

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To expand vote by mail and early voting, and to improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of in-person voting during elections for Federal office.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. HARRIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To expand vote by mail and early voting, and to improve the safety, accessibility, and efficiency of in-person voting during 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 “VoteSafe Act of 2020”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

- 7 (1) The right to vote is the foundation of Amer-  
8 ican democracy. Voting provides the citizenry with a  
9 vital check on their elected officials and grants peo-

1       ple the political power necessary to exercise and de-  
2       fend the rights guaranteed by the United States  
3       Constitution.

4           (2) The Elections Clause of the United States  
5       Constitution gives Congress sweeping power to regu-  
6       late the time, place, and manner of Federal elections  
7       (Article I, section 4 of the Constitution of the  
8       United States; see also *Arizona v. Inter Tribal*  
9       *Council of Arizona, Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1 (2013)). Con-  
10      gress also has enforcement power under the Four-  
11      teenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the Constitu-  
12      tion of the United States.

13           (3) As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. explained in  
14      a speech delivered on May 17, 1957, “So long as I  
15      do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to  
16      vote I do not possess myself. I cannot make up my  
17      mind—it is made up for me. I cannot live as a  
18      democratic citizen, observing the laws I have helped  
19      to enact—I can only submit to the edict of others.”.

20           (4) The right to vote was not guaranteed to all  
21      Americans at our Nation’s founding. The ratification  
22      of the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments, the  
23      civil rights movement’s struggle for justice and  
24      equality, and the enactment of the Voting Rights

1 Act of 1965 and its subsequent amendments suc-  
2 ceeded in expanding access to the franchise.

3 (5) Unfortunately, the barriers faced by voters  
4 who have historically experienced the greatest obsta-  
5 cles to voting are exacerbated by the coronavirus  
6 (COVID–19) pandemic.

7 (6) Strategies to mitigate the spread of  
8 COVID–19 include “social distancing”, a practice  
9 that requires individuals to maintain a distance be-  
10 tween themselves and other people in order to avoid  
11 acquiring or transmitting the virus. The need to em-  
12 brace such precautions will require States to quickly  
13 modify voting processes to minimize person-to-per-  
14 son contact.

15 (7) Voting by mail is a critical part of the solu-  
16 tion and must be expanded as quickly as possible,  
17 not simply as a means of ensuring access during  
18 public health emergencies, but also as a means of ex-  
19 panding access to the franchise to those whose work,  
20 health, or ability to access the ballot may be limited.

21 (8) However, safe and secure in-person voting  
22 remains vitally important for large groups of voters,  
23 including voters with disabilities, language minority  
24 voters, American Indian and Alaska Native voters,  
25 and African American voters.

1           (9) The Americans with Disabilities Act of  
2           1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and the Rehabilita-  
3           tion Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) require  
4           that individuals with disabilities have equal access to  
5           every aspect of the voting process. Vote-by-mail  
6           poses various accessibility challenges for voters with  
7           disabilities, including blind, low-vision, or other  
8           print-disabled voters who may require in-person vot-  
9           ing or assistive technology in order to privately and  
10          independently mark their ballots. Remedies for vot-  
11          ers with disabilities require an investment of re-  
12          sources to ensure State and local election websites,  
13          online voter registration portals, and vote-by-mail  
14          systems are accessible; that in-person voting loca-  
15          tions permit a safe, dignified, and accessible voting  
16          experience; and that the right of voters with disabil-  
17          ities to a secret ballot is not sacrificed due to the  
18          pandemic.

19          (10) Language minority voters face unique bar-  
20          riers to voting that require additional resources and  
21          support to ensure full and equal access, including  
22          additional resources to ensure local compliance with  
23          the language minority voting protections in section  
24          203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.  
25          10503) and greater language assistance services, in-

1 including additional bilingual or multilingual poll  
2 workers and election workers.

