

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8499

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish requirements for voting by absentee ballot in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2024

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish requirements for voting by absentee ballot in elections for Federal office, 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 “Clean Elections in  
5 America Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO VOTING BY AB-**  
7 **SENTEE BALLOT.**

8 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—Title III of the Help America  
9 Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as  
2 sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after section 303 the following  
4 new section:

5 **“SEC. 304. REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO VOTING BY**  
6 **ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

7 “(a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ABSENTEE  
8 BALLOT.—

9 “(1) EXCUSABLE REASONS TO RECEIVE ABSEN-  
10 TEE BALLOT.—A State may not provide to an indi-  
11 vidual an absentee ballot to vote in an election for  
12 Federal office unless such individual meets the appli-  
13 cation requirements described in paragraph (2) and  
14 is unable to vote in person at the appropriate polling  
15 place in the State on the date of the election for any  
16 of the following reasons:

17 “(A) The business or occupation of the in-  
18 dividual prevents such individual from voting in  
19 person on the date of the election.

20 “(B) The individual is unable to vote in  
21 person on the date of the election because such  
22 individual provides care to a parent, spouse, or  
23 child with an illness, disability, or injury that  
24 requires constant care.

1           “(C) The individual suffers from a physical  
2           ailment, or is an individual with a disability,  
3           that substantially limits the ability of the indi-  
4           vidual to vote in person.

5           “(D) The individual will be absent from  
6           the jurisdiction in which the individual is reg-  
7           istered to vote on the date of the election.

8           “(E) The individual is entitled to vote by  
9           absentee ballot under any other Federal law.

10          “(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A State  
11          may not provide to an individual an absentee ballot  
12          to vote in an election for Federal office unless—

13               “(A) the individual submits an application  
14               to the appropriate State or local election official  
15               and such application is received by the official  
16               not later than noon on the Friday before the  
17               date of the election; and

18               “(B) the application includes—

19                       “(i) the individual’s name and ad-  
20                       dress;

21                       “(ii) the reason such individual is un-  
22                       able to vote in person at the appropriate  
23                       polling place in the State on the date of  
24                       the election and such reason is an excus-

1                   able reason described in paragraph (1);

2                   and

3                   “(iii) a sworn written statement at-

4                   testing to the individual’s identity.

5           “(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply

6 with respect to each election for Federal office held after

7 the date of the enactment of this section.”.

8           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-

9 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act

10 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “and

11 303” and inserting “303, and 304”.

12           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents

13 of such Act is amended—

14                   (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-

15 tions 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and

16 306; and

17                   (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-

18 tion 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Requirements with respect to voting by absentee ballot.”.

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