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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to support State and local governments making a transition to ranked choice voting.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PHILLIPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to support State and local governments making a transition to ranked choice voting.

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 “Voter Choice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE FOR TRANSITION TO RANKED CHOICE**
2 **VOTING.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Help America Vote
4 Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21121 et seq.) is amended by add-
5 ing at the end the following:

6 **“Subtitle B—Ranked Choice Voting**
7 **Program**

8 **“SEC. 511. RANKED CHOICE VOTING PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) DEFINITION OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING SYS-
10 TEM.—For purposes of this subtitle, the term ‘ranked
11 choice voting system’ means a set of election methods
12 which allow each voter to rank contest options in order
13 of the voter’s preference, in which votes are counted in
14 rounds using a series of runoff tabulations to defeat con-
15 test options with the fewest votes, and which elects a win-
16 ner with a majority of final round votes in a single-winner
17 contest and provides proportional representation in multi-
18 winner contests.

19 “(b) PROGRAM.—The Commission shall establish a
20 program under which the Commission—

21 “(1) provides technical assistance to State and
22 local governments that are considering whether to
23 make, or that are in the process of making, a transi-
24 tion to a ranked choice voting system for Federal,
25 State, or local elections; and

1 “(2) awards grants to States and local govern-
2 ment to support the transition to a ranked choice
3 voting system, including through the acquisition of
4 voting equipment and tabulation software, appro-
5 priate ballot design, the development and publication
6 of educational materials, and voter outreach.

7 “(c) RULES FOR GRANTS.—

8 “(1) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—To
9 the extent possible, the Commission shall award
10 grants under subsection (b)(2) to areas that rep-
11 resent a diversity of jurisdictions with respect to ge-
12 ography, population characteristics, and population
13 density.

14 “(2) AWARD LIMITATION.—The amount of any
15 grant awarded under subsection (b)(2) shall not ex-
16 ceed 50 percent of the cost of the activities covered
17 by the grant.

18 **“SEC. 512. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any funds author-
20 ized to be appropriated to the Commission under section
21 210, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
22 this subtitle \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2021.

23 “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appro-
24 priated pursuant to the authorization under this section

1 shall remain available, without fiscal year limitation, until
2 expended.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) Section 202(6) of the Help America Vote
5 Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922) is amended by strik-
6 ing “the Help America Vote College Program under
7 title V” and inserting “the programs under title V”.

8 (2) Title V of the Help America Vote Act of
9 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21121 et seq.) is amended by strik-
10 ing the matter preceding section 501 and inserting
11 the following:

12 **“TITLE V—ELECTION**
13 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**
14 **“Subtitle A—Help America Vote**
15 **College Program”.**

16 (3) Section 503 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21123)
17 is amended by striking “title” and inserting “sub-
18 title”.

19 (4) The table of sections of the Help America
20 Vote Act of 2002 is amended—

21 (A) by striking the item relating to title V
22 and inserting the following:

“TITLE V—ELECTION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

“Subtitle A—Help America Vote College Program”;

23 and

- 1 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
- 2 section 503 the following:

“Subtitle B—Ranked Choice Voting Program

“Sec. 511. Ranked choice voting program.

“Sec. 512. Authorization of appropriations.”.