3 (11) American Indian and Alaska Native voters  
4 face unique obstacles in a vote-by-mail system. Trib-  
5 al communities in rural areas often do not have tra-  
6 ditional residential mailing addresses and have lim-  
7 ited access to transportation. Tribal members have  
8 distant rural post offices, slow mail routes, limited  
9 numbers of post office operation, and too few post  
10 office boxes. As a result, rural Tribal communities  
11 require distinct voting accommodations to ensure  
12 participation in a vote-by-mail system.

13 (12) Finally, in-person voting holds great sig-  
14 nificance for African American voters, for whom the  
15 right to vote was hard won. African Americans have  
16 been excluded from the franchise through State and  
17 local laws, poll taxes, voting literacy tests, physical  
18 violence, and lynchings. For many African American  
19 voters today, casting a ballot at one's polling place  
20 is a solemn ritual that honors those who sacrificed  
21 their safety and their lives in order to secure the  
22 right to vote. However, COVID-19 poses substantial  
23 risks to the African American population and has in-  
24 fected and killed African Americans in the United  
25 States at disproportionately high rates, highlighting

1 longstanding inequalities in resources and access to  
2 health care.

3 (13) Social distancing designed to curb the  
4 COVID–19 pandemic will also greatly impact in-per-  
5 son voter registration efforts, including voter reg-  
6 istration drives and voter registration services re-  
7 quired by the National Voter Registration Act. Many  
8 government offices, like State departments of motor  
9 vehicles, are currently closed to in-person traffic and  
10 are likely to remain closed for an indefinite period  
11 of time in 2020.

12 (14) Therefore, it is appropriate for Congress  
13 to expand no-excuse absentee vote-by-mail while also  
14 ensuring the safety and accessibility of in-person  
15 voting and voter registration during exigent cir-  
16 cumstances, including the current pandemic.

17 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOT-**  
18 **ING, EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING, AND PLAN**  
19 **TO ENSURE POLLING PLACES IMPLEMENT**  
20 **CDC GUIDANCE FOR FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN**  
21 **2020.**

22 (a) APPLICABLE FEDERAL ELECTION.—For pur-  
23 poses of this section, the term “applicable Federal elec-  
24 tion” means any election for Federal office which occurs

1 on or after the date that is 60 days after the date of the  
2 enactment of this Act and before January 1, 2021.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of any applicable  
4 Federal election, each State and local jurisdiction shall—

5 (1) permit no-excuse mail-in absentee voting as  
6 described in subsection (c);

7 (2) maintain an early in-person voting period as  
8 described in subsection (d); and

9 (3) establish a plan as described in subsection  
10 (e) with respect to in-person voting, including during  
11 early voting periods and on the day of the election.

12 (c) NO-EXCUSE MAIL-IN ABSENTEE VOTING.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—No-excuse mail-in absentee  
14 voting meets the requirements described in this sub-  
15 section with respect to an applicable Federal elec-  
16 tion, if the State—

17 (A) provides a no-excuse mail-in absentee  
18 ballot to every registered voter who requests  
19 such a ballot (or, in the case of any State that  
20 does not register voters, to every individual who  
21 is eligible to vote and requests such a ballot);

22 (B) allows voters to request a mail-in ab-  
23 sentee ballot online;

24 (C) if the State requires a signature for  
25 absentee ballots, allows voters to provide their

1 signature by providing a mark or signature  
2 stamp or by providing a signature with the use  
3 of an assistant because of age, disability, or  
4 other need;

5 (D) accepts and counts ballots received be-  
6 fore the state's certification deadline if the bal-  
7 lot—

8 (i) is postmarked by the date of the  
9 election; or

10 (ii) includes an indication that it was  
11 mailed by the date of the election;

12 (E) provides a pre-paid and self-sealing re-  
13 turn envelope for each ballot furnished by mail;

14 (F) beginning with the date that is 45  
15 days before the date of the election and ending  
16 with the time that polls close on the date of the  
17 election, provides in-person, secured drop boxes  
18 for voters to submit completed absentee ballots  
19 as an alternative to submitting ballots by mail;

