

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. REED, Mr. KIM, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. KELLY, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to revise the criteria for determining which States and political subdivisions are subject to section 4 of the 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 “John R. Lewis Voting
3 Rights Advancement Act of 2025”.

4 **TITLE I—AMENDMENTS TO THE**
5 **VOTING RIGHTS ACT**

6 **SEC. 101. VOTE DILUTION, DENIAL, AND ABRIDGMENT**
7 **CLAIMS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Voting Rights
9 Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301(a)) is amended—

10 (1) by inserting after “applied by any State or
11 political subdivision” the following: “for the purpose
12 of, or”; and

13 (2) by striking “as provided in subsection (b)”
14 and inserting “as provided in subsection (b), (c), (d),
15 or (e)”.

16 (b) VOTE DILUTION.—Section 2 of such Act (52
17 U.S.C. 10301), as amended by subsection (a), is further
18 amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(b) A violation of subsection (a) for vote dilution is
21 established if, based on the totality of circumstances, it
22 is shown that the political processes leading to nomination
23 or election in the State or political subdivision are not
24 equally open to participation by members of a class of citi-
25 zens protected by subsection (a) in that its members have
26 less opportunity than other members of the electorate to

1 participate in the political process and to elect representa-
2 tives of their choice. The extent to which members of a
3 protected class have been elected to office in the State or
4 political subdivision is one circumstance which may be
5 considered: *Provided*, That nothing in this section estab-
6 lishes a right to have members of a protected class elected
7 in numbers equal to their proportion in the population.
8 The legal standard articulated in *Thornburg v. Gingles*,
9 478 U.S. 30 (1986), governs claims under this subsection.
10 For purposes of this subsection a class of citizens pro-
11 tected by subsection (a) may include a cohesive coalition
12 of members of different racial or language minority
13 groups.”.

14 (c) VOTE DENIAL OR ABRIDGEMENT.—Section 2 of
15 such Act (52 U.S.C. 10301), as amended by subsections
16 (a) and (b), is further amended by adding at the end the
17 following:

18 “(c)(1) A violation of subsection (a) for vote denial
19 or abridgment is established if the challenged standard,
20 practice, or procedure imposes a discriminatory burden on
21 members of a class of citizens protected by subsection (a),
22 meaning that—

23 (A) members of the protected class face great-
24 er difficulty in complying with the standard, prac-

1 tice, or procedure, considering the totality of the cir-
2 cumstances; and

3 “(B) such greater difficulty is, at least in part,
4 caused by or linked to social and historical condi-
5 tions that have produced or currently produce dis-
6 crimination against members of the protected class.

7 “(2) The challenged standard, practice, or procedure
8 need only be a but-for cause of the discriminatory burden
9 or perpetuate a pre-existing discriminatory burden.

10 “(3)(A) The totality of the circumstances for consid-
11 eration relative to a violation of subsection (a) for vote
12 denial or abridgment shall include the following factors,
13 which, individually and collectively, show how a voting
14 standard, practice, or procedure can function to amplify
15 the effects of past or present racial discrimination:

16 “(i) The history of official voting-related
17 discrimination in the State or political subdivi-
18 sion.

19 “(ii) The extent to which voting in the
20 elections of the State or political subdivision is
21 racially polarized.

22 “(iii) The extent to which the State or po-
23 litical subdivision has used unduly burdensome
24 photographic voter identification requirements,
25 documentary proof of citizenship requirements,

1 documentary proof of residence requirements,
2 or other voting standards, practices, or proce-
3 dures beyond those required by Federal law
4 that may impair the ability of members of the
5 protected class to participate fully in the polit-
6 ical process.

7 “(iv) The extent to which members of the
8 protected class bear the effects of discrimina-
9 tion in areas such as education, employment,
10 and health, which hinder the ability of those
11 members to participate effectively in the polit-
12 ical process.

13 “(v) The use of overt or subtle racial ap-
14 peals either in political campaigns or sur-
15 rounding the adoption or maintenance of the
16 challenged standard, practice, or procedure.

17 “(vi) The extent to which members of the
18 protected class have been elected to public office
19 in the jurisdiction, except that the fact that the
20 protected class is too small to elect candidates
21 of its choice shall not defeat a claim of vote de-
22 nial or abridgment under this section.

23 “(vii) Whether there is a lack of respon-
24 siveness on the part of elected officials to the

1 particularized needs of members of the pro-
2 tected class.

3 “(viii) Whether the policy underlying the
4 State or political subdivision’s use of the chal-
5 langed qualification, prerequisite, standard,
6 practice, or procedure has a tenuous connection
7 to that qualification, prerequisite, standard,
8 practice, or procedure.

9 “(B) A particular combination or number of
10 factors under subparagraph (A) shall not be re-
11 quired to establish a violation of subsection (a) for
12 vote denial or abridgment.

13 “(C) The totality of the circumstances for con-
14 sideration relative to a violation of subsection (a) for
15 vote denial or abridgment shall not include the fol-
16 lowing factors:

17 “(i) The total number or share of members
18 of a protected class on whom a challenged
19 standard, practice, or procedure does not im-
20 pose a material burden.

21 “(ii) The degree to which the challenged
22 standard, practice, or procedure has a long ped-
23 igree or was in widespread use at some earlier
24 date.

1 “(iii) The use of an identical or similar
2 standard, practice, or procedure in other States
3 or political subdivisions.

4 “(iv) The availability of other forms of vot-
5 ing unimpacted by the challenged standard,
6 practice, or procedure to all members of the
7 electorate, including members of the protected
8 class, unless the State or political subdivision is
9 simultaneously expanding those other stand-
10 ards, practices, or procedures to eliminate any
11 disproportionate burden imposed by the chal-
12 lenged standard, practice, or procedure.

13 “(v) A prophylactic impact on potential
14 criminal activity by individual voters, if such
15 crimes have not occurred in the State or polit-
16 ical subdivision in substantial numbers.

17 “(vi) Mere invocation of interests in voter
18 confidence or prevention of fraud.”.

19 (d) INTENDED VOTE DILUTION OR VOTE DENIAL OR
20 ABRIDGMENT.—Section 2 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10301),
21 as amended by subsections (a), (b), and (c) is further
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(d)(1) A violation of subsection (a) is also estab-
24 lished if a challenged qualification, prerequisite, standard,
25 practice, or procedure is intended, at least in part, to di-

1 lute the voting strength of a protected class or to deny
2 or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States
3 to vote on account of race, color, or in contravention of
4 the guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2).

5 “(2) Discrimination on account of race or color, or
6 in contravention of the guarantees set forth in section
7 4(f)(2), need only be one purpose of a qualification, pre-
8 requisite, standard, practice, or procedure in order to es-
9 tablish a violation of subsection (a), as described in this
10 subsection. A qualification, prerequisite, standard, prac-
11 tice, or procedure intended to dilute the voting strength
12 of a protected class or to make it more difficult for mem-
13 bers of a protected class to cast a ballot that will be count-
14 ed constitutes a violation of subsection (a), as described
15 in this subsection, even if an additional purpose of the
16 qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or proce-
17 dure is to benefit a particular political party or group.

18 “(3) Recent context, including actions by official deci-
19 sionmakers in prior years or in other contexts preceding
20 the decision responsible for the challenged qualification,
21 prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure, and includ-
22 ing actions by predecessor government actors or individual
23 members of a decisionmaking body, may be relevant to
24 making a determination about a violation of subsection
25 (a), as described under this subsection.

1 “(4) A claim that a violation of subsection (a) has
2 occurred, as described under this subsection, shall require
3 proof of a discriminatory impact but shall not require
4 proof of violation of subsection (b) or (c).”.

5 **SEC. 102. RETROGRESSION.**

6 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
7 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), as amended by section 101 of this
8 Act, is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(e) A violation of subsection (a) is established when
11 a State or political subdivision enacts or seeks to admin-
12 ister any qualification or prerequisite to voting or stand-
13 ard, practice, or procedure with respect to voting in any
14 election that has the purpose of or will have the effect
15 of diminishing the ability of any citizens of the United
16 States on account of race or color, or in contravention of
17 the guarantees set forth in section 4(f)(2), to participate
18 in the electoral process or elect their preferred candidates
19 of choice. This subsection applies to any action taken on
20 or after January 1, 2021, by a State or political subdivi-
21 sion to enact or seek to administer any such qualification
22 or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice or proce-
23 dure.

24 “(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e),
25 final decisions of the United States District Court of the

1 District of Columbia on applications or petitions by States
2 or political subdivisions for preclearance under section 5
3 of any changes in voting prerequisites, standards, prac-
4 tices, or procedures, supersede the provisions of subsection
5 (e).”.

