

(Pub. L. 89-110, title I, §13, Aug. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 444; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 91-285, §2, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 314; amended Pub. L. 94-73, title II, §206, Aug. 6, 1975, 89 Stat. 402; Pub. L. 109-246, §3(b), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 579; Pub. L. 110-258, §2, July 1, 2008, 122 Stat. 2428.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 110-258 made technical amendment to reference in original act which appears in text as reference to July 27, 2006.

2006—Pub. L. 109-246 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to termination of listing procedures, basis for termination, and survey or census by the Director of the Census.

1975—Pub. L. 94-73 substituted “on account of race or color, or in contravention of the guarantees set forth in section 1973b(f)(2) of this title” for “on account of race or color”.

### § 1973l. Enforcement proceedings

#### (a) Criminal contempt

All cases of criminal contempt arising under the provisions of subchapters I-A to I-C of this chapter shall be governed by section 1995 of this title.

#### (b) Jurisdiction of courts for declaratory judgment, restraining orders, or temporary or permanent injunction

No court other than the District Court for the District of Columbia shall have jurisdiction to issue any declaratory judgment pursuant to section 1973b or 1973c of this title or any restraining order or temporary or permanent injunction against the execution or enforcement of any provision of subchapters I-A to I-C of this chapter or any action of any Federal officer or employee pursuant hereto.

#### (c) Definitions

(1) The terms “vote” or “voting” shall include all action necessary to make a vote effective in any primary, special, or general election, including, but not limited to, registration, listing pursuant to this subchapter, or other action required by law prerequisite to voting, casting a ballot, and having such ballot counted properly and included in the appropriate totals of votes cast with respect to candidates for public or party office and propositions for which votes are received in an election.

(2) The term “political subdivision” shall mean any county or parish, except that where registration for voting is not conducted under the supervision of a county or parish, the term shall include any other subdivision of a State which conducts registration for voting.

(3) The term “language minorities” or “language minority group” means persons who are American Indian, Asian American, Alaskan Natives or of Spanish heritage.

#### (d) Subpenas

In any action for a declaratory judgment brought pursuant to section 1973b or 1973c of this title, subpenas for witnesses who are required to attend the District Court for the District of Columbia may be served in any judicial district of the United States: *Provided*, That no writ of subpoena shall issue for witnesses without the District of Columbia at a greater distance than one hundred miles from the place of holding court

without the permission of the District Court for the District of Columbia being first had upon proper application and cause shown.

#### (e) Attorney’s fees

In any action or proceeding to enforce the voting guarantees of the fourteenth or fifteenth amendment, the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney’s fee, reasonable expert fees, and other reasonable litigation expenses as part of the costs.

(Pub. L. 89-110, title I, §14, Aug. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 445; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 91-285, §2, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 314; amended Pub. L. 94-73, title II, §207, title IV, §402, Aug. 6, 1975, 89 Stat. 402, 404; Pub. L. 109-246, §§3(e)(3), 6, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 580, 581.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-246, §3(e)(3), struck out “or a court of appeals in any proceeding under section 1973g of this title” after “District of Columbia”.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-246, §6, inserted “, reasonable expert fees, and other reasonable litigation expenses” after “reasonable attorney’s fee”.

1975—Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 94-73, §207, added par. (3). Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 94-73, §402, added subsec. (e).

### § 1973m. Omitted

#### CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 89-110, title I, §16, Aug. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 445; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 91-285, §2, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 314, authorized Attorney General and Secretary of Defense, jointly, to make a study to determine whether laws or practices of any State or States impose preconditions to voting resulting in discrimination against Armed Forces personnel seeking to vote and to make a report to Congress not later than June 30, 1966, with the results of such study and recommendations for legislation.

### § 1973n. Impairment of voting rights of persons holding current registration

Nothing in subchapters I-A to I-C of this chapter shall be construed to deny, impair, or otherwise adversely affect the right to vote of any person registered to vote under the law of any State or political subdivision.

(Pub. L. 89-110, title I, §17, Aug. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 446; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 91-285, §2, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 314.)

### § 1973o. Authorization of appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of subchapters I-A to I-C of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 89-110, title I, §18, Aug. 6, 1965, 79 Stat. 446; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 91-285, §2, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 314.)

### § 1973p. Separability

If any provision of subchapters I-A to I-C of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of subchapters I-A to I-C of this chapter and the application of the provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.