

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4913

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to protect individuals who are lawfully registered to vote in elections for Federal office from bad faith challenges to their registration status, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. FIELDS) 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 protect individuals who are lawfully registered to vote in elections for Federal office from bad faith challenges to their registration status, 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 “Countering Harass-
3 ment and Applying Legal Liability to Effectively Nurture
4 Government Election Stability Act” or the “CHAL-
5 LENGES Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROTECTIONS AGAINST BAD FAITH CHALLENGES**
7 **TO VOTER REGISTRATION STATUS.**

8 (a) PROTECTIONS.—The National Voter Registration
9 Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended by in-
10 serting after section 8 the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 8A. PROTECTIONS AGAINST BAD-FAITH CHALLENGES**
12 **TO REGISTRATION STATUS.**

13 “(a) PROTECTIONS AGAINST BAD-FAITH CHAL-
14 LENGES.—No person, other than a State or local election
15 official, may submit to a State or local election official a
16 formal challenge to the voter registration status of an indi-
17 vidual who is registered to vote in elections for Federal
18 office held in the State unless the person—

19 “(1) provides the official with clear and con-
20 vincing evidence generated by an inquiry into the
21 specific individual’s voter registration status that of-
22 fers proof that the individual is not eligible to be
23 registered to vote in elections for Federal office in
24 the State and is not generated by a mass computer-
25 ized data matching process;

1 “(2) presents the official with an oath or attes-
2 tation of such person under penalty of perjury that
3 the person has personal knowledge that the indi-
4 vidual is not eligible to be registered to vote in elec-
5 tions for Federal office in the State; and

6 “(3) if the person is an individual, is registered
7 to vote in the same registrar’s jurisdiction as the in-
8 dividual who is the subject of the challenge.

9 “(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE PORTALS AC-
10 CEPTING CHALLENGES.—A State or local election official
11 who operates an online portal through which a person may
12 submit a formal challenge to the voter registration status
13 of an individual who is registered to vote in elections for
14 Federal office held in the State—

15 “(1) shall reject a challenge submitted on the
16 portal by a person who does not include the person’s
17 name on the material the person submits for the
18 challenge; and

19 “(2) shall include on the portal information on
20 the prohibition under subsection (a).”.

21 (b) ENFORCEMENT.—

22 (1) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Section 11(b)
23 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20510(b)) is amended by
24 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

25 “(4) In the case of a violation of section 8A—

1 “(A) the aggrieved person need not provide no-
2 tice to the chief election official of the State under
3 paragraph (1) before bringing a civil action under
4 paragraph (2); and

5 “(B) in addition to declaratory and injunctive
6 relief, the civil action may be for compensatory dam-
7 ages equal to the amount incurred by the aggrieved
8 person due to the violation, together with punitive
9 damages in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 for
10 each such violation.”.

11 (2) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 12 of such
12 Act (52 U.S.C. 20511) is amended—

13 (A) by striking “A person” and inserting

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A person”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following new
16 subsection:

17 “(b) KNOWING AND NEGLIGENT FALSE CHALLENGE
18 TO ELIGIBILITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE.—In addition to
19 any other penalty under this Act, if—

20 “(1) a person submits to a State or local elec-
21 tion official a formal challenge to the voter registra-
22 tion status of an individual who is registered to vote
23 in elections for Federal office held in the State
24 knowing and negligently disregarding that the indi-

1 vidual is eligible to be registered to vote in elections
2 for Federal office in the State; or

3 “(2) a person provides another person with in-
4 formation alleging that an individual is not eligible
5 to be registered to vote in elections for Federal office
6 held in a State knowing that the information is false
7 and with the reasonable expectation that the person
8 to whom the information is provided will use the in-
9 formation to submit to a State or local election offi-
10 cial a formal challenge to the voter registration sta-
11 tus of the individual,

12 the person shall be fined in accordance with title 18,
13 United States Code, imprisoned not more than 6 months,
14 or both, except that if the person is not an individual, the
15 amount of the fine shall be equal to \$10,000 for each vio-
16 lation under this subsection.”.

17 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
18 this section shall apply with respect to a challenge to the
19 voter registration status of an individual who is registered
20 to vote in elections for Federal office in a State which is
21 made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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