6 **SEC. 103. VIOLATIONS TRIGGERING AUTHORITY OF COURT**
7 **TO RETAIN JURISDICTION.**

8 (a) TYPES OF VIOLATIONS.—Section 3(c) of the Vot-
9 ing Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10302(c)) is amended
10 by striking “violations of the fourteenth or fifteenth
11 amendment” and inserting “violations of the 14th or 15th
12 Amendment, violations of this Act, or violations of any
13 Federal law that prohibits discrimination in voting on the
14 basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority
15 group,”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(a) of
17 such Act (52 U.S.C. 10302(a)) is amended by striking
18 “violations of the fourteenth or fifteenth amendment” and
19 inserting “violations of the 14th or 15th Amendment, vio-
20 lations of this Act, or violations of any Federal law that
21 prohibits discrimination in voting on the basis of race,
22 color, or membership in a language minority group,”.

1 **SEC. 104. CRITERIA FOR COVERAGE OF STATES AND POLIT-**
2 **ICAL SUBDIVISIONS.**

3 (a) DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL
4 SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO SECTION 4(a).—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(b) of the Voting
6 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10303(b)) is amend-
7 ed to read as follows:

8 “(b) DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL
9 SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO REQUIREMENTS.—

10 “(1) EXISTENCE OF VOTING RIGHTS VIOLA-
11 TIONS DURING PREVIOUS 25 YEARS.—

12 “(A) STATEWIDE APPLICATION.—Sub-
13 section (a) applies with respect to a State and
14 all political subdivisions within the State during
15 a calendar year if—

16 “(i) fifteen or more voting rights vio-
17 lations occurred in the State during the
18 previous 25 calendar years; or

19 “(ii) ten or more voting rights viola-
20 tions occurred in the State during the pre-
21 vious 25 calendar years, at least one of
22 which was committed by the State itself
23 (as opposed to a political subdivision with-
24 in the State).

25 “(B) APPLICATION TO SPECIFIC POLITICAL
26 SUBDIVISIONS.—Subsection (a) applies with re-

1 spect to a political subdivision as a separate
2 unit during a calendar year if three or more
3 voting rights violations occurred in the subdivi-
4 sion during the previous 25 calendar years.

5 “(2) PERIOD OF APPLICATION.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
7 subparagraph (B), if, pursuant to paragraph
8 (1), subsection (a) applies with respect to a
9 State or political subdivision during a calendar
10 year, subsection (a) shall apply with respect to
11 such State or political subdivision for the pe-
12 riod—

13 “(i) that begins on January 1 of the
14 year in which subsection (a) applies; and

15 “(ii) that ends on the date which is 10
16 years after the date described in clause (i).

17 “(B) NO FURTHER APPLICATION AFTER
18 DECLARATORY JUDGMENT.—

19 “(i) STATES.—If a State obtains a de-
20 claratory judgment under subsection (a),
21 and the judgment remains in effect, sub-
22 section (a) shall no longer apply to such
23 State and all political subdivisions in the
24 State pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) unless,
25 after the issuance of the declaratory judg-

1 ment, paragraph (1)(A) applies to the
2 State solely on the basis of voting rights
3 violations occurring after the issuance of
4 the declaratory judgment.

5 “(ii) POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—If a
6 political subdivision obtains a declaratory
7 judgment under subsection (a), and the
8 judgment remains in effect, subsection (a)
9 shall no longer apply to such political sub-
10 division pursuant to paragraph (1), includ-
11 ing pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) (relating
12 to the statewide application of subsection
13 (a)), unless, after the issuance of the de-
14 claratory judgment, paragraph (1)(B) ap-
15 plies to the political subdivision solely on
16 the basis of voting rights violations occur-
17 ring after the issuance of the declaratory
18 judgment.

19 “(3) DETERMINATION OF VOTING RIGHTS VIO-
20 LATION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a voting
21 rights violation occurred in a State or political sub-
22 division if any of the following applies:

23 “(A) JUDICIAL RELIEF; VIOLATION OF
24 THE 14TH OR 15TH AMENDMENT.—Any final
25 judgment (that was not reversed on appeal) oc-

1 curred, in which the plaintiff prevailed and in
2 which any court of the United States deter-
3 mined that a denial or abridgement of the right
4 of any citizen of the United States to vote on
5 account of race, color, or membership in a lan-
6 guage minority group occurred, or that a voting
7 qualification or prerequisite to voting or stand-
8 ard, practice, or procedure with respect to vot-
9 ing created an undue burden on the right to
10 vote in connection with a claim that the law un-
11 duly burdened voters of a particular race, color,
12 or language minority group, in violation of the
13 14th or 15th Amendment to the Constitution of
14 the United States, anywhere within the State or
15 subdivision.

16 “(B) JUDICIAL RELIEF; VIOLATIONS OF
17 THIS ACT.—Any final judgment (that was not
18 reversed on appeal) occurred in which the plain-
19 tiff prevailed and in which any court of the
20 United States determined that a voting quali-
21 fication or prerequisite to voting or standard,
22 practice, or procedure with respect to voting
23 was imposed or applied or would have been im-
24 posed or applied anywhere within the State or
25 subdivision in a manner that resulted or would

1 have resulted in a denial or abridgement of the
2 right of any citizen of the United States to vote
3 on account of race, color, or membership in a
4 language minority group, in violation of sub-
5 section (e) or (f) or section 2, 201, or 203.

6 “(C) FINAL JUDGMENT; DENIAL OF DE-
7 CLARATORY JUDGMENT.—In a final judgment
8 (that was not been reversed on appeal), any
9 court of the United States has denied the re-
10 quest of the State or subdivision for a declara-
11 tory judgment under section 3(c) or section 5,
12 and thereby prevented a voting qualification or
13 prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or
14 procedure with respect to voting from being en-
15 forced anywhere within the State or subdivision.

16 “(D) OBJECTION BY THE ATTORNEY GEN-
17 ERAL.—The Attorney General has interposed
18 an objection under section 3(c) or section 5,
19 and thereby prevented a voting qualification or
20 prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or
21 procedure with respect to voting from being en-
22 forced anywhere within the State or subdivision.
23 A violation under this subparagraph has not oc-
24 curred where an objection has been withdrawn
25 by the Attorney General, unless the withdrawal

1 was in response to a change in the law or prac-
2 tice that served as the basis of the objection. A
3 violation under this subparagraph has not oc-
4 curred where the objection is based solely on a
5 State or political subdivision's failure to comply
6 with a procedural process that would not other-
7 wise count as an independent violation of this
8 Act.

9 “(E) CONSENT DECREE, SETTLEMENT, OR
10 OTHER AGREEMENT.—

11 “(i) AGREEMENT.—A consent decree,
12 settlement, or other agreement was adopt-
13 ed or entered by a court of the United
14 States that contains an admission of liabil-
15 ity by the defendants, which resulted in the
16 alteration or abandonment of a voting
17 practice anywhere in the territory of such
18 State or subdivision that was challenged on
19 the ground that the practice denied or
20 abridged the right of any citizen of the
21 United States to vote on account of race,
22 color, or membership in a language minor-
23 ity group in violation of subsection (e) or
24 (f) or section 2, 201, or 203, or the 14th
25 or 15th Amendment.

1 “(ii) INDEPENDENT VIOLATIONS.—A
2 voluntary extension or continuation of a
3 consent decree, settlement, or agreement
4 described in clause (i) shall not count as
5 an independent violation under this sub-
6 paragraph. Any other extension or modi-
7 fication of such a consent decree, settle-
8 ment, or agreement, if the consent decree,
9 settlement, or agreement has been in place
10 for ten years or longer, shall count as an
11 independent violation under this subpara-
12 graph. If a court of the United States
13 finds that a consent decree, settlement, or
14 agreement described in clause (i) itself de-
15 nied or abridged the right of any citizen of
16 the United States to vote on account of
17 race, color, or membership in a language
18 minority group, violated subsection (e) or
19 (f) or section 2, 201, or 203, or created an
20 undue burden on the right to vote in con-
21 nection with a claim that the consent de-
22 cree, settlement, or other agreement un-
23 duly burdened voters of a particular race,
24 color, or language minority group, that

1 finding shall count as an independent vio-
2 lation under this subparagraph.

3 “(F) MULTIPLE VIOLATIONS.—Each in-
4 stance in which a voting qualification or pre-
5 requisite to voting or standard, practice, or pro-
6 cedure with respect to voting, including each re-
7 districting plan, is found to be a violation by a
8 court of the United States pursuant to subpara-
9 graph (A) or (B), or prevented from being en-
10 forced pursuant to subparagraph (C) or (D), or
11 altered or abandoned pursuant to subparagraph
12 (E) shall count as an independent violation
13 under this paragraph. Within a redistricting
14 plan, each violation under this paragraph found
15 to discriminate against any group of voters
16 based on race, color, or language minority
17 group shall count as an independent violation
18 under this paragraph.

