

**CHAPTER 107—RIGHT TO VOTE AT AGE  
EIGHTEEN**

Sec.	
10701.	Enforcement of twenty-sixth amendment.
10702.	“State” defined.

**§ 10701. Enforcement of twenty-sixth amendment**

(a)(1) The Attorney General is directed to institute, in the name of the United States, such actions against States or political subdivisions, including actions for injunctive relief, as he may determine to be necessary to implement the twenty-sixth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

(2) The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction of proceedings instituted under this chapter, which shall be heard and determined by a court of three judges in accordance with section 2284 of title 28, and any appeal shall lie to the Supreme Court. It shall be the duty of the judges designated to hear the case to assign the case for hearing and determination thereof, and to cause the case to be in every way expedited.

(b) Whoever shall deny or attempt to deny any person of any right secured by the twenty-sixth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(Pub. L. 89-110, title III, §301, as added Pub. L. 91-285, §6, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 318; amended Pub. L. 94-73, title IV, §407, Aug. 6, 1975, 89 Stat. 405.)

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973bb of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

1975—Pub. L. 94-73 substituted provisions authorizing the Attorney General to institute proceedings to enforce twenty-sixth amendment, the jurisdiction of the district courts, and penalties for denial of rights secured by twenty-sixth amendment, for provisions relating to Congressional findings and prohibition of denial of right to vote on account of age.

**§ 10702. “State” defined**

As used in this chapter, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia.

(Pub. L. 89-110, title III, §302, as added Pub. L. 91-285, §6, June 22, 1970, 84 Stat. 318; amended Pub. L. 94-73, title IV, §407, Aug. 6, 1975, 89 Stat. 405.)

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973bb-1 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

1975—Pub. L. 94-73 substituted definition of State for provisions prohibiting denial of right to vote because of age.

**Subtitle II—Voting Assistance and  
Election Administration**

**CHAPTER 201—VOTING ACCESSIBILITY FOR  
THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED**

Sec.	
20101.	Congressional declaration of purpose.
20102.	Selection of polling facilities.
20103.	Selection of registration facilities.
20104.	Registration and voting aids.
20105.	Enforcement.
20106.	Relationship to Voting Rights Act of 1965.
20107.	Definitions.

**§ 20101. Congressional declaration of purpose**

It is the intention of Congress in enacting this chapter 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.)

**Editorial Notes**

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 1973ee of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 98-435, §9, Sept. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1680, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] shall apply with respect to elections taking place after December 31, 1985.”

**§ 20102. 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), each political subdivision responsible for conducting elections shall assure that all polling places for Federal elections are accessible to handicapped and elderly voters.

**(b) Exception**

Subsection (a) 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