

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 198

To require a national nonbinding referendum at the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office in 2020 to advise Congress on term limits for Members of Congress, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. NORMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To require a national nonbinding referendum at the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office in 2020 to advise Congress on term limits for Members of Congress, 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 “National Voter Oppor-  
5 tunity To Inform Congress Effectively on Term Limits  
6 Act of 2019” or the “V.O.I.C.E. on Term Limits Act of  
7 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) the right of citizens of the United States to  
4 vote is a fundamental right;

5 (2) the right of citizens of the United States to  
6 have an effective voice in the decision-making proc-  
7 esses of the Congress is grounded in the right to pe-  
8 tition and is a fundamental part of American democ-  
9 racy;

10 (3) Congress should provide an opportunity for  
11 citizens to express their views on important public  
12 issues;

13 (4) there is an increasing public sentiment and  
14 demand for limiting the terms of Members of Con-  
15 gress; and

16 (5) voters in 15 States have already voted and  
17 approved State laws to limit the terms of their state  
18 legislators, and voters in other States have expressed  
19 their interest in having term limits for Members of  
20 Congress.

21 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

22 The purposes of this Act are—

23 (1) to give the citizens of every State the oppor-  
24 tunity to express their opinion on whether or not the  
25 terms of Members of Congress should be limited;  
26 and

1           (2) to conduct a national nonbinding ref-  
 2           erendum on term limits at the 2020 general election,  
 3           thereby having an opportunity to study the feasi-  
 4           bility of conducting national nonbinding referenda  
 5           on other important issues in the future.

6 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL NONBINDING REFERENDUM ON TERM**  
 7 **LIMITS.**

8           (a) NONBINDING REFERENDUM REQUIRED.—The  
 9           chief election official of each State, in the regularly sched-  
 10          uled general election for Federal office in 2020, shall place  
 11          on the ballot in each congressional district in the State  
 12          a nonbinding referendum consisting of the following:

13           (1) The title “National Advisory Referendum  
 14          on Term Limits”.

15           (2) The advisory question “Should Congress ap-  
 16          prove a constitutional amendment to limit the num-  
 17          ber of terms that a Member of the United States  
 18          House of Representatives and United States Senator  
 19          can serve in office?”.

20           (3) The options of answering “Yes” or “No”.

21           (b) PROCEDURES FOR NONBINDING REF-  
 22          ERENDUM.—Each chief election official of a State shall  
 23          ensure that the nonbinding referendum is conducted in the  
 24          same manner as an election for Federal office in such

1 State, including with respect to the printing, preparation,  
2 tabulation, and certification of ballots.

3 (c) RESULTS OF NONBINDING REFERENDUM.—The  
4 chief election official of each State shall—

5 (1) tabulate the results of the nonbinding ref-  
6 erendum for each congressional district in the State  
7 and on a statewide basis; and

8 (2) certify and transmit such results to Con-  
9 gress in the same manner and at the same time of  
10 the certification of election of Members of the House  
11 of Representatives and Senate for the regularly  
12 scheduled 2020 general election.

13 (d) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

14 (1) CHIEF STATE ELECTION OFFICIALS.—Not  
15 later than 90 days after the date of the regularly  
16 scheduled general election for Federal office in 2020,  
17 the chief election official of each State shall submit  
18 to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of  
19 Representatives and the Senate comments with re-  
20 spect to recommended changes or other improve-  
21 ments related to the conduct of the nonbinding ref-  
22 erendum, for consideration in conducting national  
23 nonbinding referenda on other issues in future gen-  
24 eral elections for Federal office.

1           (2) COMMITTEES ON THE JUDICIARY OF THE  
2       HOUSE AND SENATE.—Not later than 6 months  
3       after the date of the regularly scheduled general  
4       election for Federal office in 2020, the Committees  
5       on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives  
6       and the Senate shall prepare and report to the  
7       House and Senate, respectively, recommendations  
8       with respect to the response of Congress to the re-  
9       sults of the nonbinding referendum.

10       (e) REIMBURSEMENT.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Election Assistance  
12       Commission shall reimburse an eligible State for the  
13       reasonable costs incurred by the State to conduct  
14       the nonbinding referendum.

15           (2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for reimburse-  
16       ment under paragraph (1), a State shall submit to  
17       the Election Assistance Commission an application  
18       at such time, in such form, and containing such in-  
19       formation as the Commission may require.

20       (f) APPLICABILITY OF RELATED FEDERAL LAWS TO  
21       NONBINDING REFERENDUM.—All Federal laws which  
22       apply to an election for Federal office shall apply to the  
23       nonbinding referendum.

24       **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

25       In this Act:

1           (1) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT.—The term  
2       “congressional district” includes the district of a  
3       Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

4           (2) NONBINDING REFERENDUM.—The term  
5       “nonbinding referendum” means the referendum re-  
6       quired by section 4(a) of this Act.

7           (3) STATE.—The term “State” includes the  
8       District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
9       Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
10      Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Is-  
11      lands of the United States.

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