19 “(4) TIMING OF DETERMINATIONS.—

20 “(A) DETERMINATIONS OF VOTING RIGHTS
21 VIOLATIONS.—As early as practicable during
22 each calendar year, the Attorney General shall
23 make the determinations required by this sub-
24 section, including updating the list of voting
25 rights violations occurring in each State and po-

1 litical subdivision for the previous calendar
2 year.

3 “(B) EFFECTIVE UPON PUBLICATION IN
4 FEDERAL REGISTER.—A determination or cer-
5 tification of the Attorney General under this
6 section or under section 8 or 13 shall be effec-
7 tive upon publication in the Federal Register.”.

8 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 4(a)
9 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10303(a)) is amended—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence
11 of the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by
12 striking “any State with respect to which” and
13 all that follows through “unless” and inserting
14 “any State to which this subsection applies dur-
15 ing a calendar year pursuant to determinations
16 made under subsection (b), or in any political
17 subdivision of such State (as such subdivision
18 existed on the date such determinations were
19 made with respect to such State), though such
20 determinations were not made with respect to
21 such subdivision as a separate unit, or in any
22 political subdivision with respect to which this
23 subsection applies during a calendar year pur-
24 suant to determinations made with respect to

1 such subdivision as a separate unit under sub-
2 section (b), unless”;

3 (B) in paragraph (1), in the matter pre-
4 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking the second
5 sentence;

6 (C) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “(in
7 the case of a State or subdivision seeking a de-
8 claratory judgment under the second sentence
9 of this subsection)”;

10 (D) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “(in
11 the case of a State or subdivision seeking a de-
12 claratory judgment under the second sentence
13 of this subsection)”;

14 (E) in paragraph (3), by striking “(in the
15 case of a State or subdivision seeking a declara-
16 tory judgment under the second sentence of this
17 subsection)”;

18 (F) in paragraph (5), by striking “(in the
19 case of a State or subdivision which sought a
20 declaratory judgment under the second sentence
21 of this subsection)”;

22 (G) by striking paragraphs (7) and (8);
23 and

24 (H) by redesignating paragraph (9) as
25 paragraph (7).

1 (b) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF
2 LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS.—Section 4(a)(1) of such
3 Act (52 U.S.C. 10303(a)(1)), as amended by subsection
4 (a), is further amended, in the first sentence, by striking
5 “race or color,” and inserting “race or color, or in con-
6 travention of the guarantees of subsection (f)(2),”.

7 (c) FACILITATING BAILOUT.—Section 4(a) of the
8 Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10303(a)), as
9 amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

10 (1) by striking paragraph (1)(C) and redesignig-
11 nating subparagraphs (D) through (F) as subpara-
12 graphs (C) through (E), respectively;

13 (2) by inserting at the beginning of paragraph
14 (7), as redesignated by subsection (a)(2)(H), the fol-
15 lowing: “Any plaintiff seeking a declaratory judg-
16 ment under this subsection on the grounds that the
17 plaintiff meets the requirements of paragraph (1)
18 may request that the Attorney General consent to
19 entry of judgment.”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(8) If a political subdivision is subject to the applica-
22 tion of this subsection, due to the applicability of sub-
23 section (b)(1)(A), the political subdivision may seek a de-
24 claratory judgment under this section if the subdivision
25 demonstrates that the subdivision meets the criteria estab-

1 lished by the subparagraphs of paragraph (1), for the 10
2 years preceding the date on which subsection (a) applied
3 to the political subdivision under subsection (b)(1)(A).

4 “(9) If a political subdivision was not subject to the
5 application of this subsection by reason of a declaratory
6 judgment entered prior to the date of enactment of the
7 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2025,
8 and is not, subsequent to that date of enactment, subject
9 to the application of this subsection under subsection
10 (b)(1)(B), then that political subdivision shall not be sub-
11 ject to the requirements of this subsection.”

12 **SEC. 105. DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL SUB-**
13 **DIVISIONS SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE FOR**
14 **COVERED PRACTICES.**

15 The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et
16 seq.) is further amended by inserting after section 4 the
17 following:

18 **“SEC. 4A. DETERMINATION OF STATES AND POLITICAL**
19 **SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE**
20 **FOR COVERED PRACTICES.**

21 **“(a) PRACTICE-BASED PRECLEARANCE.—**

22 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**Each State and each polit-
23 ical subdivision shall—

24 **“(A)** identify any newly enacted or adopted
25 law, regulation, or policy that includes a voting

1 qualification or prerequisite to voting, or a
2 standard, practice, or procedure with respect to
3 voting, that is a covered practice described in
4 subsection (b); and

5 “(B) ensure that no such covered practice
6 is implemented unless or until the State or po-
7 litical subdivision, as the case may be, complies
8 with subsection (c).

9 “(2) DETERMINATIONS OF CHARACTERISTICS
10 OF VOTING-AGE POPULATION.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—As early as prac-
12 ticable during each calendar year, the Attorney
13 General, in consultation with the Director of
14 the Bureau of the Census and the heads of
15 other relevant offices of the government, shall
16 make the determinations required by this sec-
17 tion regarding voting-age populations and the
18 characteristics of such populations, and shall
19 publish a list of the States and political subdivi-
20 sions to which a voting-age population char-
21 acteristic described in subsection (b) applies.

22 “(B) PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REG-
23 ISTER.—A determination (including a certifi-
24 cation) of the Attorney General under this

1 paragraph shall be effective upon publication in
2 the Federal Register.

3 “(b) COVERED PRACTICES.—To assure that the right
4 of citizens of the United States to vote is not denied or
5 abridged on account of race, color, or membership in a
6 language minority group as a result of the implementation
7 of certain qualifications or prerequisites to voting, or
8 standards, practices, or procedures with respect to voting,
9 newly adopted in a State or political subdivision, the fol-
10 lowing shall be covered practices subject to the require-
11 ments described in subsection (a):

12 “(1) CHANGES TO METHOD OF ELECTION.—
13 Any change to the method of election—

14 “(A) to add seats elected at-large in a
15 State or political subdivision where—

16 “(i) two or more racial groups or lan-
17 guage minority groups each represent 20
18 percent or more of the voting-age popu-
19 lation in the State or political subdivision,
20 respectively; or

21 “(ii) a single language minority group
22 represents 20 percent or more of the vot-
23 ing-age population on Indian lands located
24 in whole or in part in the State or political
25 subdivision; or

1 “(B) to convert one or more seats elected
2 from a single-member district to one or more
3 at-large seats or seats from a multi-member
4 district in a State or political subdivision
5 where—

6 “(i) two or more racial groups or lan-
7 guage minority groups each represent 20
8 percent or more of the voting-age popu-
9 lation in the State or political subdivision,
10 respectively; or

11 “(ii) a single language minority group
12 represents 20 percent or more of the vot-
13 ing-age population on Indian lands located
14 in whole or in part in the State or political
15 subdivision.

16 “(2) CHANGES TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISION
17 BOUNDARIES.—Any change or series of changes
18 within a year to the boundaries of a political subdivi-
19 sion that reduces by 3 or more percentage points the
20 percentage of the political subdivision’s voting-age
21 population that is comprised of members of a single
22 racial group or language minority group in the polit-
23 ical subdivision where—

24 “(A) two or more racial groups or lan-
25 guage minority groups each represent 20 per-

1 cent or more of the political subdivision's vot-
2 ing-age population; or

3 “(B) a single language minority group rep-
4 represents 20 percent or more of the voting-age
5 population on Indian lands located in whole or
6 in part in the political subdivision.

7 “(3) CHANGES THROUGH REDISTRICTING.—
8 Any change to the boundaries of districts for Fed-
9 eral, State, or local elections in a State or political
10 subdivision where any racial group or language mi-
11 nority group that is not the largest racial group or
12 language minority group in the jurisdiction and that
13 represents 15 percent or more of the State or polit-
14 ical subdivision's voting-age population experiences a
15 population increase of at least 20 percent of its vot-
16 ing-age population, over the preceding decade (as
17 calculated by the Bureau of the Census under the
18 most recent decennial census), in the jurisdiction.

19 “(4) CHANGES IN DOCUMENTATION OR QUALI-
20 FICATIONS TO VOTE.—Any change to requirements
21 for documentation or proof of identity to vote or reg-
22 ister to vote in elections for Federal, State, or local
23 offices that will exceed or be more stringent than
24 such requirements under State law on the day before

1 the date of enactment of the John R. Lewis Voting
2 Rights Advancement Act of 2025.

3 “(5) CHANGES TO MULTILINGUAL VOTING MA-
4 TERIALS.—Any change that reduces multilingual
5 voting materials or alters the manner in which such
6 materials are provided or distributed, where no simi-
7 lar reduction or alteration occurs in materials pro-
8 vided in English for such election.