20 (G) before discarding any absentee ballot  
21 for error or technicalities (including the failure  
22 to meet any signature matching requirement  
23 that is unrelated to the voter's qualification)—

24 (i) as soon as practicable, by mail,  
25 phone, email, or text message, notifies the

1 voter of such defects and explains that the  
2 voter may provide information to cure the  
3 ballot pursuant to clause (ii), or else the  
4 vote will not be counted;

5 (ii) provides the voter an opportunity  
6 to cure such defects that—

7 (I) is uniform among all voters in  
8 the State;

9 (II) allows the voter to provide  
10 confirmation or information to cure  
11 the defect through the same form of  
12 communication in which the notice  
13 under clause (i) is provided; and

14 (III) in the case of any error re-  
15 lating to a signature requirement,  
16 meets the requirements of paragraph  
17 (2);

18 (H) in the case of any voter with disabil-  
19 ities—

20 (i) provides the voter with access to  
21 Remote Access Vote By Mail (RAVBM)  
22 systems, ballot marking software, and  
23 screen reading software; and

1 (ii) allows the voter to receive assist-  
2 ance from a person of their choosing to  
3 complete and submit a mail-in ballot;

4 (I) ensures adequate support for language  
5 minority voters, including multilingual versions  
6 of vote-by-mail materials and language assist-  
7 ance services; and

8 (J) allows voters to designate a person to  
9 return a voted and sealed absentee ballot in ac-  
10 cordance with the requirements of paragraph  
11 (3).

12 (2) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SIGNATURE  
13 DEFECTS.—The requirements of this paragraph re-  
14 lating to any defect described in paragraph  
15 (1)(G)(ii)(III) are the following:

16 (A) In any case in which a ballot is re-  
17 turned without a signature, or it is determined  
18 that the signature provided with the ballot is  
19 not the voter's authentic signature, the voter  
20 shall be provided an opportunity to provide con-  
21 firmation or information to cure the signature  
22 discrepancy.

23 (B) Voters shall have until the day before  
24 certification of election results to provide con-  
25 firmation that the signature in question is their

1 genuine signature. The State shall accept con-  
2 firmation of a genuine signature orally, in writ-  
3 ing, or electronically, and without a separate  
4 oath or affirmation.

5 (C) The voter shall have the opportunity to  
6 appeal any rejection of the ballot based on the  
7 defect or the additional information provided.  
8 Such opportunity to appeal must be provided  
9 and decided before certification of election re-  
10 sults.

11 (D) Any final determination of the validity  
12 of the ballot with a signature mismatch shall be  
13 made by a group of 2 or more election officials.  
14 Where applicable, at least one of the election of-  
15 ficials must be of an opposing party. The vote  
16 shall be counted unless the officials unani-  
17 mously determine, beyond a reasonable doubt,  
18 that the ballot is not valid due to signature dis-  
19 crepancy.

20 (3) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ALLOWING  
21 DESIGNATED PERSONS TO RETURN BALLOTS.—The  
22 requirements of this paragraph relating to allowing  
23 a voter to designate a person to return a voted and  
24 sealed absentee ballot are the following:

1           (A) A voter may designate any person to  
2           return the voted and sealed absentee ballot to  
3           the post office, ballot drop-off location, tribally  
4           designated building, or election office.

5           (B) A person designated by a voter under  
6           subparagraph (A) shall not receive any form of  
7           compensation based on the number of ballots  
8           that the person has returned, and no individual,  
9           group, or organization shall provide compensa-  
10          tion to such person on such basis.

11          (C) The State shall not limit how many  
12          voted and sealed ballots any person so des-  
13          ignated may return.

14          (d) EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING PERIOD.—The early  
15          in-person voting period described in this subsection with  
16          respect to an applicable Federal election is a period of at  
17          least 20 days. Such period must include at least 1 Satur-  
18          day and 1 Sunday. For each day of early in-person voting  
19          during such period, polls must be open for a minimum  
20          of 10 hours, including hours before and after the standard  
21          work day.

