

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7418

To convert the program of public financing of presidential election campaigns to a program of providing grants to States for enhancing the security of election systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mrs. BICE (for herself, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. MILLS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To convert the program of public financing of presidential election campaigns to a program of providing grants to States for enhancing the security of election systems, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Tech and
5 Election Administration Defenses For All States and Ter-
6 ritories Act” or the “STEADFAST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONVERSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAM-**
2 **PAIGN FUNDING PROGRAM TO STATE GRANT**
3 **PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SECURITY.**

4 (a) ELECTION SECURITY PROGRAM.—

5 (1) PAYMENTS.—Subtitle H of the Internal
6 Revenue Code of 1985 is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new chapter:

8 **“CHAPTER 97—ELECTION SECURITY**
9 **PROGRAM AND FUND**

10 **“SEC. 9051. PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR ELECTION SECU-**
11 **RITY.**

12 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENTS.—The Election
13 Assistance Commission shall establish and operate a pro-
14 gram under which the Commission shall make payments
15 to eligible States for activities to promote the security of
16 elections for Federal office by updating voting systems to
17 meet security standards.

18 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive a
19 payment under this chapter if the State submits to the
20 Commission, at such time and in such form as the Com-
21 mission may require, an application containing the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(1) A plan for the use of the payment.

24 “(2) A certification that the State does not per-
25 mit noncitizens to vote in any election for public of-
26 fice held in the State.

1 “(3) Assurances that the State will submit re-
2 ports to the Commission, at such frequency as the
3 Commission may require, on the use of the payment.

4 “(4) Such other information and assurances as
5 the Commission may require.

6 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 “(1) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—An eligible State
8 may use a payment received under this chapter for
9 the following:

10 “(A) Acquiring voting equipment.

11 “(B) Cybersecurity efforts to protect vot-
12 ing systems.

13 “(C) Providing physical security for the
14 storage of voting equipment.

15 “(D) Modernizing and replacing the com-
16 ponents of voting systems.

17 “(E) Purchasing and printing paper bal-
18 lots and implementing security features for pro-
19 tecting paper ballots.

20 “(F) Securing and protecting electronic
21 poll books.

22 “(2) PROHIBITION.—A State may not use the
23 funds provided under a payment received under this
24 chapter to pay any of the following:

1 “(A) Costs associated with training for
2 election administrators, other than training in
3 the use of election system equipment.

4 “(B) Costs associated with any litigation
5 or for the payment of any judgement.

6 “(d) USE OF QUALIFIED VENDORS.—

7 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—An eligible State may
8 use a payment received under this chapter to carry
9 out activities through a vendor, but only if the ven-
10 dor is certified as a qualified vendor by the Commis-
11 sion under paragraph (2).

12 “(2) CERTIFICATION.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall
14 certify vendors as qualified vendors for pur-
15 poses of this chapter in accordance with such
16 criteria as the Commission considers appro-
17 priate, except that the Commission may not
18 certify a vendor as a qualified vendor if the ven-
19 dor directly provided funds to a State or unit
20 of local government to support the administra-
21 tion of an election for Federal office.

22 “(B) DEADLINE.—Not later than 90 days
23 after the date of the enactment of the Securing
24 Tech and Election Administration Defenses For
25 All States and Territories Act, the Commission

1 shall publish the list of qualified vendors for
2 purposes of this chapter.

3 “(e) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN STATES.—In deter-
4 mining the eligible States which will receive payments
5 under this chapter, the Commission shall give priority to
6 States which meet each of the following conditions in car-
7 rying out elections for Federal office:

8 “(1) The State uses paper ballots which permit
9 voters to verify the vote cast on the ballot and which
10 may serve as a paper trail for purposes of post-elec-
11 tion audits.

12 “(2) The State uses available resources to en-
13 sure that noncitizens are not registered to vote and
14 do not vote in such elections, which may include the
15 Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Pro-
16 gram administered by the Secretary of Homeland
17 Security and the Social Security Number
18 Verification Service of the Social Security Adminis-
19 tration.

20 “(3) The State requires a voter to, in order to
21 obtain a ballot at a polling place, provide to an elec-
22 tion official any of the following forms of valid photo
23 identification:

1 “(A) A valid State-issued motor vehicle
2 driver’s license that includes a photo of the in-
3 dividual and an expiration date.

4 “(B) A valid State-issued identification
5 card that includes a photo of the individual and
6 an expiration date.

7 “(C) A valid United States passport for
8 the individual.

9 “(D) A valid military identification for the
10 individual.

11 “(E) A valid identification document
12 issued by a Tribal government that includes a
13 photo of the individual and an expiration date.

14 “(F) Any other form of government-issued
15 identification specified by the State as valid
16 photo identification for purposes of this sub-
17 section, excluding identification cards provided
18 by an educational institution.

19 “(f) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—

20 “(1) NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS.—The
21 amount of the payment made to an eligible State
22 under this chapter for a fiscal year shall be equal to
23 the product of—

1 “(A) the aggregate amount made available
2 for payments to eligible States under this chap-
3 ter for the fiscal year; and

4 “(B) the registered voter population pro-
5 portion for the State (as defined in paragraph
6 (2)).