9 “(6) CHANGES THAT REDUCE, CONSOLIDATE,
10 OR RELOCATE VOTING LOCATIONS, OR REDUCE VOT-
11 ING OPPORTUNITIES.—Any change that reduces,
12 consolidates, or relocates voting locations in elections
13 for Federal, State, or local office, including early,
14 absentee, and election-day voting locations, or re-
15 duces days or hours of in-person voting on any Sun-
16 day during a period occurring prior to the date of
17 an election for Federal, State, or local office during
18 which voters may cast ballots in such election, or
19 prohibits the provision of food or non-alcoholic drink
20 to persons waiting to vote in an election for Federal,
21 State, or local office, except where the provision
22 would violate prohibitions on expenditures to influ-
23 ence voting, if the location change, reduction in days
24 or hours, or prohibition applies—

1 percent or more of the voting-age popu-
2 lation of the political subdivision; or

3 “(ii) a single language minority group
4 represents 20 percent or more of the vot-
5 ing-age population on Indian lands located
6 in whole or in part in the political subdivi-
7 sion; or

8 “(B) in the case of a State imposing such
9 change, if two or more racial groups or lan-
10 guage minority groups each represent 20 per-
11 cent or more of the voting-age population of—

12 “(i) the State; or

13 “(ii) a political subdivision in the
14 State, except that the requirements under
15 subsections (a) and (c) shall apply only
16 with respect to each such political subdivi-
17 sion individually.

18 “(c) PRECLEARANCE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

20 “(A) ACTION.—Whenever a State or polit-
21 ical subdivision with respect to which the re-
22 quirements set forth in subsection (a) are in ef-
23 fect shall enact, adopt, or seek to implement
24 any covered practice described under subsection
25 (b), such State or subdivision may institute an

1 action in the United States District Court for
2 the District of Columbia for a declaratory judg-
3 ment that such covered practice neither has the
4 purpose nor will have the effect of denying or
5 abridging the right to vote on account of race,
6 color, or membership in a language minority
7 group, and unless and until the court enters
8 such judgment such covered practice shall not
9 be implemented.

10 “(B) SUBMISSION TO ATTORNEY GEN-
11 ERAL.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
13 subparagraph (A), such covered practice
14 may be implemented without such pro-
15 ceeding if the covered practice has been
16 submitted by the chief legal officer or other
17 appropriate official of such State or sub-
18 division to the Attorney General and the
19 Attorney General has not interposed an ob-
20 jection within 60 days after such submis-
21 sion, or upon good cause shown, to facili-
22 tate an expedited approval within 60 days
23 after such submission, the Attorney Gen-
24 eral has affirmatively indicated that such
25 objection will not be made. For purposes of

1 determining whether expedited consider-
2 ation of approval is required under this
3 subparagraph or section 5(a), an exigency
4 such as a natural disaster, that requires a
5 change in a voting qualification or pre-
6 requisite to voting or standard, practice, or
7 procedure with respect to voting during the
8 period of 30 days before a Federal election,
9 shall be considered to be good cause re-
10 quiring that expedited consideration.

11 “(ii) EFFECT OF INDICATION.—Nei-
12 ther an affirmative indication by the Attor-
13 ney General that no objection will be made,
14 nor the Attorney General’s failure to ob-
15 ject, nor a declaratory judgment entered
16 under this subsection shall bar a subse-
17 quent action to enjoin implementation of
18 such covered practice. In the event the At-
19 torney General affirmatively indicates that
20 no objection will be made within the 60-
21 day period following receipt of a submis-
22 sion, the Attorney General may reserve the
23 right to reexamine the submission if addi-
24 tional information comes to the Attorney
25 General’s attention during the remainder

1 of the 60-day period which would otherwise
2 require objection in accordance with this
3 subsection.

4 “(C) COURT.—Any action under this sub-
5 section shall be heard and determined by a
6 court of three judges in accordance with the
7 provisions of section 2284 of title 28, United
8 States Code, and any appeal shall lie to the Su-
9 preme Court.

10 “(2) DENYING OR ABRIDGING THE RIGHT TO
11 VOTE.—Any covered practice described in subsection
12 (b) that has the purpose of or will have the effect
13 of diminishing the ability of any citizens of the
14 United States on account of race, color, or member-
15 ship in a language minority group, to elect their pre-
16 ferred candidates of choice denies or abridges the
17 right to vote within the meaning of paragraph (1).

18 “(3) PURPOSE DEFINED.—The term ‘purpose’
19 in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall include any discrimi-
20 natory purpose.

21 “(4) PURPOSE OF PARAGRAPH (2).—The pur-
22 pose of paragraph (2) is to protect the ability of
23 such citizens to elect their preferred candidates of
24 choice.

1 “(d) ENFORCEMENT.—The Attorney General or any
2 aggrieved citizen may file an action in a district court of
3 the United States to compel any State or political subdivi-
4 sion to satisfy the obligations set forth in this section.
5 Such an action shall be heard and determined by a court
6 of three judges under section 2284 of title 28, United
7 States Code. In any such action, the court shall provide
8 as a remedy that implementation of any voting qualifica-
9 tion or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or
10 procedure with respect to voting, that is the subject of the
11 action under this subsection be enjoined unless the court
12 determines that—

13 “(1) the voting qualification or prerequisite to
14 voting, or standard, practice, or procedure with re-
15 spect to voting, is not a covered practice described
16 in subsection (b); or

17 “(2) the State or political subdivision has com-
18 plied with subsection (c) with respect to the covered
19 practice at issue.

20 “(e) COUNTING OF RACIAL GROUPS AND LANGUAGE
21 MINORITY GROUPS.—For purposes of this section, the cal-
22 culation of the population of a racial group or a language
23 minority group shall be carried out using the methodology
24 in the guidance of the Department of Justice entitled
25 ‘Guidance Concerning Redistricting Under Section 5 of

1 the Voting Rights Act; Notice’ (76 Fed. Reg. 7470 (Feb-
2 ruary 9, 2011)).

3 “(f) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of determina-
4 tions under this section, any data provided by the Bureau
5 of the Census, whether based on estimation from a sample
6 or actual enumeration, shall not be subject to challenge
7 or review in any court.

8 “(g) MULTILINGUAL VOTING MATERIALS.—In this
9 section, the term ‘multilingual voting materials’ means
10 registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assist-
11 ance, or other materials or information relating to the
12 electoral process, including ballots, provided in the lan-
13 guage or languages of one or more language minority
14 groups.”.

15 **SEC. 106. PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY TO ENFORCE THE**
16 **VOTING RIGHTS ACT.**

17 (a) TRANSPARENCY.—The Voting Rights Act of 1965
18 (52 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after
19 section 5 the following:

20 **“SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY REGARDING CHANGES TO PRO-**
21 **TECT VOTING RIGHTS.**

22 “(a) NOTICE OF ENACTED CHANGES.—

23 “(1) NOTICE OF CHANGES.—If a State or polit-
24 ical subdivision makes any change in any qualifica-
25 tion or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice,

1 or procedure with respect to voting in any election
2 for Federal office that will result in the qualification
3 or prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure
4 being different from that which was in effect as of
5 180 days before the date of the election for Federal
6 office, the State or political subdivision shall provide
7 reasonable public notice in such State or political
8 subdivision and on the website of the State or polit-
9 ical subdivision, of a concise description of the
10 change, including the difference between the
11 changed qualification or prerequisite, standard, prac-
12 tice, or procedure and the qualification, prerequisite,
13 standard, practice, or procedure which was pre-
14 viously in effect. The public notice described in this
15 paragraph, in such State or political subdivision and
16 on the website of a State or political subdivision,
17 shall be in a format that is reasonably convenient
18 and accessible to persons with disabilities who are el-
19 igible to vote, including persons who have low vision
20 or are blind.

21 “(2) DEADLINE FOR NOTICE.—A State or polit-
22 ical subdivision shall provide the public notice re-
23 quired under paragraph (1) not later than 48 hours
24 after making the change involved.

1 “(b) TRANSPARENCY REGARDING POLLING PLACE
2 RESOURCES.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to identify any
4 changes that may impact the right to vote of any
5 person, prior to the 30th day before the date of an
6 election for Federal office, each State or political
7 subdivision with responsibility for allocating reg-
8 istered voters, voting machines, and official poll
9 workers to particular precincts and polling places
10 shall provide reasonable public notice in such State
11 or political subdivision and on the website of a State
12 or political subdivision, of the information described
13 in paragraph (2) for precincts and polling places
14 within such State or political subdivision. The public
15 notice described in this paragraph, in such State or
16 political subdivision and on the website of a State or
17 political subdivision, shall be in a format that is rea-
18 sonably convenient and accessible to persons with
19 disabilities who are eligible to vote, including persons
20 who have low vision or are blind.

21 “(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The informa-
22 tion described in this paragraph with respect to a
23 precinct or polling place is each of the following:

24 “(A) The name or number.

1 “(B) In the case of a polling place, the lo-
2 cation, including the street address, and wheth-
3 er such polling place is accessible to persons
4 with disabilities.

5 “(C) The voting-age population of the area
6 served by the precinct or polling place, broken
7 down by demographic group if such breakdown
8 is reasonably available to such State or political
9 subdivision.