22          (e) PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CDC GUIDANCE.—

23                (1) IN GENERAL.—The requirement described  
24                in this subsection with respect to in person voting is  
25                met if the State establishes a plan to ensure that

1 polling places are implementing Centers for Disease  
2 Control and Prevention guidance relating to  
3 COVID–19 preparedness. Such plan must be final-  
4 ized and approved by the State within 30 days of the  
5 date of enactment of this Act.

6 (2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—At a minimum,  
7 a State plan established under this subsection must  
8 include a plan—

9 (A) to keep as many voting locations as  
10 possible open during the pandemic;

11 (B) to prepare polling locations to imple-  
12 ment social distancing protocols in lines and at  
13 voting booths;

14 (C) to provide sufficient quantities of hy-  
15 giene and cleaning supplies at polling locations;

16 (D) to increase the number of—

17 (i) paper ballots and provisional bal-  
18 lots (including the numbers of such ballots  
19 that are translated, multilingual, or in-lan-  
20 guage ballots) available at each polling  
21 place; and

22 (ii) disposable ballot marking utensils  
23 available at each polling place;

24 (E) to provide masks and other personal  
25 protective equipment to poll workers;

1 (F) to provide hazard pay to poll workers  
2 during the pandemic;

3 (G) to increase the number of poll workers  
4 who can reliably staff voting locations;

5 (H) to provide training to poll workers on  
6 pandemic conditions and COVID–19 prepared-  
7 ness; and

8 (I) to educate voters on changes to proce-  
9 dures or voting opportunities during the pan-  
10 demic.

11 (f) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Any person ag-  
12 grieved by a violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection  
13 (a) (relating to requirements for no-excuse mail-in absen-  
14 tee voting and early in-person voting period) may bring  
15 an action for all appropriate remedies, including injunctive  
16 relief and compensatory and punitive damages, in a Fed-  
17 eral district court of competent jurisdiction.

18 (g) PAYMENTS TO STATES TO CARRY OUT REQUIRE-  
19 MENTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance  
21 Commission shall makes a payment to each State to  
22 carry out the requirements under this section. Such  
23 payments shall be made not later than 30 days after  
24 the date of enactment of this Act.

25 (2) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of pay-  
2 ment made to a State under this subsection  
3 shall be the voting age population proportion  
4 amount described in subparagraph (B) plus any  
5 additional amount determined by the Commis-  
6 sion under subparagraph (C).

7 (B) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPOR-  
8 TION AMOUNT.—

9 (i) IN GENERAL.—The voting age  
10 population proportion amount described in  
11 this paragraph is the product of—

12 (I) the amount made available  
13 for payments under paragraph (3)  
14 minus the total of all of the additional  
15 payment amounts determined under  
16 subparagraph (C); and

17 (II) the voting age population  
18 proportion for the State (as defined in  
19 clause (ii)).

20 (ii) VOTING AGE POPULATION PRO-  
21 PORTION DEFINED.—The term “voting age  
22 population proportion” means, with respect  
23 to any State, the amount equal to the  
24 quotient of—

1 (I) the voting age population of  
2 the State (as determined by the most  
3 recent American Community Survey  
4 conducted by the Bureau of the Cen-  
5 sus); and

6 (II) the total voting age popu-  
7 lation of all States (as determined by  
8 the most recent American Community  
9 Survey conducted by the Bureau of  
10 the Census).

11 (C) DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL  
12 AMOUNT BASED ON COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING  
13 NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING AND EARLY IN-  
14 PERSON VOTING IN STATE.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission  
16 shall, with respect to each eligible State,  
17 provide an amount of payment for the  
18 State in addition to the amount deter-  
19 mined under subparagraph (B).

