

## **H.R. 3295**

### **SUMMARY OF HOUSE-SENATE AGREEMENT**

#### **I. TITLE I—ANTIQUATED MACHINE BUY-OUT**

- \$325 million for buying out punch-card and lever voting machines.
- \$325 million in automatic payments to states to improve election administration.
- Each state is guaranteed to receive at least \$5 million under this title.

#### **II. TITLE II—ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

- The Commission has no rulemaking authority but, under prescribed procedures, will issue voluntary guidelines for voting systems and the requirements.
- The Commission carries out the grant programs, provides for the certification and testing of voting systems, and studies election issues.

##### **Requirements Payments**

- \$3 billion for meeting the requirements, training poll workers, providing voter education, and improving the administration of federal elections.
- Payments are allocated by formula upon the submission of a state plan, developed in an open manner and subject to public notice and comment, and certain self-certifications.

##### **Access Grants**

- \$100 million for increasing polling place access for disabled voters.

##### **Research Grants**

- \$20 million for research and development to improve voting technology.

##### **Pilot Program Grants**

- \$10 million for pilot programs to test new voting systems and equipment.

##### **Protection and Advocacy Systems Payments**

- \$40 million for state protection and advocacy systems.

#### **III. TITLE III—REQUIREMENTS**

##### **Each state must:**

- Provide voters an opportunity to check for and correct ballot errors in a private and independent manner.
- Have a voting system with a manual audit capacity.
- Provide at least 1 voting machine per precinct that is accessible to the disabled.
- Provide alternative language accessibility pursuant to the Voting Rights Act.
- Have a voting system whose error rate does not exceed the existing rate established by the FEC Office of Election Administration.

- Define what constitutes a legal vote for each type of voting machine used in the state.
- Provide provisional ballots to ensure no individual is turned away at the polls.
- Implement a uniform, centralized computerized statewide voter registration database to ensure accurate lists.

#### **System Integrity**

- When registering to vote, individuals must provide a driver's license number or, if the voter does not have a driver's license, the last 4 digits of the Social Security number. If an individual does not have either number, he or she will be assigned a unique identifier.
- First-time voters who register by mail are required to provide identification when they cast their ballots.
- States are obligated to maintain clean and accurate voter registration lists.
- Voters who cast their ballots after the designated poll-closing time as a result of a court order will have their ballots segregated and counted separately.

#### **IV. TITLE IV—ENFORCEMENT**

- DOJ may seek injunctive or declaratory relief for violations of the Act.
- Each state receiving funds under the Act must establish an administrative grievance procedure for hearing complaints. States not accepting funds under the Act must either establish a grievance procedure or submit a compliance plan with DOJ.

#### **V. TITLE V—HELP AMERICA VOTE COLLEGE PROGRAM**

\$5 million to encourage college students to participate in the political process by volunteering as poll workers.

#### **VI. TITLE VI—HELP AMERICA VOTE FOUNDATION**

\$5 million to encourage high school students to participate in the political process by volunteering as poll workers.

#### **VII. TITLE VII—MILITARY**

Provisions to improve ballot access for military and overseas voters.

#### **VIII. TITLE VIII—TRANSITION PROVISIONS**

Transition provisions from House- and Senate-passed bills.

#### **IX. TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS**

- The Commission is authorized to conduct audits, including special audits.
- Criminal penalties for conspiracy to deprive voters of a fair election and providing false information in registering and voting.