

113TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2017

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. NELSON) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

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## A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that voters in elections for Federal office do not wait in long lines in order to vote.

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 “Lines Interfere with  
5 National Elections Act of 2014” or the “LINE Act of  
6 2014”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Excessive wait times at the election polls  
2           create an obstacle to an eligible citizen’s funda-  
3           mental right to vote.

4           (2) The Presidential Commission on Election  
5           Administration found that, on the date of the 2012  
6           Federal election, over 5,000,000 voters experienced  
7           wait times exceeding one hour, and an additional  
8           5,000,000 waited between a half hour and an hour.

9           (3) The Presidential Commission on Election  
10          Administration found that several million eligible  
11          voters stand in line for an unacceptably long time in  
12          order to cast a vote in a Federal election, year after  
13          year.

14          (4) The Presidential Commission on Election  
15          Administration found that excessive wait times are  
16          avoidable if the jurisdiction has undergone proper  
17          planning and develops systems to inform the respon-  
18          sible authorities when a breakdown occurs.

19          (5) The Presidential Commission on Election  
20          Administration concluded that, as a general rule, no  
21          voter should have to wait more than half an hour in  
22          order to have an opportunity to vote.

23          (6) The Presidential Commission on Election  
24          Administration offered several recommendations and  
25          best practices that could directly reduce voter lines.

1 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to imple-  
 2 ment the Presidential Commission on Election Adminis-  
 3 tration’s recommendations aimed at reducing long lines at  
 4 the election polls.

5 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR JURISDICTIONS WITH SUB-**  
 6 **STANTIAL VOTER WAIT TIMES.**

7 (a) REMEDIAL PLANS FOR STATES WITH EXCESSIVE  
 8 WAIT TIMES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Help America Vote Act  
 10 of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15301 et seq.) is amended by  
 11 adding at the end the following new title:

12 **“TITLE X—REMEDIAL PLANS**  
 13 **FOR STATES WITH EXCESSIVE**  
 14 **WAIT TIMES**

15 **“SEC. 1001. REMEDIAL PLANS FOR STATES WITH EXCES-**  
 16 **SIVE WAIT TIMES.**

17 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each jurisdiction for which the  
 18 Attorney General, to the maximum extent practicable in  
 19 coordination with the Commission, determines that a sub-  
 20 stantial number of voters waited more than 30 minutes  
 21 to cast a vote in the election for Federal office held on  
 22 November 6, 2012, or any election for Federal office held  
 23 on or after such date, shall comply with a State remedial  
 24 plan established under this section in accordance with sub-  
 25 section (b).

1           “(b) STATE REMEDIAL PLANS.—The Attorney Gen-  
2 eral, to the maximum extent practicable in coordination  
3 with the Commission, shall establish for each State or ju-  
4 risdiction which is required to comply with this section a  
5 State remedial plan to minimize the waiting times of indi-  
6 viduals voting in the State or jurisdiction in any election  
7 for Federal office.

8           “(c) JURISDICTION DEFINED.—For purposes of this  
9 section, the term ‘jurisdiction’ has the meaning given the  
10 term ‘registrar’s jurisdiction’ in section 8(j) of the Na-  
11 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-  
12 6(j)).

13           “(d) FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE.—Not later than  
14 March 1 of the year following the year in which an election  
15 for Federal office is held, the Attorney General, to the  
16 maximum extent practicable in coordination with the Com-  
17 mission, shall publish in the Federal Register a list of  
18 States and jurisdictions that are required to comply with  
19 a State remedial plan under this section.

20           “(e) STATE REMEDIAL PLAN CERTIFICATION.—Not  
21 later than September 1 of the year following the year in  
22 which the Attorney General publishes in the Federal Reg-  
23 ister a list described in subsection (d), the governor of  
24 each State included on the list shall submit to the Attor-  
25 ney General a letter certifying that the State has made

1 a good faith effort to comply with the State remedial plan  
2 established for the State under this section.”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 401  
4 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C.  
5 15511), as amended by section 2(a)(2), is amended  
6 by striking “and 403” and inserting “403, and the  
7 requirements of title X”.

8 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
9 tents of such Act is amended by adding at the end  
10 the following:

“TITLE X—REMEDIAL PLANS FOR STATES WITH EXCESSIVE  
WAIT TIMES

“Sec. 1001. Remedial plans for States with excessive wait times.”.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
12 this section shall take effect on the date of enactment of  
13 this Act.

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