20 (ii) ELIGIBLE STATE.—A State shall  
21 be eligible for an additional amount of pay-  
22 ment under this subparagraph if the State  
23 is not in compliance with paragraph (1) or  
24 (2) of subsection (b), or both of such sub-

1 paragraphs, as of the date of enactment of  
2 this Act.

3 (iii) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—

4 In determining the amount of payment  
5 with respect to an eligible State under this  
6 subparagraph, the Commission shall con-  
7 sider the costs to the State and local juris-  
8 dictions of coming into compliance with ei-  
9 ther or both of such paragraphs.

10 (D) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO UNITS  
11 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—At least 70 percent  
12 of funds provided to a State under this sub-  
13 section shall be distributed to units of local gov-  
14 ernment to carry out the requirements under  
15 subsection (b).

16 (3) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be ap-  
17 propriated to make payments under this subsection,  
18 \$2,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2020  
19 and 2021. Amounts appropriated under the pre-  
20 ceding sentence shall remain available until Decem-  
21 ber 31, 2024.

1 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO PROMOTE SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND EF-**  
2 **FICIENT IN-PERSON VOTING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help  
4 America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21001 et seq.) is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“PART VII—GRANT PROGRAM TO PROMOTE**  
7 **SAFE, ACCESSIBLE, AND EFFICIENT IN-PER-**  
8 **SON VOTING**

9 **“SEC. 297. PAYMENTS TO STATES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make a  
11 payment to each eligible State (as described in section  
12 298(a)). Such payments shall be made not later than 30  
13 days after the date of enactment of this part.

14 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible State shall use the  
15 payment received under this part to carry out one or more  
16 of the authorized activities described in section 298(b)  
17 with respect to elections for Federal office.

18 “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of payment  
20 made to an eligible State under this section shall be  
21 the voting age population proportion amount de-  
22 scribed in paragraph (2) plus any additional amount  
23 determined by the Commission under paragraph (3).

24 “(2) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPORTION  
25 AMOUNT.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The voting age popu-  
2           lation proportion amount described in this para-  
3           graph is the product of—

4                   “(i) the aggregate amount made avail-  
5                   able for payments under this section minus  
6                   the total of all of the additional payment  
7                   amounts determined under paragraph (3);  
8                   and

9                   “(ii) the voting age population propor-  
10                  tion for the State (as defined in subpara-  
11                  graph (B)).

12           “(B) VOTING AGE POPULATION PROPOR-  
13           TION DEFINED.—The term ‘voting age popu-  
14           lation proportion’ means, with respect to an eli-  
15           gible State, the amount equal to the quotient  
16           of—

17                   “(i) the voting age population of the  
18                   State (as determined by the most recent  
19                   American Community Survey conducted by  
20                   the Bureau of the Census); and

21                   “(ii) the total voting age population of  
22                   all States (as determined by the most re-  
23                   cent American Community Survey con-  
24                   ducted by the Bureau of the Census).

1           “(3) DETERMINATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNT  
2           BASED ON NEEDS OF VOTING AGE POPULATION IN  
3           STATE.—The Commission shall, with respect to each  
4           eligible State, determine an amount of payment for  
5           the State in addition to the amount determined  
6           under paragraph (2) based on the needs of the vot-  
7           ing age population in the State. In determining such  
8           additional amount of payment with respect to an eli-  
9           gible State, the Commission shall take into ac-  
10          count—

11                   “(A) the number of individuals with in-  
12                   come below 250 percent of the poverty line ap-  
13                   plicable to a family of the size involved (as de-  
14                   termined under section 673(2) of the Commu-  
15                   nity Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.  
16                   9902(2));

17                   “(B) the number of individuals in the vot-  
18                   ing age population of the State covered by sec-  
19                   tion 203 of the Voting Rights Act (52 U.S.C.  
20                   10503);

21                   “(C) the number of individuals with a dis-  
22                   ability as defined in section 3 of the Americans  
23                   with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.  
24                   12102);



