



December 12, 2001

Manager's Amendment to the Election Reform Bill (H.R. 3295) Considered as Adopted under the Rule

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The rule for the election reform bill, H.R. 3295, scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, December 12th, is a closed rule. No amendments will be allowed, however one motion to recommit (with or without instructions) will be in order. The text of the (Ney) manager's amendment, summarized below, is considered as adopted.

Ney (Manager's Amendment)

- Allows a single absentee ballot application from an absent uniformed services or overseas voter to suffice as an application for the next two regularly scheduled federal elections (including run-offs) in the state
- Strikes the title (and all related provisions) that would have allowed state and local election officials to send official election mail at half the first class rate
- Requires states receiving election assistance grants to annually report to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) on how they were spent, including the number and type of articles of voting equipment obtained with the funds
- Mandates that every state require new voting systems to provide a "practical and effective" means for blind voters to cast secret ballots. Requires that EAC standards incorporate this mandate.
- Adds that (as a condition for the receipt of election assistance grant funds) if a state uses any portion of its election assistance money to obtain new voting machines, at least one voting machine per polling place in the state must be "fully accessible" to blind voters
- Adds that (as a condition for the receipt of election assistance grant funds) a state must certify that in each precinct or polling place in the state, there is at least one voting system available that is "fully accessible" to blind voters
- Requires jurisdictions receiving funds under the punch-card machine replacement program to "consider the use of new technology by individuals with disabilities (including blindness)"
- Requires that the EAC-developed standards improve polling-place accessibility for blind voters and makes assuring access for blind voters an allowable use of election assistance grant funds

- Directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to add to its research the study of and reporting on assistive voting technologies for blind voters
 - Requires statistical analyses of voter participation for overseas and for absent uniformed services to be separately studied and reported by the presidential designee under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act
 - Inserts the term "either" in section 902, to clarify that a voter can only be removed from the registration rolls after he has both failed to vote in two consecutive federal elections **and** failed to respond to a notice.
 - Requires that the EAC provide “information and training” on the management of election assistance grants
 - Changes one portion of the appointments to the EAC Standards Board from *chief* state election officials to *any* state election official *selected* by chief state election officials
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