

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 645

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to ensure that each individual who provides identifying information to the State motor vehicle authority is automatically registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless the individual does not meet the eligibility requirements for registering to vote in such elections or declines to be registered to vote in such elections, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 17, 2019

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. CROW, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. HAALAND, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT)

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 require each State to ensure that each individual who provides identifying information to the State motor vehicle authority is automatically registered to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless the individual does not meet the eligibility requirements for registering to vote in such elections or declines to be registered to vote in such elections, 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 “Automatic Voter Reg-
 5 istration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH**
 7 **STATE MOTOR VEHICLE AUTHORITIES.**

8 (a) AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION.—Section 5
 9 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
 10 20504) is amended to read as follows:

11 **“SEC. 5. AUTOMATIC VOTER REGISTRATION THROUGH**
 12 **MOTOR VEHICLE AUTHORITY.**

13 “(a) TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION TO ELECTION
 14 OFFICIALS.—

1 “(1) TRANSMISSION.—Each State’s motor vehi-
2 cle authority, upon receiving the identifying informa-
3 tion described in paragraph (2) with respect to any
4 individual who requests services from the authority,
5 shall transmit the identifying information to the ap-
6 propriate State election official.

7 “(2) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—
8 The identifying information described in this para-
9 graph with respect to any individual is as follows:

10 “(A) The individual’s legal name.

11 “(B) The individual’s age.

12 “(C) The individual’s residence.

13 “(D) The individual’s citizenship status.

14 “(E) The individual’s electronic signature.

15 “(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF INFORMATION
16 ON CITIZENSHIP STATUS.—A State may not use any
17 identifying information regarding an individual’s
18 citizenship status which is transmitted under this
19 subsection for any purpose other than determining
20 whether the individual is eligible to vote in elections
21 for Federal office.

22 “(b) NOTIFICATION TO INDIVIDUALS.—Upon receiv-
23 ing the identifying information with respect to an indi-
24 vidual under subsection (a), the appropriate State election

1 official shall issue a notification to the individual con-
2 taining—

3 “(1) a statement that, unless the individual no-
4 tifies the election official prior to the expiration of
5 the 21-calendar day period which begins on the date
6 the official issued the notification that the individual
7 declines to be registered to vote in elections for Fed-
8 eral office held in the State, the individual shall be
9 considered to have completed and submitted a voter
10 registration application for purposes of this Act; and

11 “(2) a description of the process by which the
12 individual may decline to be registered to vote in
13 elections for Federal office in the State.

14 “(c) AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF ELIGIBLE INDIV-
15 IDUALS.—Upon the expiration of the 21-calendar day pe-
16 riod which begins on the date the appropriate State elec-
17 tion official issues a notification to an individual under
18 subsection (b)(1), the official shall ensure that the indi-
19 vidual is registered to vote in elections for Federal office
20 held in the State unless—

21 “(1) the official determines that the individual
22 does not meet the eligibility requirements for reg-
23 istering to vote in such elections;

24 “(2) prior to the expiration of such 21-calendar
25 day period, the individual notifies the official that

1 the individual declines to be registered to vote in
2 such elections; or

3 “(3) the individual is already registered to vote
4 in such elections.

5 “(d) APPLICATION TO TERRITORIES.—This section
6 shall apply with respect to the Commonwealth of Puerto
7 Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin
8 Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
9 Islands in the same manner as this section applies to a
10 State.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO TIM-
12 ING OF REGISTRATION PRIOR TO ELECTIONS.—Section
13 8(a)(1)(A) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(1)(A)) is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 “(A) in the case of registration through a
16 motor vehicle authority under section 5, if the
17 identifying information with respect to the indi-
18 vidual is transmitted by the authority to the ap-
19 propriate State election official under section
20 5(a)(1) not later than the lesser of 30 days, or
21 the period provided by State law, before the
22 date of the election;”.

23 (c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
24 4(a)(1) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20503(a)(1)) is amended
25 to read as follows:

1 “(1) through the State motor vehicle authority
2 pursuant to section 5;”.

3 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

4 (a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
5 this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-
6 day period which begins on the date of the enactment of
7 this Act.

8 (b) **TIMING OF AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION OF INDIVIDUALS PROVIDING IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO MOTOR VEHICLE AUTHORITY PRIOR TO EFFECTIVE DATE.**—

12 (1) **RETROACTIVE AUTOMATIC REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**—For purposes of section 5 of the
13 National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
14 20504), as amended by section 2(a), if an individual
15 provided identifying information (as described in sec-
16 tion 5(a)(2) of such Act) to a State motor vehicle
17 authority at any time during the period described in
18 paragraph (2), the authority shall transmit such in-
19 formation to the appropriate State election official
20 pursuant to section 5(a)(1) of such Act not later
21 than such effective date, unless the motor vehicle au-
22 thority determines that the information is no longer
23 valid with respect to the individual.
24

1 (2) PERIOD DESCRIBED.—The period described
2 in this paragraph is the period which begins on the
3 date which is 2 years prior to the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act and which ends on the effective
5 date described in subsection (a).