1           “(1) FUNDING TO ENSURE ELECTIONS ARE AC-  
2           CESSIBLE DURING PANDEMIC.—Ensuring voters can  
3           safely access polling sites during the COVID–19  
4           pandemic, including—

5                   “(A) expanding the number of voting loca-  
6                   tions, as well as the days and hours of early in-  
7                   person voting;

8                   “(B) providing mobile voting centers and  
9                   temporary voting stations, including advance  
10                  notice of schedule and locations;

11                  “(C) increasing the ratio of machines and  
12                  poll workers to voters in each precinct;

13                  “(D) preparing polling locations to imple-  
14                  ment social distancing protocols in lines and  
15                  voting booths;

16                  “(E) providing sufficient quantities of hy-  
17                  giene and cleaning supplies, including materials  
18                  to sanitize voting machines after each use;

19                  “(F) increasing the number of paper bal-  
20                  lots available at each polling location;

21                  “(G) providing masks, gloves, and other  
22                  personal protective equipment to poll workers;

23                  “(H) increasing pay for poll workers dur-  
24                  ing the COVID–19 pandemic; and

1           “(I) providing voter education on changes  
2           or improvements to election procedures, accessi-  
3           bility, or voting opportunities during the pan-  
4           demic.

5           “(2) FUNDING TO ENSURE ELECTIONS ARE AC-  
6           CESSIBLE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES DUR-  
7           ING PANDEMIC.—Ensuring voters can safely reg-  
8           ister, access polling sites, and vote by mail during  
9           the COVID–19 pandemic, in accordance with this  
10          Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42  
11          U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Voting Accessibility for  
12          the Elderly and Handicapped Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee  
13          et seq.), and other applicable law, by improving poll-  
14          ing place accessibility and providing accommodations  
15          for individuals with disabilities, including—

16               “(A) purchasing Remote Access Vote By  
17               Mail (RAVBM) systems, ballot marking devices  
18               and software, and screen reading software, and  
19               making them available to voters with disabili-  
20               ties;

21               “(B) equipping polling locations with tech-  
22               nologies that enable individuals with disabilities  
23               to privately and independently mark, verify, and  
24               cast their ballots, including through the avail-

1 ability of ballot marking devices, headsets, con-  
2 trollers, and other assistive devices;

3 “(C) making permanent or temporary  
4 modifications to render polling places accessible;

5 “(D) ensuring appropriate polling place  
6 siting to avoid locations that pose higher health  
7 risks to the public;

8 “(E) conducting analysis on polling place  
9 reconfiguration to account for social distancing  
10 and implementing changes;

11 “(F) providing training for poll workers on  
12 how to best serve individuals during the pan-  
13 demic, including specialized training for serving  
14 individuals with disabilities;

15 “(G) assessing the accessibility of election  
16 websites and remediating any accessibility prob-  
17 lems to ensure voter information is clear and  
18 accessible; and

19 “(H) providing fully accessible online voter  
20 registration services.

21 “(3) FUNDING TO ENSURE CONTINUING PRO-  
22 TECTIONS FOR LANGUAGE MINORITY VOTERS.—En-  
23 suring continuing protections for language minority  
24 voters, including—

1           “(A) ensuring compliance with section 203  
2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.  
3 10503)—

4           “(i) with respect to vote-by-mail and  
5 new voter registration procedures; and

6           “(ii) with respect to voting materials  
7 (as such term is defined in such section);

8           “(B) ensuring adequate support for such  
9 individuals (including for language minority  
10 voters who do not reside in jurisdictions covered  
11 by section 203 of the Voting Rights Act), in-  
12 cluding through—

13           “(i) language assistance hotlines in  
14 covered languages;

15           “(ii) phone interpretation and inter-  
16 preter services;

17           “(iii) funding to produce, print, and  
18 distribute multi-lingual versions of mate-  
19 rials;

20           “(iv) enhancing in-language media ad-  
21 vertising regarding polling place changes;

22           “(v) recruiting and hiring bilingual or  
23 multilingual election workers; and

1                   “(vi) enhancing in-language media ad-  
2                   vertising regarding procedures for obtain-  
3                   ing and returning mail-in ballots; and

4                   “(C) providing voter education on activities  
5                   carried out under this paragraph.

