To require States to establish contingency plans for the conduct of elections for Federal office in response to national disasters and emergencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. KLOBUCAR (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. JONES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. CANTWELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require States to establish contingency plans for the conduct of elections for Federal office in response to national disasters and emergencies, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Natural Disaster and

4 Emergency Ballot Act of 2020”.

5
SEC. 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL ELECTION CONTINGENCY PLANS IN RESPONSE TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Establishment.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each State and jurisdiction shall establish and make publicly available a contingency plan to enable qualified individuals (as defined in section 322(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 5(a), to vote in elections for Federal office during a state of emergency, public health emergency, or national emergency which has been declared for reasons including, but not limited to—

(A) a natural disaster; or
(B) an infectious disease.

(2) Updating.—Each State and jurisdiction shall update the contingency plan established under this subsection not less frequently than every 5 years.

(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SAFETY.—The contingency plan established under subsection (a) shall include initiatives to provide equipment and resources needed to protect the health and safety of poll workers and voters when voting in person.
(c) Requirements Relating to Recruitment of Poll Workers.—The contingency plan established under subsection (a) shall include initiatives by the chief State election official and local election officials to recruit poll workers for the November, 2020, general election and subsequent elections from resilient or unaffected populations, which may include—

(1) other State and local government offices;

and

(2) high schools and colleges in the State for the November, 2020, general election and in subsequent elections for Federal office in the case where an infectious disease poses significant increased health risks to elderly individuals and affects an election for Federal office.

(d) Plan for Voters to Be Able to Request Absentee Ballots Online and Vote by Mail.—The contingency plan established under subsection (a) shall permit all individuals who are registered to vote to—

(1) submit an online request for an absentee ballot, which requirement is satisfied if the local, county, or State election official’s website allows an absentee ballot request application to be completed and submitted online and—
(A) an absentee ballot request application
to be printed for the voter to complete and
mail; or

(B) a voter to submit an online request for
a hard copy absentee ballot request application
to be mailed or emailed to the voter to complete
and mail;

(2) return completed absentee ballot requests to
designated drop off boxes;

(3) cast a vote in elections for Federal office by
mail; and

(4) return completed absentee ballots by drop-
ing them off at designated locations before the
close of polls on the date of the election.

(e) STATE.—For purposes of this section, the term
“State” includes the District of Columbia, the Common-
wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the
United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of
the Northern Mariana Islands.

(f) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney Gen-
eral may bring a civil action against any State or ju-
risdiction in an appropriate United States District
Court for such declaratory and injunctive relief (in-
cluding a temporary restraining order, a permanent
or temporary injunction, or other order) as may be necessary to carry out the requirements of this sec-

(2) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a viola-
tion of this section, any person who is aggrieved by such violation may provide written notice of the violation to the chief election official of the State involved.

(B) RELIEF.—If the violation is not cor-
rected within 20 days after receipt of a notice under subparagraph (A), or within 5 days after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person may, in a civil action, obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

(C) SPECIAL RULE.—If the violation oc-
curred within 5 days before the date of an elec-
tion for Federal office, the aggrieved person need not provide notice to the chief election of-
ficial of the State involved under subparagraph (A) before bringing a civil action under sub-
paragraph (B).
SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND NO-EXCUSE ABSENTEE VOTING.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081) is amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

“Subtitle C—Additional Requirements

“SEC. 321. AVAILABILITY OF EARLY VOTING AND VOTING BY MAIL.

“(a) In general.—Each State and jurisdiction shall, with respect to the 2020 general election occurring on November 3, 2020, and each subsequent election for Federal office—

“(1) allow individuals to vote in such election prior to the date of the election through—

“(A) early voting which meets the requirements of subsection (b); and

“(B) voting by mail which meets the requirements of subsection (c);

“(2) publicize the details of any voting allowed under paragraph (1);

“(3) comply with the absentee voting requirements of subsection (d); and

“(4) comply with the vote counting requirements of subsection (e).
“(b) EARLY VOTING.—Early voting meets the requirements of this subsection—

“(1) if such voting occurs—

“(A) for a 20-day period preceding the date of the election so that such days constitute consecutive weekdays and include at least one weekend, which period may end on a date chosen by the chief election official of the State that is between the date of the election and 4 days preceding such date; and

“(B) for no less than 8 hours on each of the 20 days such early voting occurs; and

“(2) each early voting location in the State offers a ballot drop-off box for voters to submit their voted and sealed absentee ballots.

