

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 possession<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “possession”.