

related to qualifications for registration and vote by absentee ballot.

Section 1973dd-2, Pub. L. 94-203, §4, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1143; Pub. L. 95-593, §3, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2535, related to State provisions concerning absentee registration or qualification and absentee ballots and to recommendations to States in carrying out the provisions of this section. See section 1973ff-1 of this title.

Section 1973dd-2a, Pub. L. 94-203, §5, as added Pub. L. 95-593, §4(2), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2535, related to acquisition and dissemination by Presidential designee of current absentee voting information from each State.

Section 1973dd-2b, Pub. L. 94-203, §6, as added Pub. L. 95-593, §4(2), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2536, related to printing and transmitting of voting material. See section 1973ff(c)(2) of this title and section 3406 of Title 39, Postal Service.

Section 1973dd-3, Pub. L. 94-203, §7, formerly §5, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1143; renumbered §7, Pub. L. 95-593, §4(1), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2535, provided for enforcement by the Attorney General, jurisdiction of courts, and penalties for depriving or attempting to deprive persons of secured rights and giving or conspiring to give false information or paying or accepting money either for registration to vote or voting. See section 1973ff-4 of this title and section 608 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure.

Section 1973dd-4, Pub. L. 94-203, §8, formerly §6, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1143; renumbered §8, Pub. L. 95-593, §4(1), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2535, provided that if any provision of this subchapter is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subchapter not be affected.

Section 1973dd-5, Pub. L. 94-203, §9, formerly §7, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1144; renumbered §9 and amended Pub. L. 95-593, §§4(1), 5, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2535, 2537, related to applicability of this subchapter to State registration requirements and voting practices and provided that exercise of any right to register or vote in Federal elections by any citizen outside the United States not affect the determination of residence or domicile for tax purposes. See section 1973ff-5 of this title.

Section 1973dd-6, Pub. L. 94-203, §11, as added Pub. L. 95-593, §6, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2537, authorized appropriations as necessary to carry out this subchapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal applicable with respect to elections taking place after Dec. 31, 1987, see section 204 of Pub. L. 99-410, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1973ff of this title.

SUBCHAPTER I-F—VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

§ 1973ee. Congressional declaration of purpose

It is the intention of Congress in enacting this subchapter to promote the fundamental right to vote by improving access for handicapped and elderly individuals to registration facilities and polling places for Federal elections.

(Pub. L. 98-435, §2, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1678.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 9 of Pub. L. 98-435 provided that: "This Act [enacting this subchapter] shall apply with respect to elections taking place after December 31, 1985."

SHORT TITLE

This subchapter is known as the "Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act", see Short Title note set out under section 1971 of this title.

§ 1973ee-1. Selection of polling facilities

(a) Accessibility to all polling places as responsibility of each political subdivision

Within each State, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each political subdivi-

sion responsible for conducting elections shall assure that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters.

(b) Exception

Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a polling place—

(1) in the case of an emergency, as determined by the chief election officer of the State; or

(2) if the chief election officer of the State—

(A) determines that all potential polling places have been surveyed and no such accessible place is available, nor is the political subdivision able to make one temporarily accessible, in the area involved; and

(B) assures that any handicapped or elderly voter assigned to an inaccessible polling place, upon advance request of such voter (pursuant to procedures established by the chief election officer of the State)—

(i) will be assigned to an accessible polling place, or

(ii) will be provided with an alternative means for casting a ballot on the day of the election.

(c) Report to Federal Election Commission

(1) Not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year, the chief election officer of each State shall report to the Federal Election Commission, in a manner to be determined by the Commission, the number of accessible and inaccessible polling places in such State on the date of the preceding general Federal election, and the reasons for any instance of inaccessibility.

(2) Not later than April 30 of each odd-numbered year, the Federal Election Commission shall compile the information reported under paragraph (1) and shall transmit that information to the Congress.

(3) The provisions of this subsection shall only be effective for a period of 10 years beginning on September 28, 1984.

(Pub. L. 98-435, §3, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1678.)

§ 1973ee-2. Selection of registration facilities

(a) Each State or political subdivision responsible for registration for Federal elections shall provide a reasonable number of accessible permanent registration facilities.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not apply to any State that has in effect a system that provides an opportunity for each potential voter to register by mail or at the residence of such voter.