“(c) VOTING BY MAIL.—Voting by mail meets the requirements of this subsection if—

“(1) the State does not require an excuse in order to obtain and cast a ballot by mail for any election for Federal office;

“(2) the State permits any eligible voter to submit an online request for an absentee ballot to vote in an election for Federal office, which requirement is satisfied if the local, county, or State election official’s website allows an absentee ballot request appli-
cation to be completed and submitted online and if—

“(A) an absentee ballot request application to be printed for the voter to complete and mail; or

“(B) a voter is able to submit an online request via the internet to have a hard-copy absentee ballot request application mailed or emailed to them to complete and mail;

“(3) the State sends an absentee ballot to vote in an election for Federal office in the State by mail to any eligible voter that submits a request for such a ballot and that request is received by the appropriate election office on or before the date that is 5 days, not including weekend days, before the date of such election, except that nothing in this paragraph shall preclude a State or local jurisdiction from allowing for the acceptance and processing of ballot requests submitted or received after such required period;

“(4) the State permits any eligible voter to have the option to request an absentee ballot for subsequent elections on all absentee ballot requests;

“(5) the State does not require any form of identification for an absentee ballot request;
“(6) the State does not include any requirements for notarization or witness signature or other formal authentication (other than voter attestation);

“(7) the State permits voters to submit an absentee ballot by dropping it off at designated locations before the close of polls on the date of the election, including at any polling location on the date of the election before the close of polls;

“(8) the State—

“(A) permits a voter to designate any person to return a voted and sealed absentee ballot to the post office, a ballot drop-off location, tribally designated building, or election office and that such person designated to return an absentee ballot shall not receive any form of compensation based on the number of ballots that the person has returned and no individual, group, or organization shall provide compensation on this basis; or

“(B) does not put any limits on how many voted and sealed absentee ballots any designated person can return to the post office, a ballot drop off location, tribally designated building, or election office; and
“(9) the State permits any eligible voter that submits a request for an absentee ballot to vote in such election, but does not receive their absentee ballot at least 2 days prior to election day to download and mark at home an absentee ballot provided by the State pursuant to section 103C of the Uniformed Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act or section 322 of this Act.

“(d) DEADLINE REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements described in this subsection are that a State shall count a ballot submitted by an individual by mail with respect to an election for Federal office in the State—

“(1) if it is postmarked, signed, or otherwise indicated by the United States Postal Service to have been mailed on or before the close of polls on the date of the election; and

“(2) received by the appropriate State election official on or before the date that is 10 days after the date of such election.

“(e) BALLOT PROCESSING AND SCANNING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The requirement described in this subsection is that the State begins processing and scanning ballots cast during early voting or
through vote by mail for tabulation at least 14 days prior to election day.

“(2) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall allow for the tabulation of ballots before the close of polls on the date of the election.

“(f) STATE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking “and 303” and inserting “303, and subtitle C of title III”.

(c) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Title IV of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 403. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF NATURAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY BALLOT ACT OF 2020.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a violation of subtitle C of title III, section 402 shall not apply and any person who is aggrieved by such violation may provide written notice of the violation to the chief election official of the State involved."
“(b) RELIEF.—If the violation is not corrected within 20 days after receipt of a notice under subsection (a), or within 5 days after receipt of the notice if the violation occurred within 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person may, in a civil action, obtain declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to the violation.

“(c) SPECIAL RULE.—(If the violation occurred within 5 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the aggrieved person need not provide notice to the chief election official of the State involved under subsection (a) before bringing a civil action under subsection (b)).”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO VOLUNTARY GUIDANCE BY ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—Section 311(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21101) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and’’;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) in the case of the recommendations with respect to subtitle C, 1 year after the date of enactment of the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020.”.
(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 312 the following:

“Subtitle C—Additional Requirements

“Sec. 321. Availability of early voting and voting by mail.”; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 402 the following:

“Sec. 403. Private right of action for violations of Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020.”.

SEC. 4. USE OF DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOTS PROVIDED BY STATES UNDER UOCAVA FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED A BALLOT TO VOTE IN 2020 GENERAL ELECTION AND SUBSEQUENT FEDERAL ELECTIONS UNTIL DOMESTIC DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE BALLOT PRESCRIBED BY EAC IS AVAILABLE.

(a) In General.—The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 103B the following new section:
SEC. 103C. USE OF DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOTS PROVIDED UNDER UOCAVA FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED A BALLOT TO VOTE IN 2020 GENERAL ELECTION AND SUBSEQUENT FEDERAL ELECTIONS UNTIL DOMESTIC DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE BALLOT PRESCRIBED BY EAC IS AVAILABLE.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each State shall, with respect to the 2020 general election occurring on November 3, 2020, and subsequent elections for Federal office (until such time as the Election Assistance Commission prescribes a domestic downloadable and printable ballot for use in elections for Federal office pursuant to section 297 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002), permit qualified individuals to use the downloadable and printable absentee ballots the State provides to overseas and military voters as prescribed under section 103 to vote in such election.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Such downloadable and printable absentee ballots—

“(A) must comply with the language requirements under section 203 of the National Voter Registration Act; and
“(B) must comply with the disability requirements under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

“(3) Application of Requirements.—The provisions of section 103 shall apply with respect to the use of Federal write-in absentee ballots by qualified individuals pursuant to this section in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to the use of such ballots by absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters pursuant to section 103.