10 “(D) The number of registered voters as-
11 signed to the precinct or polling place, broken
12 down by demographic group if such breakdown
13 is reasonably available to such State or political
14 subdivision.

15 “(E) The number of voting machines as-
16 signed, including the number of voting ma-
17 chines accessible to persons with disabilities
18 who are eligible to vote, including persons who
19 have low vision or are blind.

20 “(F) The number of official paid poll
21 workers assigned.

22 “(G) The number of official volunteer poll
23 workers assigned.

24 “(H) In the case of a polling place, the
25 dates and hours of operation.

1 “(3) UPDATES IN INFORMATION REPORTED.—

2 If a State or political subdivision makes any change
3 in any of the information described in paragraph
4 (2), the State or political subdivision shall provide
5 reasonable public notice in such State or political
6 subdivision and on the website of a State or political
7 subdivision, of the change in the information not
8 later than 48 hours after the change occurs or, if
9 the change occurs fewer than 48 hours before the
10 date of the election for Federal office, as soon as
11 practicable after the change occurs. The public no-
12 tice described in this paragraph and published on
13 the website of a State or political subdivision shall
14 be in a format that is reasonably convenient and ac-
15 cessible to persons with disabilities who are eligible
16 to vote, including persons who have low vision or are
17 blind.

18 “(c) TRANSPARENCY OF CHANGES RELATING TO DE-

19 MOGRAPHICS AND ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.—

20 “(1) REQUIRING PUBLIC NOTICE OF

21 CHANGES.—Not later than 10 days after making
22 any change in the constituency that will participate
23 in an election for Federal, State, or local office or
24 the boundaries of a voting unit or electoral district
25 in an election for Federal, State, or local office (in-

1 including through redistricting, reapportionment,
2 changing from at-large elections to district-based
3 elections, or changing from district-based elections
4 to at-large elections), a State or political subdivision
5 shall provide reasonable public notice in such State
6 or political subdivision and on the website of a State
7 or political subdivision, of the demographic and elec-
8 toral data described in paragraph (3) for each of the
9 geographic areas described in paragraph (2).

10 “(2) GEOGRAPHIC AREAS DESCRIBED.—The geo-
11 graphic areas described in this paragraph are as
12 follows:

13 “(A) The State as a whole, if the change
14 applies statewide, or the political subdivision as
15 a whole, if the change applies across the entire
16 political subdivision.

17 “(B) If the change includes a plan to re-
18 place or eliminate voting units or electoral dis-
19 tricts, each voting unit or electoral district that
20 will be replaced or eliminated.

21 “(C) If the change includes a plan to es-
22 tablish new voting units or electoral districts,
23 each such new voting unit or electoral district.

24 “(3) DEMOGRAPHIC AND ELECTORAL DATA.—
25 The demographic and electoral data described in this

1 paragraph with respect to a geographic area de-
2 scribed in paragraph (2) are each of the following:

3 “(A) The voting-age population, broken
4 down by demographic group.

5 “(B) The number of registered voters, bro-
6 ken down by demographic group if such break-
7 down is reasonably available to the State or po-
8 litical subdivision involved.

9 “(C)(i) If the change applies to a State,
10 the actual number of votes, or (if it is not rea-
11 sonably practicable for the State to ascertain
12 the actual number of votes) the estimated num-
13 ber of votes received by each candidate in each
14 statewide election held during the 5-year period
15 which ends on the date the change involved is
16 made; and

17 “(ii) if the change applies to only one polit-
18 ical subdivision, the actual number of votes, or
19 (if it is not reasonably practicable for the polit-
20 ical subdivision to ascertain the actual number
21 of votes) the estimated number of votes in each
22 subdivision-wide election held during the 5-year
23 period which ends on the date the change in-
24 volved is made.

1 “(4) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE BY SMALLER JU-
2 RISDICTIONS.—Compliance with this subsection shall
3 be voluntary for a political subdivision of a State un-
4 less the subdivision is one of the following:

5 “(A) A county or parish.

6 “(B) A municipality with a population
7 greater than 10,000, as determined by the Bu-
8 reau of the Census under the most recent de-
9 cennial census.

10 “(C) A school district with a population
11 greater than 10,000, as determined by the Bu-
12 reau of the Census under the most recent de-
13 cennial census. For purposes of this subpara-
14 graph, the term ‘school district’ means the geo-
15 graphic area under the jurisdiction of a local
16 educational agency (as defined in section 8101
17 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
18 Act of 1965).

19 “(d) RULES REGARDING FORMAT OF INFORMA-
20 TION.—The Attorney General may issue rules specifying
21 a reasonably convenient and accessible format that States
22 and political subdivisions shall use to provide public notice
23 of information under this section.

24 “(e) NO DENIAL OF RIGHT TO VOTE.—The right to
25 vote of any person shall not be denied or abridged because

1 the person failed to comply with any change made by a
2 State or political subdivision to a voting qualification, pre-
3 requisite, standard, practice, or procedure if the State or
4 political subdivision involved did not meet the applicable
5 requirements of this section with respect to the change.

6 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

7 “(1) the term ‘demographic group’ means each
8 group which section 2 protects from the denial or
9 abridgement of the right to vote on account of race
10 or color, or in contravention of the guarantees set
11 forth in section 4(f)(2);

12 “(2) the term ‘election for Federal office’ means
13 any general, special, primary, or runoff election held
14 solely or in part for the purpose of electing any can-
15 didate for the office of President, Vice President,
16 Presidential elector, Senator, Member of the House
17 of Representatives, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
18 sioner to the Congress; and

19 “(3) the term ‘persons with disabilities’, means
20 individuals with a disability, as defined in section 3
21 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.”.

22 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
23 subsection (a)(1) shall apply with respect to changes which
24 are made on or after the expiration of the 60-day period
25 which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 107. AUTHORITY TO ASSIGN OBSERVERS.**

2 (a) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY IN POLITICAL
3 SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE.—Section
4 8(a)(2)(B) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
5 10305(a)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(B) in the Attorney General’s judgment,
7 the assignment of observers is otherwise nec-
8 essary to enforce the guarantees of the 14th or
9 15th Amendment or any provision of this Act
10 or any other Federal law protecting the right of
11 citizens of the United States to vote; or”.

12 (b) ASSIGNMENT OF OBSERVERS TO ENFORCE BI-
13 LINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 8(a) of
14 such Act (52 U.S.C. 10305(a)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph
16 (1);

17 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(3) the Attorney General certifies with respect
20 to a political subdivision that—

21 “(A) the Attorney General has received
22 written meritorious complaints from residents,
23 elected officials, or civic participation organiza-
24 tions that efforts to violate section 203 are like-
25 ly to occur; or

1 “(B) in the Attorney General’s judgment,
2 the assignment of observers is necessary to en-
3 force the guarantees of section 203;” and

4 (3) by moving the margin for the continuation
5 text following paragraph (3), as added by paragraph
6 (2) of this subsection, 2 ems to the left.

7 (c) TRANSFERRAL OF AUTHORITY OVER OBSERVERS
8 TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

9 (1) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS.—Section
10 3(a) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
11 10302(a)) is amended by striking “United States
12 Civil Service Commission in accordance with section
13 6” and inserting “Attorney General in accordance
14 with section 8”.

15 (2) OBSERVERS; APPOINTMENT AND COM-
16 PENSATION.—Section 8 of the Voting Rights Act of
17 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10305) is amended—

18 (A) in subsection (a), in the flush matter
19 at the end, by striking “Director of the Office
20 of Personnel Management shall assign as many
21 observers for such subdivision as the Director”
22 and inserting “Attorney General shall assign as
23 many observers for such subdivision as the At-
24 torney General”;

1 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “Director
2 of the Office of Personnel Management” and
3 inserting “Attorney General”; and

4 (C) in subsection (c), by adding at the end
5 the following: “The Director of the Office of
6 Personnel Management may, with the consent
7 of the Attorney General, assist in the selection,
8 recruitment, hiring, training, or deployment of
9 these or other individuals authorized by the At-
10 torney General for the purpose of observing
11 whether persons who are entitled to vote are
12 being permitted to vote and whether those votes
13 are being properly tabulated.”.

14 (3) TERMINATION OF CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS
15 OF OBSERVERS.—Section 13(a)(1) of the Voting
16 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10309(a)(1)) is
17 amended by striking “notifies the Director of the Of-
18 fice of Personnel Management,” and inserting “de-
19 termines,”.

20 **SEC. 108. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO SEEK RELIEF.**

21 (a) POLL TAX.—Section 10(b) of the Voting Rights
22 Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10306(b)) is amended by striking
23 “the Attorney General is authorized and directed to insti-
24 tute forthwith in the name of the United States such ac-
25 tions,” and inserting “an aggrieved person or (in the name

1 of the United States) the Attorney General may institute
2 such actions”.

