

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3712

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat United States Citizenship and Immigration Services field offices as voter registration agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2024

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to treat United States Citizenship and Immigration Services field offices 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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) United States Citizenship and Immigration
2 Services is responsible for overseeing the naturaliza-
3 tion of new citizens through—

4 (A) administering naturalization cere-
5 monies; and

6 (B) processing the naturalization of new
7 citizens naturalized through judicial ceremonies
8 or other means.

9 (2) In performing the responsibilities described
10 in paragraph (1), United States Citizenship and Im-
11 migration Services has the ability to facilitate effi-
12 cient voter registration application for all new citi-
13 zens.

14 (3) Courts that have the privilege of admin-
15 istering the oath of allegiance to naturalize new citi-
16 zens also have a responsibility to assist in facili-
17 tating voter registration.

18 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND**
19 **IMMIGRATION SERVICES FIELD OFFICES AS**
20 **VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the National Voter
22 Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506) is amended
23 by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e) and by
24 inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

1 “(d) VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S.
2 CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES.—

3 “(1) FIELD OFFICES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A field office of U.S.
5 Citizenship and Immigration Services shall be
6 considered to be a voter registration agency
7 designated under subsection (a)(2) for all pur-
8 poses of this Act.

9 “(B) PROCEDURES.—Each State and the
10 Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly de-
11 velop and implement procedures for persons
12 who have completed naturalization to apply to
13 register to vote through field offices of U.S.
14 Citizenship and Immigration Services.

15 “(2) COURT NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES.—
16 The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration
17 Services shall conduct activities described in sub-
18 section (a)(4)(A) at any oath administration pro-
19 ceeding conducted by an eligible court (as defined in
20 section 310(b) of the Immigration and Nationality
21 Act (8 U.S.C. 1421(b))).”.

22 (b) FUNDING.—

23 (1) USE OF IMMIGRATION EXAMINATIONS FEE
24 ACCOUNT.—Section 286(n) of the Immigration and
25 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(n)) is amended by

1 striking “and naturalization services” and inserting
2 “, naturalization services, and voter registration
3 services pursuant to section 7(d) of the National
4 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
5 20506(d))”.

6 (2) USE OF GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS.—Section
7 404 of division F of the Consolidated Appropriations
8 Act, 2017 (8 U.S.C. 1382) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following new subsection:

10 “(e) Any amounts which—

11 “(1) are in the Citizenship Gift and Bequest
12 Account established under subsection (c); or

13 “(2) are appropriated for the Citizenship and
14 Integration Grant Program,

15 may be used to pay for expenses for voter registration
16 services provided pursuant to section 7(d) of the National
17 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506(d)).”.

18 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPRO-
19 PRIATIONS.—In addition to any other amounts,
20 there are authorized to be appropriated to United
21 States Citizenship and Immigration Services such
22 sums as necessary to carry out activities required by
23 the amendments made by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVI-**
2 **TIES AT COURT NATURALIZATION CERE-**
3 **MONIES.**

4 Any eligible court described in paragraph (5) of sec-
5 tion 310(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
6 U.S.C. 1421(b)) that administers the oath of allegiance
7 under that section—

8 (1) shall permit the Director of U.S. Citizen-
9 ship and Immigration Services to conduct authorized
10 activities described in section 7(a)(4)(A) of the Na-
11 tional Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C.
12 20506(a)(4)(A)) at any oath administration pro-
13 ceeding conducted by such eligible court; and

14 (2) shall not seek reimbursement from U.S.
15 Citizenship and Immigration Services or any other
16 person for costs incurred under this paragraph.

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