7 “(2) REGISTERED VOTER POPULATION PROPOR-
8 TION.—The term ‘registered voter population pro-
9 portion’ means, with respect to an eligible State, the
10 amount equal to the quotient of—

11 “(A) the number of individuals who are
12 registered to vote in elections for Federal office
13 held in the State, as determined by the State on
14 the basis of the most recent information avail-
15 able; and

16 “(B) the total number of individuals who
17 are registered to vote in elections for Federal
18 office held in all eligible States, as determined
19 by the Commission on the basis of the informa-
20 tion determined by the eligible States under
21 subparagraph (A).

22 “(g) REPORT REQUIRED.—Each State that receives
23 a payment under this chapter shall provide to the Commis-
24 sion and make available on a publicly accessible website
25 of the State a report detailing—

1 “(1) how such payment was spent; and

2 “(2) the extent to which the State complied
3 with or deviated from the information submitted in
4 the application described in subsection (b).

5 **“SEC. 9052. ELECTION SECURITY FUND.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established
8 on the books of the Treasury of the United States
9 a special fund to be known as the ‘Election Security
10 Fund’, which shall be used to carry out the program
11 under this chapter.

12 “(2) LIMIT ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—
13 The Commission may use not more than 5 percent
14 of the amount in the Fund during a fiscal year for
15 the administrative expenses of the Fund during the
16 fiscal year.

17 “(b) FUNDS DESIGNATED BY INDIVIDUAL TAX-
18 PAYERS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, from time
19 to time, transfer to the fund an amount not in excess of
20 the sum of the amounts designated to the fund by individ-
21 uals under section 6096.

22 “(c) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the
23 Fund for each fiscal year, out of amounts in the general
24 fund of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, an
25 amount equal to the amounts so designated during each

1 fiscal year, which shall remain available to the Fund with-
2 out fiscal year limitation.

3 **“SEC. 9053. PUBLIC INFORMATION ON PROGRAM AND**
4 **FUND.**

5 “(a) PROVIDING INFORMATION TO PUBLIC.—The
6 Commission shall provide information to the public on the
7 program established under this chapter and the use of the
8 designation of income tax payments under section 6096
9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to transfer amounts
10 to the Election Security Fund, including by establishing
11 and operating a hyperlink to such information on the
12 Commission’s official public website.

13 “(b) DEADLINE.—The Commission shall meet the re-
14 quirements of subsection (a) not later than 180 days after
15 the date of the enactment of the Securing Tech and Elec-
16 tion Administration Defenses For All States and Terri-
17 tories Act.

18 **“SEC. 9054. DEFINITIONS.**

19 “In this chapter—

20 “(1) the term ‘Commission’ means the Election
21 Assistance Commission;

22 “(2) the term ‘Fund’ means the Election Secu-
23 rity Fund established under section 9052; and

24 “(3) the term ‘State’ means each of the several
25 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth

1 of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United
 2 States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the
 3 Northern Mariana Islands.”.

4 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 5 tions for subtitle H of such Code is amended by add-
 6 ing at the end the following:

“CHAPTER 97—ELECTION SECURITY PROGRAM AND FUND

“Sec. 9051. Payments to States for election security.

“Sec. 9052. Election Security Fund.

“Sec. 9053. Public information on Program and Fund.

“Sec. 9054. Definitions.”.

7 (b) DESIGNATION OF INCOME TAX PAYMENTS TO
 8 ELECTION SECURITY FUND.—

9 (1) DESIGNATION.—Section 6096(a) of such
 10 Code is amended by striking “the Presidential Elec-
 11 tion Campaign Fund” and inserting “the Election
 12 Security Fund”.

13 (2) REFERENCE TO EAC WEBSITE WITH PUBLIC
 14 INFORMATION ON PROGRAM AND FUND.—Section
 15 6096(a) of such Code is amended by adding at the
 16 end the following new sentence: “The Secretary shall
 17 ensure that the individual tax return form includes
 18 a citation to the hyperlink on the official public
 19 website of the Election Assistance Commission which
 20 is established and operated under section 9053.”.

1 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
2 by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to taxable
3 years ending after December 31, 2025.

4 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF TAXPAYER FINANCING OF PRESI-**
5 **DENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGNS.**

6 (a) TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
7 CAMPAIGN FUND.—

8 (1) TERMINATION.—Chapter 95 of subtitle H
9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by
10 adding at the end the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 9014. TERMINATION.**

12 “The provisions of this chapter shall not apply with
13 respect to any presidential election (or any presidential
14 nominating convention) after the date of the enactment
15 of this section, or to any candidate in such an election.”.

16 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
17 tions for chapter 95 of subtitle H of such Code is
18 amended by adding at the end the following new
19 item:

“Sec. 9014. Termination.”.

20 (b) TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY
21 MATCHING PAYMENT ACCOUNT.—

22 (1) TERMINATION.—Chapter 96 of subtitle H
23 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the
24 following new section:

1 **“SEC. 9043. TERMINATION.**

2 “The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to any
3 candidate with respect to any presidential election after
4 the date of the enactment of this section.”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
6 tions for chapter 96 of subtitle H of such Code is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new
8 item:

“Sec. 9043. Termination.”.

9 (c) TRANSFER OF REMAINING FUNDS TO ELECTION
10 SECURITY FUND.—Section 9006 of such Code is amended
11 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

12 “(d) TRANSFER OF FUNDS REMAINING AFTER TER-
13 MINATION.—The Secretary shall transfer the amounts in
14 the fund as of the date of the enactment of this subsection
15 to the Election Security Fund under section 9052, to be
16 available as described in such section.”.

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