3 (b) CAUSE OF ACTION.—Section 12(d) of the Voting
4 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10308(d)) is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 “(d)(1) Whenever there are reasonable grounds to be-
7 lieve that any person has engaged in, or is about to engage
8 in, any act or practice that would (1) deny any citizen
9 the right to register, to cast a ballot, or to have that ballot
10 counted properly and included in the appropriate totals
11 of votes cast in violation of the 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th,
12 or 26th Amendments to the Constitution of the United
13 States, (2) violate subsection (a) or (b) of section 11, or
14 (3) violate any other provision of this Act or any other
15 Federal voting rights law that prohibits discrimination on
16 the basis of race, color, or membership in a language mi-
17 nority group, an aggrieved person or (in the name of the
18 United States) the Attorney General may institute an ac-
19 tion for preventive relief, including an application for a
20 temporary or permanent injunction, restraining order, or
21 other appropriate order. Nothing in this subsection shall
22 be construed to create a cause of action for civil enforce-
23 ment of criminal provisions of this or any other Act.”.

24 (c) JUDICIAL RELIEF.—Section 204 of the Voting
25 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10504) is amended by

1 striking the first sentence and inserting the following:
2 “Whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that
3 a State or political subdivision has engaged or is about
4 to engage in any act or practice prohibited by a provision
5 of this title, an aggrieved person or (in the name of the
6 United States) the Attorney General may institute an ac-
7 tion in a district court of the United States, for a restrain-
8 ing order, a preliminary or permanent injunction, or such
9 other order as may be appropriate.”.

10 (d) ENFORCEMENT OF TWENTY-SIXTH AMEND-
11 MENT.—Section 301(a)(1) of the Voting Rights Act of
12 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10701(a)(1)) is amended to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(a)(1) An aggrieved person or (in the name of the
15 United States) the Attorney General may institute an ac-
16 tion in a district court of the United States, for a restrain-
17 ing order, a preliminary or permanent injunction, or such
18 other order as may be appropriate to implement the 26th
19 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.”.

20 **SEC. 109. PREVENTIVE RELIEF.**

21 Section 12(d) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
22 U.S.C. 10308(d)), as amended by section 108, is further
23 amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(2)(A) In considering any motion for preliminary re-
25 lief in any action for preventive relief described in this sub-

1 section, the court shall grant the relief if the court deter-
2 mines that the complainant has raised a serious question
3 as to whether the challenged voting qualification or pre-
4 requisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure vio-
5 lates any of the provisions listed in section 111(a)(1) of
6 the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of
7 2025 and, on balance, the hardship imposed on the de-
8 fendant by the grant of the relief will be less than the
9 hardship which would be imposed on the plaintiff if the
10 relief were not granted.

11 “(B) In making its determination under this para-
12 graph with respect to a change in any voting qualification,
13 prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure
14 with respect to voting, the court shall consider all relevant
15 factors and give due weight to the following factors, if they
16 are present:

17 “(i) Whether the qualification, prerequisite,
18 standard, practice, or procedure in effect prior to the
19 change was adopted as a remedy for a Federal court
20 judgment, consent decree, or admission regarding—

21 “(I) discrimination on the basis of race or
22 color in violation of the 14th or 15th Amend-
23 ment to the Constitution of the United States;

1 “(II) a violation of the 19th, 24th, or 26th
2 Amendments to the Constitution of the United
3 States;

4 “(III) a violation of this Act; or

5 “(IV) voting discrimination on the basis of
6 race, color, or membership in a language minor-
7 ity group in violation of any other Federal or
8 State law.

9 “(ii) Whether the qualification, prerequisite,
10 standard, practice, or procedure in effect prior to the
11 change served as a ground for the dismissal or set-
12 tlement of a claim alleging—

13 “(I) discrimination on the basis of race or
14 color in violation of the 14th or 15th Amend-
15 ment to the Constitution of the United States;

16 “(II) a violation of the 19th, 24th, or 26th
17 Amendment to the Constitution of the United
18 States;

19 “(III) a violation of this Act; or

20 “(IV) voting discrimination on the basis of
21 race, color, or membership in a language minor-
22 ity group in violation of any other Federal or
23 State law.

24 “(iii) Whether the change was adopted fewer
25 than 180 days before the date of the election with

1 (1) RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS OF VOTING
2 RIGHTS LAWS.—In this section, the term “prohibited
3 act or practice” means—

4 (A) any act or practice—

5 (i) that creates an undue burden on
6 the fundamental right to vote in violation
7 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitu-
8 tion of the United States or violates the
9 Equal Protection Clause of the 14th
10 Amendment to the Constitution of the
11 United States; or

12 (ii) that is prohibited by the 15th,
13 19th, 24th, or 26th Amendment to the
14 Constitution of the United States, section
15 2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C.
16 10101), the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
17 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), the National Voter
18 Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
19 20501 et seq.), the Uniformed and Over-
20 seas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52
21 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.), the Help America
22 Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20901 et
23 seq.), the Voting Accessibility for the El-
24 derly and Handicapped Act (52 U.S.C.

1 20101 et seq.), or section 2003 of the Re-
2 vised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10102); and

3 (B) any act or practice in violation of any
4 Federal law that prohibits discrimination with
5 respect to voting, including the Americans with
6 Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et
7 seq.).

8 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
9 section shall be construed to diminish the authority
10 or scope of authority of any person to bring an ac-
11 tion under any Federal law.

12 (3) ATTORNEY’S FEES.—Section 722(b) of the
13 Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1988(b)) is amended by
14 inserting “a provision described in section 111(a)(1)
15 of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement
16 Act of 2025,” after “title VI of the Civil Rights Act
17 of 1964,”.

18 (b) GROUNDS FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF.—In any ac-
19 tion for equitable relief pursuant to a law listed under sub-
20 section (a), proximity of the action to an election shall not
21 be a valid reason to deny such relief, or stay the operation
22 of or vacate the issuance of such relief, unless the party
23 opposing the issuance or continued operation of relief
24 meets the burden of proving by clear and convincing evi-
25 dence that the issuance of the relief would be so close in

1 time to the election as to cause irreparable harm to the
2 public interest or that compliance with such relief would
3 impose serious burdens on the party opposing relief.

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In considering whether to
5 grant, deny, stay, or vacate any order of equitable
6 relief, the court shall give substantial weight to the
7 public’s interest in expanding access to the right to
8 vote. A State’s generalized interest in enforcing its
9 enacted laws shall not be a relevant consideration in
10 determining whether equitable relief is warranted.

11 (2) PRESUMPTIVE SAFE HARBOR.—Where equi-
12 table relief is sought either within 30 days of the
13 adoption or reasonable public notice of the chal-
14 lenged policy or practice, or more than 45 days be-
15 fore the date of an election to which the relief being
16 sought will apply, proximity to the election will be
17 presumed not to constitute a harm to the public in-
18 terest or a burden on the party opposing relief.

19 (c) GROUNDS FOR STAY OR VACATUR IN FEDERAL
20 CLAIMS INVOLVING VOTING RIGHTS.—

21 (1) PROSPECTIVE EFFECT.—In reviewing an
22 application for a stay or vacatur of equitable relief
23 granted pursuant to a law listed in subsection (a),
24 a court shall give substantial weight to the reliance
25 interests of citizens who acted pursuant to such

1 order under review. In fashioning a stay or vacatur,
2 a reviewing court shall not order relief that has the
3 effect of denying or abridging the right to vote of
4 any citizen who has acted in reliance on the order.

5 (2) WRITTEN EXPLANATION.—No stay or
6 vacatur under this subsection shall issue unless the
7 reviewing court makes specific findings that the pub-
8 lic interest, including the public’s interest in expand-
9 ing access to the ballot, will be harmed by the con-
10 tinuing operation of the equitable relief or that com-
11 pliance with such relief will impose serious burdens
12 on the party seeking such a stay or vacatur such
13 that those burdens substantially outweigh the bene-
14 fits to the public interest. In reviewing an applica-
15 tion for a stay or vacatur of equitable relief, findings
16 of fact made in issuing the order under review shall
17 not be set aside unless clearly erroneous.