“(4) Clarification Regarding Free Postage.—Federal write-in absentee ballots of qualified individuals pursuant to this section shall be considered balloting materials as defined in section 107 for purposes of section 3406 of title 39, United States Code.

“(5) Prohibiting Refusal to Accept Ballot for Failure to Meet Certain Requirements.—A State shall not refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid Federal write-in absentee ballot submitted in any manner by a qualified individual solely on the basis of the following:

“(A) Notarization or witness signature requirements.
“(B) Restrictions on paper type, including weight and size.

“(C) Restrictions on envelope type, including weight and size.

“(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term ‘qualified individual’ means any individual who is otherwise qualified to vote in an election for Federal office and who—

“(A)(i) has requested an absentee ballot from the State or jurisdiction where such individual is registered to vote; and

“(ii) has not received such absentee ballot at least 2 days before the date of the election;

“(B) expects to be absent from such individual’s jurisdiction on the day of the election for Federal office due to professional or volunteer service in response to a natural disaster or emergency as so declared;

“(C) is hospitalized or expects to be hospitalized on the day of the election for Federal office; or

“(D) is an individual with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Dis-
abilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) and resides in a state which does not offer voters the ability to use secure and accessible remote ballot marking.

For purposes of subparagraph (D), a State shall permit an individual to self-certify that the individual is an individual with a disability.

“(2) Coordination with Federal write-in ballot for absent uniformed services and overseas voters.—The term ‘qualified individual’ shall not include an individual who—

“(A) is an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter; and

“(B) is entitled to vote using the Federal write-in absentee ballot prescribed under section 103.

“(c) State.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

(b) Conforming Amendment.—Section 102(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)) is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (10), by striking the period at the
end of paragraph (11) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) meet the requirements of section 103C with respect to use of downloadable and printable absentee ballots for qualified individuals to vote in the 2020 general election.”.

(c) Clerical Amendments.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting the following after section 103:

“Sec. 103A. Procedures for collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed services voters.

Sec. 103B. Federal voting assistance program improvements.

Sec. 103C. Use of downloadable and printable absentee ballots provided under uocava for qualified individuals to vote in 2020 general election.”.

SEC. 5. DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR DOMESTIC USE BY VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES AND IN EMERGENCIES STARTING IN 2022.

(a) State Requirement.—

(1) In general.—Subtitle C of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 322. USE OF DOMESTIC DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOT.

“(a) State Requirement.—

“
“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall permit qualified individuals to use a downloadable and printable absentee ballot prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission under section 297 to cast a vote in any election for Federal office.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Such downloadable and printable absentee ballots—

“(A) must comply with the language requirements under section 203 of the National Voter Registration Act; and

“(B) must comply with the disability requirements under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

“(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the term ‘qualified individual’ means any individual who is otherwise qualified to vote in an election for Federal office and who—

“(A)(i) has requested an absentee ballot from the State or jurisdiction where such individual is registered to vote; and

“(ii) has not received such absentee ballot at least 2 days before the date of the election;
“(B)(i) resides in an area of a State with respect to which an emergency or public health emergency has been declared by the Governor or chief government official of the State or chief government official of an area, 5 days or less before election day under the laws of the State due to reasons including, but not limited to—

“(I) a natural disaster, including severe weather; or

“(II) an infectious disease; and

“(ii) has not requested an absentee ballot;

“(C) expects to be absent from such individual’s jurisdiction on the day of the election for Federal office due to professional or volunteer service in response to a natural disaster or emergency as so declared;

“(D) is hospitalized or expects to be hospitalized on the day of the election for Federal office; or

“(E) is an individual with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102)) and resides in a state which does not offer voters the ability to use secure and accessible remote ballot marking.
For purposes of subparagraph (E), a State shall permit an individual to self-certify that the individual is an individual with a disability.

“(2) COORDINATION WITH FEDERAL WRITE-IN BALLOT FOR ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES AND OVERSEAS VOTERS.—The term ‘qualified individual’ shall not include an individual who—

“(A) is an absent uniformed services voter (as defined in section 107(1) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20310(1))) or an overseas voter (as defined in section 107(5) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20310(5))); and

“(B) who is entitled to vote using the Federal write-in absentee ballot developed under section 103 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20303).