6                   “(4) FUNDING TO ENSURE VOTING ACCESS BY  
7                   AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VOTERS AND  
8                   RURAL VOTERS.—Ensuring voting access American  
9                   Indian and Alaska Native voters and rural voters,  
10                  including—

11                  “(A) ensuring polling place availability  
12                  within 20 miles of where voters live;

13                  “(B) providing transportation services for  
14                  American Indian, Alaska Native, and rural vot-  
15                  ers to reach their nearest polling location;

16                  “(C) establishing polling places in Indian  
17                  country, as defined in section 1151 of title 18,  
18                  United States Code, and on any land in Alaska  
19                  owned pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims  
20                  Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), that  
21                  are open for voting days and hours commensu-  
22                  rate with polling place days and hours in urban  
23                  areas within the State;

24                  “(D) giving Indian tribes, as defined in  
25                  section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and

1 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304),  
2 authority to designate buildings that can be  
3 used as a residential address for voter registra-  
4 tion and for physical sites for ballot pickup,  
5 drop-off, and collection;

6 “(E) offering information in unwritten lan-  
7 guages or languages not widely used in written  
8 form, in consultation with relevant Tribal gov-  
9 ernments;

10 “(F) collecting ballots from remote polling  
11 locations, ballot collection boxes, and tribally  
12 designated buildings;

13 “(G) carrying out any activities permitted  
14 under paragraph (2) to improve accessibility for  
15 American Indian and Alaska Native voters with  
16 disabilities; and

17 “(H) providing voter education on the ac-  
18 tivities carried out under this paragraph.

19 “(5) CURBSIDE VOTING.—The implementation  
20 and promotion of curbside voting to allow individuals  
21 to pick up ballots, complete them, and return them  
22 to a poll worker from their vehicles.

23 “(6) FUNDING TO MEET MAXIMUM WAIT TIME  
24 STANDARD AT POLLING LOCATIONS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The implementation  
2 of standards that reduce wait times at polling  
3 locations.

4           “(B) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—In  
5 the case where the State uses funds for pur-  
6 poses described in subparagraph (A) with re-  
7 spect to an election for Federal office, the State  
8 shall certify to the Commission within 120 days  
9 of the election that wait time standards were  
10 met in the State with respect to such election.

11           “(7) FUNDING FOR PUBLICATION OF WAIT  
12 TIMES.—

13           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The development or  
14 implementation of an accessible, web-based  
15 platform for the publication of wait times for  
16 voting in Federal elections.

17           “(B) REQUIREMENT.—If a State uses  
18 funds for a purpose described in subparagraph  
19 (A), the State shall take reasonable steps before  
20 using such platform in an election for Federal  
21 office—

22                   “(i) to provide advance training to  
23 election workers regarding use of the plat-  
24 form;

1 “(ii) to notify voters of the platform;

2 and

3 “(iii) to test and verify the security

4 and functionality of the platform.

5 “(8) METHODS TO IMPROVE LINE MANAGE-

6 MENT.—Implementing standards to improve line

7 management systems and polling place management.

8 “(9) STANDARDS FOR TRAINING AND RECRUIT-

9 MENT OF POLL WORKERS.—Providing for the train-

10 ing and recruitment of poll workers, including—

11 “(A) developing poll worker training cur-

12 ricula and standards for serving individuals

13 with disabilities and language minority voters;

14 “(B) ensuring that poll workers receive

15 training, which—

16 “(i) may include remote training; and

17 “(ii) may cover applicable Federal and

18 State laws and regulations, recent changes

19 in election laws and processes, election se-

20 curity and cyber vulnerabilities, ballot re-

21 views, incident response, polling accessi-

22 bility for language minorities and individ-

23 uals with disabilities, and COVID–19 pre-

24 paredness;

1           “(C) expanding the number of election  
2 workers hired;

3           “(D) hiring individuals to serve as election  
4 workers from among high school and college  
5 students and, where feasible, compensating  
6 such individuals with course credits; and

7           “(E) hiring work-eligible non-citizens to  
8 satisfy the need for bilingual poll workers,  
9 where language assistance is required by law.

