

Union Calendar No. 552

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6625

[Report No. 110–851, Part I]

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. WATSON, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FARR, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. COURTNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Reported from the Committee on House Administration with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

Additional sponsors: Ms. SOLIS, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BEAN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. YARMUTH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to be designated as voter registration agencies, 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 “Veteran Voting Sup-
5 port Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) Veterans serving in foreign wars have per-
9 formed a great service to, and risked the greatest
10 sacrifice in the name of, our country, and should be
11 supported by the people and the Government of the
12 United States.

13 (2) Veterans are especially qualified to under-
14 stand issues of war, foreign policy, and government
15 support for veterans, and they should have the op-
16 portunity to voice that understanding through vot-
17 ing.

1 (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
2 assist veterans in meeting their medical, social, and
3 civic needs, including the full participation of vet-
4 erans in our democracy.

5 (4) The Department of Veterans Affairs should
6 make every effort to assist veterans to register to
7 vote and to vote.

8 **SEC. 3. USE OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
9 **CILITIES AS VOTER REGISTRATION AGEN-**
10 **CIES.**

11 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
12 State to designate facilities of the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs located in such State as voter registration agencies
14 under section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of
15 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-5).

16 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE WITH ABSENTEE BALLOTS.**

17 In addition to the duties required under section 7 of
18 the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C.
19 1973gg-5), any facility of the Department of Veterans Af-
20 fairs designated as a voter registration agency under sec-
21 tion 3 shall—

22 (1) provide information relating to the oppor-
23 tunity to request an absentee ballot;

24 (2) make available absentee ballot applications
25 and absentee ballots upon request, as well as assist-

1 ance in completing such applications and ballots; *ex-*
2 *cept that nothing in this paragraph may be construed*
3 *to waive any requirement under State or local law re-*
4 *garding an individual's eligibility to receive an ab-*
5 *sentee ballot or vote by absentee ballot in any election;*
6 and

7 (3) work with local election officials to ensure
8 the proper delivery of absentee ballot applications
9 and absentee ballots.

10 **SEC. 5. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NONPARTISAN ORGA-**
11 **NIZATIONS.**

12 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit a
13 meaningful opportunity for nonpartisan organizations to
14 provide voter registration information and assistance at
15 facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

16 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY ELECTION OFFICIALS**
17 **AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FA-**
18 **CILITIES.**

19 (a) DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
21 Affairs shall not prohibit any election administration
22 official, whether State or local, party-affiliated or
23 non-party affiliated, or elected or appointed, from
24 providing voting information to veterans at any facil-
25 ity of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 (2) VOTING INFORMATION.—In this subsection,
2 the term “voting information” means nonpartisan
3 information intended for the public about voting, in-
4 cluding information about voter registration, voting
5 systems, absentee balloting, polling locations, and
6 other important resources for voters.

7 (b) VOTER REGISTRATION SERVICES.—The Sec-
8 retary shall provide reasonable access to facilities of the
9 Department of Veterans Affairs to State and local election
10 officials for the purpose of providing nonpartisan voter
11 registration services to individuals.

12 **SEC. 7. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLIANCE.**

13 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
14 Congress an annual report on how the Secretary has com-
15 plied with the requirements of this Act.

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