

(16) Methods of voter registration for members of the uniformed services and overseas voters, and methods of ensuring that such voters receive timely ballots that will be properly and expeditiously handled and counted.

(17) The best methods for establishing voting system performance benchmarks, expressed as a percentage of residual vote in the Federal contest at the top of the ballot.

(18) Broadcasting practices that may result in the broadcast of false information concerning the location or time of operation of a polling place.

(19) Such other matters as the Commission determines are appropriate.

### (c) Reports

The Commission shall submit to the President and to the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate a report on each study conducted under subsection (a) of this section together with such recommendations for administrative and legislative action as the Commission determines is appropriate.

(Pub. L. 107-252, title II, §241, Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1686.)

#### ELECTION DATA COLLECTION GRANTS

Pub. L. 110-161, div. D, title V, §501, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 1997, provided that:

“(a) ELECTION DATA COLLECTION GRANTS.—Not later than March 30, 2008, the Election Assistance Commission (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’) shall establish an election data collection grant program (in this section referred to as the ‘program’) to provide a grant of \$2,000,000 to 5 eligible States to improve the collection of data relating to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2008. For purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ has the meaning given such term in section 901 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15541).

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A State is eligible to receive a grant under the program if it submits to the Commission, at such time and in such form as the Commission may require, an application containing the following information and assurances:

“(1) A plan for the use of the funds provided by the grant which will expand and improve the collection of the election data described in subsection (a) at the precinct level and will provide for the collection of such data in a common electronic format (as determined by the Commission).

“(2) An assurance that the State will comply with all requests made by the Commission for the compilation and submission of the data.

“(3) An assurance that the State will provide the Commission with such information as the Commission may require to prepare and submit the report described in subsection (d).

“(4) Such other information and assurances as the Commission may require.

“(c) TIMING OF GRANTS; AVAILABILITY.—

“(1) TIMING.—The Commission shall award grants under the program to eligible States not later than 60 days after the date on which the Commission establishes the program.

“(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts provided by a grant under the program shall remain available without fiscal year limitation until expended.

“(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2009, the Commission, in consultation with the States receiving grants under the program and the Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors, shall submit

a report to Congress on the impact of the program on the collection of the election data described in subsection (a).

“(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall include in the report submitted under paragraph (1) such recommendations as the Commission considers appropriate to improve the collection of data relating to regularly scheduled general elections for Federal office in all States, including recommendations for changes in Federal law or regulations and the Commission’s estimate of the amount of funding necessary to carry out such changes.”

### § 15382. Study, report, and recommendations on best practices for facilitating military and overseas voting

#### (a) Study

##### (1) In general

The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct a study on the best practices for facilitating voting by absent uniformed services voters (as defined in section 1973ff-6(1) of this title) and overseas voters (as defined in section 1973ff-6(5) of this title).

##### (2) Issues considered

In conducting the study under paragraph (1) the Commission shall consider the following issues:

(A) The rights of residence of uniformed services voters absent due to military orders.

(B) The rights of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to register to vote and cast absentee ballots, including the right of such voters to cast a secret ballot.

(C) The rights of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to submit absentee ballot applications early during an election year.

(D) The appropriate preelection deadline for mailing absentee ballots to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

(E) The appropriate minimum period between the mailing of absentee ballots to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters and the deadline for receipt of such ballots.

(F) The timely transmission of balloting materials to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

(G) Security and privacy concerns in the transmission, receipt, and processing of ballots from absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters, including the need to protect against fraud.

(H) The use of a single application by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters for absentee ballots for all Federal elections occurring during a year.

(I) The use of a single application for voter registration and absentee ballots by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

(J) The use of facsimile machines and electronic means of transmission of absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.

(K) Other issues related to the rights of absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to participate in elections.

**(b) Report and recommendations**

Not later than the date that is 18 months after October 29, 2002, the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a)(1) of this section together with recommendations identifying the best practices used with respect to the issues considered under subsection (a)(2) of this section.

(Pub. L. 107-252, title II, §242, Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1688.)

**§ 15383. Report on human factor research**

Not later than 1 year after October 29, 2002, the Commission, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall submit a report to Congress which assesses the areas of human factor research, including usability engineering and human-computer and human-machine interaction, which feasibly could be applied to voting products and systems design to ensure the usability and accuracy of voting products and systems, including methods to improve access for individuals with disabilities (including blindness) and individuals with limited proficiency in the English language and to reduce voter error and the number of spoiled ballots in elections.

(Pub. L. 107-252, title II, §243, Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1688.)

**§ 15384. Study and report on voters who register by mail and use of Social Security information****(a) Registration by mail****(1) Study****(A) In general**

The Commission shall conduct a study of the impact of section 15483(b) of this title on voters who register by mail.

**(B) Specific issues studied**

The study conducted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

(i) an examination of the impact of section 15483(b) of this title on first time mail registrant voters who vote in person, including the impact of such section on voter registration;

(ii) an examination of the impact of such section on the accuracy of voter rolls, including preventing ineligible names from being placed on voter rolls and ensuring that all eligible names are placed on voter rolls; and

(iii) an analysis of the impact of such section on existing State practices, such as the use of signature verification or attestation procedures to verify the identity of voters in elections for Federal office, and an analysis of other changes that may be made to improve the voter registration process, such as verification or additional information on the registration card.

**(2) Report**

Not later than 18 months after the date on which section 15483(b)(2) of this title takes effect, the Commission shall submit a report to

the President and Congress on the study conducted under paragraph (1)(A) together with such recommendations for administrative and legislative action as the Commission determines is appropriate.

**(b) Use of Social Security information**

Not later than 18 months after the date on which section 15483(a)(5) of this title takes effect, the Commission, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall study and report to Congress on the feasibility and advisability of using Social Security identification numbers or other information compiled by the Social Security Administration to establish voter registration or other election law eligibility or identification requirements, including the matching of relevant information specific to an individual voter, the impact of such use on national security issues, and whether adequate safeguards or waiver procedures exist to protect the privacy of an individual voter.

(Pub. L. 107-252, title II, §244, Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1689.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

For the effective dates of subsecs. (a)(5) and (b)(2) of section 15483 of this title, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2) and (b), see section 15483(d) of this title.

**§ 15385. Study and report on electronic voting and the electoral process****(a) Study****(1) In general**

The Commission shall conduct a thorough study of issues and challenges, specifically to include the potential for election fraud, prevented by incorporating communications and Internet technologies in the Federal, State, and local electoral process.

**(2) Issues to be studied**

The Commission may include in the study conducted under paragraph (1) an examination of—

(A) the appropriate security measures required and minimum standards for certification of systems or technologies in order to minimize the potential for fraud in voting or in the registration of qualified citizens to register and vote;

(B) the possible methods, such as Internet or other communications technologies, that may be utilized in the electoral process, including the use of those technologies to register voters and enable citizens to vote online, and recommendations concerning statutes and rules to be adopted in order to implement an online or Internet system in the electoral process;

(C) the impact that new communications or Internet technology systems for use in the electoral process could have on voter participation rates, voter education, public accessibility, potential external influences during the elections process, voter privacy and anonymity, and other issues related to the conduct and administration of elections;

(D) whether other aspects of the electoral process, such as public availability of candidate information and citizen communica-