10          “(10) IMPROVING ACCESS TO VOTER REGISTRA-  
11 TION.—Improving access to voter registration, in-  
12 cluding—

13           “(A) authorizing and implementing same  
14 day registration;

15           “(B) ensuring that online voter registra-  
16 tion systems are in place and have the capacity  
17 to process registration applications electroni-  
18 cally;

19           “(C) expanding online voter registration  
20 systems to allow use by the maximum number  
21 of individuals, including—

22           “(i) by allowing individuals to register  
23 to vote without records in the department  
24 of motor vehicle system of the State by  
25 submitting their signatures online;

1                   “(ii) by digitally uploading a picture  
2                   of the required signature;

3                   “(iii) by allowing individuals to pro-  
4                   vide the required signature when voting at  
5                   the polls or when returning a mail-in bal-  
6                   lot; or

7                   “(iv) by allowing individual to provide  
8                   a required signature with a mark or signa-  
9                   ture stamp or through the use of an assist-  
10                  ant because of age, disability, or other  
11                  need;

12                  “(D) sending a voter registration mailer,  
13                  including a blank voter registration application,  
14                  a self-sealing prepaid return envelope, and in-  
15                  structions on additional methods to register if  
16                  the mailer is not accessible, to all eligible indi-  
17                  viduals with State records who are not cur-  
18                  rently registered to vote; and

19                  “(E) testing capacity to ensure that exist-  
20                  ing online voter registration systems can with-  
21                  stand the likely increase in usage.

22                  “(c) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—Not later than  
23                  15 days after the date of enactment of this part, the Com-  
24                  mission shall—

1           “(1) consult with the Centers for Disease Con-  
2           trol and Prevention on preventing transmission of  
3           COVID–19 at polling places and election offices; and

4           “(2) consult with the Civil Rights Division of  
5           the Department of Justice to ensure changes to vot-  
6           ing procedures made pursuant to this part are non-  
7           discriminatory and comply with applicable Federal  
8           laws, including this Act, the Americans with Disabil-  
9           ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Vot-  
10          ing Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped  
11          Act (42 U.S.C. 1973ee et seq.), the Voting Rights  
12          Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), the National  
13          Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et  
14          seq.), and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52  
15          U.S.C. 20901 et seq.).

16 **“SEC. 299. FUNDING; REPORTS.**

17          “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
18          priated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise  
19          appropriated, for the period of fiscal years 2020 and 2021,  
20          for making payments under this part, \$2,500,000,000.  
21          Such amounts—

22                 “(1) shall be in addition to other amounts oth-  
23                 erwise available for such purposes; and

24                 “(2) shall remain available until December 31,  
25                 2024.

1       “(b) REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the  
2 applicable election for which a payment was provided  
3 under this part, each eligible State that received such  
4 funds shall submit a report to the Commission on the ac-  
5 tivities conducted using such payment and to substantiate  
6 authorized activities described in section 298(b) carried  
7 out using such funds. Not later than 30 days after receipt  
8 of such reports, the Commission shall transmit such re-  
9 ports to the Committee on Rules and Administration of  
10 the Senate and the Committee on House Administration  
11 of the House of Representatives.”.

12       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents  
13 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating  
14 to section 296 the following:

“PART VII—GRANT PROGRAM TO PROTECT IN-PERSON VOTING

“Sec. 297. Payments to States.

“Sec. 298. Eligibility for payment; authorized activities.

“Sec. 299. Funding; reports.”.