATTERS TO CONSIDER.—In releasing the vol-
20 untary considerations under subsection (a), the Standards
21 Board shall examine and consolidate information provided
22 by States and release considerations with respect to each
23 of the following categories:

24 “(1) The process for the administration of bal-
25 lots delivered by mail, including—

1 “(A) deadlines for the return and receipt
2 of such ballots to the appropriate election offi-
3 cial;

4 “(B) the design of such ballots, including
5 the envelopes used to deliver the ballots;

6 “(C) the process for requesting and track-
7 ing the return of such ballots; and

8 “(D) the processing of such ballots upon
9 receipt by the appropriate election official, in-
10 cluding the schedule for counting the ballots
11 and the reporting of the unofficial results of
12 such counting.

13 “(2) The signature verification procedures used
14 to verify the identity of voters in an election, which
15 shall include an evaluation of human and machine
16 methods of signature verification, an assessment of
17 the training provided to individuals tasked to carry
18 out such verification procedures, and the proposal of
19 other less subjective methods of confirming the iden-
20 tity of a voter such as requiring the identification
21 number of a valid government-issued photo identi-
22 fication or the last four digits of the voter’s social
23 security number to be provided along with the vot-
24 er’s signature.

1 “(3) The processes used to carry out mainte-
2 nance of the official list of persons registered to vote
3 in each State.

4 “(4) Rules and requirements with respect to the
5 access provided to election observers.

6 “(5) The processes used to ensure the timely
7 and accurate reporting of the unofficial results of
8 ballot counting in each polling place in a State and
9 the reporting of the unofficial results of such count-
10 ing.

11 “(6) The methods used to recruit poll workers
12 and designate the location of polling places during a
13 pandemic, natural disaster, or other emergency.

14 “(7) The education of the public with respect to
15 the certification and testing of voting machines prior
16 to the use of such machines in an election for Fed-
17 eral office, including education with respect to how
18 such machines are tested for accuracy and logic.

19 “(8) The processes and procedures used to
20 carry out a post-election audit.

21 “(9) The processes and procedures used to en-
22 sure a secure chain of custody with respect to ballots
23 and election equipment.

24 “(c) RELEASE OF VOLUNTARY CONSIDERATIONS.—

1 “(1) DEADLINE FOR RELEASE.—Not later than
2 December 31, 2024, the Standards Board shall re-
3 lease voluntary considerations with respect to each
4 of the categories described in subsection (b).

5 “(2) TRANSMISSION AND NOTIFICATION RE-
6 QUIREMENTS.—Not later than 15 days after the
7 date the Standards Board releases voluntary consid-
8 erations with respect to a category described in sub-
9 section (b), the Commission shall—

10 “(A) transmit the considerations to the
11 chief State election official of each State and
12 the elected leadership of the legislature of each
13 State, including the elected leadership of any
14 committee of the legislature of a State with ju-
15 risdiction with respect to elections;

16 “(B) make the considerations available on
17 a publicly accessible Government website; and

18 “(C) notify and transmit the consider-
19 ations to the chair and ranking minority mem-
20 ber of the Committee on House Administration
21 of the House of Representatives and the chair
22 and ranking minority member of the Committee
23 on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

24 “(d) USE OF REQUIREMENTS PAYMENTS FOR IMPLE-
25 MENTATION OF VOLUNTARY CONSIDERATIONS.—A State

1 may use a requirements payment provided under this Act
2 to implement any of the voluntary considerations released
3 under subsection (a).

4 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion may be construed—

6 “(1) to require compliance with the voluntary
7 considerations released under subsection (a), includ-
8 ing as a condition of the receipt of Federal funds;
9 or

10 “(2) to treat the lack of compliance with such
11 considerations as a violation of the Voting Rights
12 Act of 1965 or to treat compliance with such consid-
13 erations as a defense against an alleged violation of
14 such Act.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
16 of such Act is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating the item relating to section
18 247 as relating to section 248; and

19 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
20 tion 246 the following new item:

“Sec. 247. Release of voluntary considerations by Standards Board with respect
to election administration.”.

○