18 **SEC. 112. PROTECTION OF TABULATED VOTES.**

19 The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10307)
20 is amended—

21 (1) in section 11—

22 (A) by amending subsection (a) to read as
23 follows:

24 “(a) No person acting under color of law shall—

1 “(1) fail or refuse to permit any person to vote
2 who is entitled to vote under Federal law or is other-
3 wise qualified to vote;

4 “(2) willfully fail or refuse to tabulate, count,
5 and report such person’s vote; or

6 “(3) willfully fail or refuse to certify the aggre-
7 gate tabulations of such persons’ votes or certify the
8 election of the candidates receiving sufficient such
9 votes to be elected to office.”; and

10 (B) in subsection (b), by inserting “sub-
11 section (a) or” after “duties under”; and

12 (2) in section 12—

13 (A) in subsection (b)—

14 (i) by striking “a year following an
15 election in a political subdivision in which
16 an observer has been assigned” and insert-
17 ing “22 months following an election for
18 Federal office”; and

19 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing: “Whenever the Attorney General
21 has reasonable grounds to believe that any
22 person has engaged in or is about to en-
23 gage in an act in violation of this sub-
24 section, the Attorney General may institute
25 (in the name of the United States) a civil

1 action in Federal district court seeking ap-
2 propriate relief.”;

3 (B) in subsection (c), by inserting “or so-
4 licits a violation of” after “conspires to violate”;
5 and

6 (C) in subsection (e), by striking the first
7 and second sentences and inserting the fol-
8 lowing: “If, after the closing of the polls in an
9 election for Federal office, persons allege that
10 notwithstanding (1) their registration by an ap-
11 propriate election official and (2) their eligi-
12 bility to vote in the political subdivision, their
13 ballots have not been counted in such election,
14 and if upon prompt receipt of notifications of
15 these allegations, the Attorney General finds
16 such allegations to be well founded, the Attor-
17 ney General may forthwith file with the district
18 court an application for an order providing for
19 the counting and certification of the ballots of
20 such persons and requiring the inclusion of
21 their votes in the total vote for all applicable of-
22 fices before the results of such election shall be
23 deemed final and any force or effect given
24 thereto.”.

1 **SEC. 113. ENFORCEMENT OF VOTING RIGHTS BY ATTORNEY**

2 **GENERAL.**

3 Section 12 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
4 U.S.C. 10308), as amended by this Act, is further amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following:

6 “(g) VOTING RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY
7 GENERAL.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to fulfill the At-
9 torney General’s responsibility to enforce this Act
10 and other Federal laws that protect the right to
11 vote, the Attorney General (or upon designation by
12 the Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney Gen-
13 eral for Civil Rights) is authorized, before com-
14 mencing a civil action, to issue a demand for inspec-
15 tion and information in writing to any State or polit-
16 ical subdivision, or other governmental representa-
17 tive or agent, with respect to any relevant documen-
18 tary material that the Attorney General has reason
19 to believe is within their possession, custody, or con-
20 trol. A demand by the Attorney General under this
21 subsection may require—

22 “(A) the production of such documentary
23 material for inspection and copying;

24 “(B) answers in writing to written ques-
25 tions with respect to such documentary mate-
26 rial; or

1 “(C) both the production described under
2 subparagraph (A) and the answers described
3 under subparagraph (B).

4 “(2) CONTENTS OF AN ATTORNEY GENERAL
5 DEMAND.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any demand issued
7 under paragraph (1), shall include a sworn cer-
8 tificate to identify the voting qualification or
9 prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or
10 procedure with respect to voting, or other vot-
11 ing related matter or issue, whose lawfulness
12 the Attorney General is investigating and to
13 identify the Federal law that protects the right
14 to vote under which the investigation is being
15 conducted. The demand shall be reasonably cal-
16 culated to lead to the discovery of documentary
17 material and information relevant to such inves-
18 tigation. Documentary material includes any
19 material upon which relevant information is re-
20 corded, and includes written or printed mate-
21 rials, photographs, tapes, or materials upon
22 which information is electronically or magneti-
23 cally recorded. Such demands shall be aimed at
24 the Attorney General having the ability to in-
25 spect and obtain copies of relevant materials (as

1 well as obtain information) related to voting
2 and are not aimed at the Attorney General tak-
3 ing possession of original records, particularly
4 those that are required to be retained by State
5 and local election officials under Federal or
6 State law.

7 “(B) NO REQUIREMENT FOR PRODUC-
8 TION.—Any demand issued under paragraph
9 (1) may not require the production of any docu-
10 mentary material or the submission of any an-
11 swers in writing to written questions if such
12 material or answers would be protected from
13 disclosure under the standards applicable to
14 discovery requests under the Federal Rules of
15 Civil Procedure in an action in which the Attor-
16 ney General or the United States is a party.

17 “(C) DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL.—If the
18 demand issued under paragraph (1) requires
19 the production of documentary material, it
20 shall—

21 “(i) identify the class of documentary
22 material to be produced with such definite-
23 ness and certainty as to permit such mate-
24 rial to be fairly identified; and

1 “(ii) prescribe a return date for pro-
2 duction of the documentary material at
3 least 20 days after issuance of the demand
4 to give the State or political subdivision, or
5 other governmental representative or
6 agent, a reasonable period of time for as-
7 sembling the documentary material and
8 making it available for inspection and
9 copying.

10 “(D) ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUES-
11 TIONS.—If the demand issued under paragraph
12 (1) requires answers in writing to written ques-
13 tions, it shall—

14 “(i) set forth with specificity the writ-
15 ten question to be answered; and

16 “(ii) prescribe a date at least 20 days
17 after the issuance of the demand for sub-
18 mitting answers in writing to the written
19 questions.

20 “(E) SERVICE.—A demand issued under
21 paragraph (1) may be served by a United
22 States marshal or a deputy marshal, or by cer-
23 tified mail, at any place within the territorial
24 jurisdiction of any court of the United States.

1 “(3) RESPONSES TO AN ATTORNEY GENERAL
2 DEMAND.—A State or political subdivision, or other
3 governmental representative or agent, shall, with re-
4 spect to any documentary material or any answer in
5 writing produced under this subsection, provide a
6 sworn certificate, in such form as the demand issued
7 under paragraph (1) designates, by a person having
8 knowledge of the facts and circumstances relating to
9 such production or written answer, authorized to act
10 on behalf of the State or political subdivision, or
11 other governmental representative or agent, upon
12 which the demand was served. The certificate—

13 “(A) shall state that—

14 “(i) all of the documentary material
15 required by the demand and in the posses-
16 sion, custody, or control of the State or po-
17 litical subdivision, or other governmental
18 representative or agent, has been produced;

19 “(ii) with respect to every answer in
20 writing to a written question, all informa-
21 tion required by the question and in the
22 possession, custody, control, or knowledge
23 of the State or political subdivision, or
24 other governmental representative or
25 agent, has been submitted; or

1 “(iii) the requirements described in
2 both clause (i) and clause (ii) have been
3 met; or

4 “(B) provide the basis for any objection to
5 producing the documentary material or answer-
6 ing the written question.

7 To the extent that any information is not furnished,
8 the information shall be identified and reasons set
9 forth with particularity regarding the reasons why
10 the information was not furnished.

11 “(4) JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.—

12 “(A) PETITION FOR ENFORCEMENT.—

13 Whenever any State or political subdivision, or
14 other governmental representative or agent,
15 fails to comply with demand issued by the At-
16 torney General under paragraph (1), the Attor-
17 ney General may file, in a district court of the
18 United States in which the State or political
19 subdivision, or other governmental representa-
20 tive or agent, is located, a petition for a judicial
21 order enforcing the Attorney General demand
22 issued under paragraph (1).

23 “(B) PETITION TO MODIFY.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any State or po-
25 litical subdivision, or other governmental

1 representative or agent, that is served with
2 a demand issued by the Attorney General
3 under paragraph (1) may file in the United
4 States District Court for the District of
5 Columbia a petition for an order of the
6 court to modify or set aside the demand of
7 the Attorney General.

8 “(ii) PETITION TO MODIFY.—Any pe-
9 tition to modify or set aside a demand of
10 the Attorney General issued under para-
11 graph (1) must be filed within 20 days
12 after the date of service of the Attorney
13 General’s demand or at any time before
14 the return date specified in the Attorney
15 General’s demand, whichever date is ear-
16 lier.

17 “(iii) CONTENTS OF PETITION.—The
18 petition shall specify each ground upon
19 which the petitioner relies in seeking relief
20 under clause (i), and may be based upon
21 any failure of the Attorney General’s de-
22 mand to comply with the provisions of this
23 section or upon any constitutional or other
24 legal right or privilege of the State or po-
25 litical subdivision, or other governmental

1 representative or agent. During the pend-
2 ency of the petition in the court, the court
3 may stay, as it deems proper, the running
4 of the time allowed for compliance with the
5 Attorney General's demand, in whole or in
6 part, except that the State or political sub-
7 division, or other governmental representa-
8 tive or agent, filing the petition shall com-
9 ply with any portions of the Attorney Gen-
10 eral's demand not sought to be modified or
11 set aside.”.

12 **SEC. 114. DEFINITIONS.**

13 Title I of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
14 10301) is amended by adding at the end the following:

15 **“SEC. 21. DEFINITIONS.**

16 “In this Act:

17 “(1) INDIAN.—The term ‘Indian’ has the mean-
18 ing given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-
19 Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
20 U.S.C. 5304).