(Pub. L. 98-435, §4, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1679.)

§ 1973ee-3. Registration and voting aids

(a) Printed instructions; telecommunications devices for the deaf

Each State shall make available registration and voting aids for Federal elections for handicapped and elderly individuals, including—

(1) instructions, printed in large type, conspicuously displayed at each permanent registration facility and each polling place; and

(2) information by telecommunications devices for the deaf.

(b) Medical certification

No notarization or medical certification shall be required of a handicapped voter with respect to an absentee ballot or an application for such ballot, except that medical certification may be required when the certification establishes eligibility, under State law—

- (1) to automatically receive an application or a ballot on a continuing basis; or
- (2) to apply for an absentee ballot after the deadline has passed.

(c) Notice of availability of aids

The chief election officer of each State shall provide public notice, calculated to reach elderly and handicapped voters, of the availability of aids under this section, assistance under section 1973aa-6 of this title, and the procedures for voting by absentee ballot, not later than general public notice of registration and voting is provided.

(Pub. L. 98-435, § 5, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1679.)

§ 1973ee-4. Enforcement**(a) Action for declaratory or injunctive relief**

If a State or political subdivision does not comply with this subchapter, the United States Attorney General or a person who is personally aggrieved by the noncompliance may bring an action for declaratory or injunctive relief in the appropriate district court.

(b) Prerequisite notice of noncompliance

An action may be brought under this section only if the plaintiff notifies the chief election officer of the State of the noncompliance and a period of 45 days has elapsed since the date of notification.

(c) Attorney fees

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no award of attorney fees may be made with respect to an action under this section, except in any action brought to enforce the original judgment of the court.

(Pub. L. 98-435, § 6, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1679.)

§ 1973ee-5. Relationship to Voting Rights Act of 1965

This subchapter shall not be construed to impair any right guaranteed by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 98-435, § 7, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1679.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 89-110, Aug. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 437, as amended, which is classified generally to subchapters I-A (§ 1973 et seq.), I-B (§ 1973aa et seq.), and I-C (§ 1973bb et seq.) of this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1971 of this title and Tables.

§ 1973ee-6. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, the term—

- (1) “accessible” means accessible to handicapped and elderly individuals for the purpose of voting or registration, as determined under guidelines established by the chief election officer of the State involved;

(2) “elderly” means 65 years of age or older;

(3) “Federal election” means a general, special, primary, or runoff election for the office of President or Vice President, or of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress;

(4) “handicapped” means having a temporary or permanent physical disability; and

(5) “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession¹ of the United States.

(Pub. L. 98-435, § 8, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1679.)

SUBCHAPTER I-G—REGISTRATION AND VOTING BY ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTERS AND OVERSEAS VOTERS IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this subchapter were contained in subchapters I-D and I-E (1973cc et seq. and 1973dd et seq.) of this chapter prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-410.

§ 1973ff. Federal responsibilities**(a) Presidential designee**

The President shall designate the head of an executive department to have primary responsibility for Federal functions under this subchapter.

(b) Duties of Presidential designee

The Presidential designee shall—

(1) consult State and local election officials in carrying out this subchapter, and ensure that such officials are aware of the requirements of this Act;

(2) prescribe an official post card form, containing both an absentee voter registration application and an absentee ballot application, for use by the States as required under section 1973ff-1(a)(4) of this title;

(3) carry out section 1973ff-2 of this title with respect to the Federal write-in absentee ballot for absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters in general elections for Federal office;

(4) prescribe a suggested design for absentee ballot mailing envelopes;

(5) compile and distribute (A) descriptive material on State absentee registration and voting procedures, and (B) to the extent practicable, facts relating to specific elections, including dates, offices involved, and the text of ballot questions;

(6) not later than the end of each year after a Presidential election year, transmit to the President and the Congress a report on the effectiveness of assistance under this subchapter, including a statistical analysis of uniformed services voter participation, a separate statistical analysis of overseas non-military participation, and a description of State-Federal cooperation;

(7) prescribe a standard oath for use with any document under this subchapter affirming that a material misstatement of fact in the completion of such a document may constitute grounds for a conviction for perjury;

¹ So in original. Probably should be “possession”.