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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require State and local election officials to notify the chief State election official of a State with respect to the number of voted ballots that have been received and counted in an election for Federal office at the time of the closing of polls for such election, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DONALDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require State and local election officials to notify the chief State election official of a State with respect to the number of voted ballots that have been received and counted in an election for Federal office at the time of the closing of polls for such election, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Vote Outcome Trans-  
3 parency in Elections Act” or the “VOTE Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. BALLOT COUNT REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title III of the Help  
6 America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is  
7 amended—

8 (1) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as  
9 sections 305 and 306; and

10 (2) by inserting after section 303 the following  
11 new section:

12 **“SEC. 304. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO**  
13 **NUMBER OF BALLOTS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 hour after a  
15 polling place in a State closes in an election for Federal  
16 office on the date of such election, the appropriate State  
17 or local election official for such polling place shall provide  
18 to the chief State election official of the State a report  
19 that documents, as of such time—

20 “(1) the total number of voted ballots in the  
21 possession of State and local election officials for the  
22 election; and

23 “(2) the total number of voted ballots that have  
24 been tabulated for such election.

25 “(b) ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

1           “(1) SUBMISSION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE.—Not  
2 later than 1 hour after the latest time that all poll-  
3 ing places in a State close in an election for Federal  
4 office on the date of such election, the chief State  
5 election official of the State shall prepare and sub-  
6 mit to the chief executive of the State a final report  
7 that documents the results of each report received  
8 under subsection (a).

9           “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF FINAL RE-  
10 PORT.—Not later than 1 hour after the final report  
11 is received under paragraph (1), the chief executive  
12 of the State shall make the results of the report  
13 publicly available on a Government website.

14          “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This requirement shall  
15 apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general elec-  
16 tion for Federal office held in November 2022 and each  
17 succeeding election for Federal office.”.

18          (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-  
19 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act  
20 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “and  
21 303” and inserting “303, and 304”.

22          (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
23 of such Act is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-  
2 tions 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and  
3 306; and

4 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
5 tion 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Reporting requirements with respect to number of ballots.”.

6 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR BALLOTS DELIVERED BY**  
7 **MAIL.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle A of title III of the Help  
9 America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.), as  
10 amended by section 2(a), is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating sections 305 and 306 as  
12 sections 306 and 307; and

13 (2) by inserting after section 304 the following  
14 new section:

15 **“SEC. 305. REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO A BALLOT**  
16 **DELIVERED BY MAIL.**

17 **“(a) IN GENERAL.**—Each State and local jurisdiction  
18 shall have in place policies to ensure that a voted ballot  
19 delivered by postal mail to the appropriate election official  
20 in an election for Federal office can be verified to have  
21 been delivered by the United States Postal Service by  
22 means of an appropriate postmark, signature, or other in-  
23 dication from the United States Postal Service.

24 **“(b) EXCEPTIONS.**—This section shall not apply with  
25 respect to the ballot of an absent uniformed services voter

1 or an overseas voter (as such terms are defined in section  
2 107 of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee  
3 Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20310)).

4 “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This requirement shall  
5 apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general elec-  
6 tion for Federal office held in November 2022 and each  
7 succeeding election for Federal office.”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO EN-  
9 FORCEMENT.—Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act  
10 of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111), as amended by section 2(b),  
11 is amended by striking “303, and 304” and inserting  
12 “303, 304, and 305”.

13 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
14 of such Act, as amended by section 2(c), is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating the items relating to sec-  
16 tions 305 and 306 as relating to sections 306 and  
17 307; and

18 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
19 tion 304 the following new item:

“Sec. 305. Requirements with respect to a ballot delivered by mail.”.