21 “(2) INDIAN LANDS.—The term ‘Indian lands’
22 means—

23 “(A) any Indian country of an Indian
24 tribe, as such term is defined in section 1151
25 of title 18, United States Code;

1 “(B) any land in Alaska that is owned,
2 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settle-
3 ment Act, by an Indian tribe that is a Native
4 village (as such term is defined in section 3 of
5 such Act), or by a Village Corporation that is
6 associated with the Indian tribe (as such term
7 is defined in section 3 of such Act);

8 “(C) any land on which the seat of govern-
9 ment of the Indian tribe is located; and

10 “(D) any land that is part or all of a tribal
11 designated statistical area associated with the
12 Indian tribe, or is part or all of an Alaska Na-
13 tive village statistical area associated with the
14 tribe, as defined by the Bureau of the Census
15 for the purposes of the most recent decennial
16 census.

17 “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian tribe’ or
18 ‘tribe’ has the meaning given the term ‘Indian tribe’
19 in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
20 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

21 “(4) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal
22 Government’ means the recognized governing body
23 of an Indian Tribe.

24 “(5) VOTING-AGE POPULATION.—The term
25 ‘voting-age population’ means the numerical size of

1 the population within a State, within a political sub-
2 division, or within a political subdivision that con-
3 tains Indian lands, as the case may be, that consists
4 of persons age 18 or older, as calculated by the Bu-
5 reau of the Census under the most recent decennial
6 census.”.

7 **SEC. 115. ATTORNEYS’ FEES.**

8 Section 14(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
9 U.S.C. 10310(c)) is amended by adding at the end the
10 following:

11 “(4) The term ‘prevailing party’ means a party to an
12 action that receives at least some of the benefit sought
13 by such action, states a colorable claim, and can establish
14 that the action was a significant cause of a change to the
15 status quo.”.

16 **SEC. 116. OTHER TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMEND-**
17 **MENTS.**

18 (a) ACTIONS COVERED UNDER SECTION 3.—Section
19 3(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C.
20 10302(c)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking “any proceeding instituted by
22 the Attorney General or an aggrieved person under
23 any statute to enforce” and inserting “any action
24 under any statute in which a party (including the
25 Attorney General) seeks to enforce”; and

1 (2) by striking “at the time the proceeding was
2 commenced” and inserting “at the time the action
3 was commenced”.

4 (b) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF
5 LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS.—Section 4(f) of such Act
6 (52 U.S.C. 10303(f)) is amended—

7 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking the second
8 sentence; and

9 (2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

10 (c) PERIOD DURING WHICH CHANGES IN VOTING
11 PRACTICES ARE SUBJECT TO PRECLEARANCE UNDER
12 SECTION 5.—Section 5 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 10304)
13 is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “based upon
15 determinations made under the first sentence of sec-
16 tion 4(b) are in effect” and inserting “are in effect
17 during a calendar year”;

18 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “November 1,
19 1964” and all that follows through “November 1,
20 1972” and inserting “the applicable date of cov-
21 erage”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 section:

24 “(e) The term ‘applicable date of coverage’ means,
25 with respect to a State or political subdivision—

1 “(1) June 25, 2013, if the most recent deter-
2 mination for such State or subdivision under section
3 4(b) was made on or before December 31, 2021; or

4 “(2) the date on which the most recent deter-
5 mination for such State or subdivision under section
6 4(b) was made, if such determination was made
7 after December 31, 2021.”.

8 (d) REVIEW OF PRECLEARANCE SUBMISSION UNDER
9 SECTION 5 DUE TO EXIGENCY.—Section 5 of such Act
10 (52 U.S.C. 10304) is amended, in subsection (a), by in-
11 serting “An exigency, including a natural disaster, inclem-
12 ent weather, or other unforeseeable event, requiring such
13 different qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or
14 procedure within 30 days of a Federal, State, or local elec-
15 tion shall constitute good cause requiring the Attorney
16 General to expedite consideration of the submission.” after
17 “will not be made.”.

18 **SEC. 117. SEVERABILITY.**

19 If any provision of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights
20 Advancement Act of 2025 or any amendment made by this
21 title, or the application of such a provision or amendment
22 to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitu-
23 tional or is otherwise enjoined or unenforceable, the re-
24 mainder of this title and amendments made by this title,
25 and the application of the provisions and amendments to

1 any other person or circumstance, and any remaining pro-
2 vision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10301
3 et seq.), shall not be affected by the holding. In addition,
4 if any provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
5 U.S.C. 10301 et seq.), or any amendment to the Voting
6 Rights Act of 1965, or the application of such a provision
7 or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to
8 be unconstitutional or is otherwise enjoined or unenforce-
9 able, the application of the provision and amendment to
10 any other person or circumstance, and any remaining pro-
11 visions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, shall not be af-
12 fected by the holding.

13 **SEC. 118. GRANTS TO ASSIST WITH NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**
14 **UNDER THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall make
16 grants each fiscal year to small jurisdictions who submit
17 applications under subsection (b) for purposes of assisting
18 such small jurisdictions with compliance with the require-
19 ments of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to submit or pub-
20 lish notice of any change to a qualification, prerequisite,
21 standard, practice or procedure affecting voting.

22 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under
23 this section, a small jurisdiction shall submit an applica-
24 tion to the Attorney General in such form and containing
25 such information as the Attorney General may require re-

1 guarding the compliance of such small jurisdiction with the
2 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

3 (c) **SMALL JURISDICTION DEFINED.**—For purposes
4 of this section, the term “small jurisdiction” means any
5 political subdivision of a State with a population of 10,000
6 or less.

7 **TITLE II—ELECTION WORKER**
8 **AND POLLING PLACE PRO-**
9 **TECTION**

10 **SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.**

11 This title may be cited as the “Election Worker and
12 Polling Place Protection Act”.

13 **SEC. 202. PROHIBITION ON INTERFERENCE AND INTIMIDA-**
14 **TION.**

15 Section 11 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52
16 U.S.C. 10307) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(f)(1)(A) Whoever, whether or not acting under
19 color of law, by force or threat of force, or by violence
20 or threat of violence to any person or property, willfully
21 interferes with or attempts to interfere with, the ability
22 of any person or any class of persons to vote or qualify
23 to vote, or to qualify or act as a poll watcher or as any
24 legally authorized election official, in any primary, special,
25 or general election, or any person who is, or is employed

1 by, an agent, contractor, or vendor of a legally authorized
2 election official assisting in the administration of any pri-
3 mary, special, or general election to assist in that adminis-
4 tration, shall be fined not more than \$2,500, or impris-
5 oned not more than 6 months, or both.

6 “(B) Whoever, whether or not acting under color of
7 law, by force or threat of force, or by violence or threat
8 of violence to any person or property, willfully intimidates
9 or attempts to intimidate, any person or any class of per-
10 sons seeking to vote or qualify to vote, or to qualify or
11 act as a poll watcher or as any legally authorized election
12 official, in any primary, special, or general election, or any
13 person who is, or is employed by, an agent, contractor,
14 or vendor of a legally authorized election official assisting
15 in the administration of any primary, special, or general
16 election, shall be fined not more than \$2,500, or impris-
17 oned not more than 6 months, or both.

18 “(C) If bodily injury results from an act committed
19 in violation of this paragraph or if such act includes the
20 use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous
21 weapon, an explosive, or fire, then, in lieu of the remedy
22 described in subparagraph (A) or (B), the violator shall
23 be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more
24 than 1 year, or both.

1 “(2)(A) Whoever, whether or not acting under color
2 of law, willfully physically damages or threatens to phys-
3 ically damage any physical property being used as a poll-
4 ing place or tabulation center or other election infrastruc-
5 ture, with the intent to interfere with the administration
6 of a primary, general, or special election or the tabulation
7 or certification of votes for such an election, shall be fined
8 not more than \$2,500, or imprisoned not more than 6
9 months, or both.

10 “(B) If bodily injury results from an act committed
11 in violation of this paragraph or if such act includes the
12 use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous
13 weapon, an explosive, or fire, then, in lieu of the remedy
14 described in subparagraph (A), the violator shall be fined
15 not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year,
16 or both.

17 “(3) For purposes of this subsection, de minimus
18 damage or a threat of de minimus damage to physical
19 property shall not be considered a violation of this sub-
20 section.

21 “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘elec-
22 tion infrastructure’ means any office of a legally author-
23 ized election official, or a staffer, worker, or volunteer, as-
24 sisting such an election official or any physical, mechan-
25 ical, or electrical device, structure, or tangible item, used

1 in the process of creating, distributing, voting, returning,
2 counting, tabulating, auditing, storing, or other handling
3 of voter registration or ballot information.

4 “(g) No prosecution of any offense described in sub-
5 section (f) may be undertaken by the United States, ex-
6 cept under the certification in writing of the Attorney Gen-
7 eral, or a designee, that—

8 “(1) the State does not have jurisdiction;

9 “(2) the State has requested that the Federal
10 Government assume jurisdiction; or

11 “(3) a prosecution by the United States is in
12 the public interest and necessary to secure substan-
13 tial justice.”.