“(c) SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, a domestic downloadable and printable absentee ballot to which this section applies shall be submitted and processed in the manner provided by law for absentee ballots in the State involved.
“(2) DEADLINE.—An otherwise eligible national Federal write-in absentee ballot to which this section applies shall be counted—

“(A) if it is postmarked, signed, or otherwise indicated by the United States Postal Service to have been mailed on or before the close of polls on the date of the election; and

“(B) received by the appropriate State election official on or before the date that is 10 days after the date of such election.

“(d) SPECIAL RULES.—The following rules shall apply with respect to domestic printable and downloadable absentee ballots to which this section applies:

“(1) In completing the ballot, the voter may designate a candidate by writing in the name of the candidate or by writing in the name of a political party (in which case the ballot shall be counted for the candidate of that political party).

“(2) In the case of the offices of President and Vice President, a vote for a named candidate or a vote by writing in the name of a political party shall be counted as a vote for the electors supporting the candidate involved.

“(3) Any abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation in the form of the name of a can-
didate or a political party shall be disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot.

“(e) Prohibiting Refusal To Accept Ballot for Failure To Meet Certain Requirements.—A State shall not refuse to accept and process any otherwise valid Federal write-in absentee ballot submitted in any manner by a qualified individual solely on the basis of the following:

“(1) Notarization and witness signature requirements.

“(2) Restrictions on paper type, including weight and size.

“(3) Restrictions on envelope type, including weight and size.

“(f) State.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(g) Effective Date.—Each State shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section on and after January 1, 2022.”.

(2) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the
item relating to section 321, as added by section 3, the following:

“Sec. 322. Use of domestic downloadable and printable absentee ballot.”.

(b) Form of Domestic Printable and Downloadable Absentee Ballot.—

(1) In general.—Title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20921) is amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle:

“PART 7—DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR DOMESTIC USE

“SEC. 297. DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR DOMESTIC USE.

“(a) Form of Ballot.—

“(1) In general.—The Commission shall pre-
scribe a domestic downloadable and printable ballot (including a secrecy envelope and mailing envelope for such ballot) for use in elections for Federal office by qualified individuals (as defined in section 322(b)).

“(2) Affirmation.—The ballot prescribed under paragraph (1) shall contain an affirmation, signed by the person submitting the ballot, that—

“(A) such individual is a qualified indi-

vidual (as defined in section 322(b));

“(B) such individual has not and will not cast another ballot with respect to the election
for which the domestic downloadable and print-
able absentee ballot is cast; and

“(C) acknowledging that a material
misstatement of fact in completing the ballot
may constitute grounds for conviction of per-
jury.

“(b) Availability.—The Commission shall make
the domestic downloadable and printable absentee ballot
available on the Internet in a printable format.”.

“(c) Requirements.—The domestic downloadable
and printable absentee ballot shall be compliant with sec-
794d) and shall not transmit the information completed
by a voter over the internet.”.

(2) Conforming Amendments.—

(A) Section 202 of the Help America Vote
Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922) is amended by
redesignating paragraphs (5) and (6) as para-
graphs (6) and (7), respectively, and by insert-
ing after paragraph (4) the following new para-
graph:

“(5) carrying out the duties described in part 7
(relating to downloadable and printable absentee bal-
lot for domestic use);”. 
The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item related to section 296 the following:

"PART 7—DOWNLOADABLE AND PRINTABLE ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR DOMESTIC USE"

"Sec. 297. Downloadable and printable absentee ballot for domestic use."

SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT FOR PREPAID RETURN ENVELOPES FOR ABSENTEE BALLOTS; USE OF INTELLIGENT MAIL BARCODE.

(a) In General.—Subtitle C of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 3 and amended by section 5, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 323. USE OF PREPAID SELF-SEALING RETURN ENVELOPES.

"(a) In General.—Each State and local jurisdiction shall provide with any voter registration application, absentee ballot application, or blank absentee ballot sent by mail a self-sealing return envelope, where possible, with prepaid postage or subject to an arrangement whereby the State will reimburse the United States Postal Service for the postage of any such return envelope that is sent by mail.

"(b) Use of Intelligent Mail Barcode for the 2020 General Election and Until Balloting Materials Status Update Service Implemented.—For
the 2020 general election and subsequent elections for
Federal office (until such time as a State implements a
balloting materials status update service which meets the
requirements described in section 7(a)(2) of the Natural
Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020), unless a
State or jurisdiction has developed a system that enables
voters to track their absentee ballot through the mail, each
State and jurisdiction shall provide with each absentee bal-
lot sent by mail a self-sealing return envelope pursuant
to subsection (a) that contains an Intelligent Mail barcode
as prescribed by the United States Postal Service.

“(c) STATE.—For purposes of this section, the term
‘State’ includes the District of Columbia, the Common-
wealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the
United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of
the Northern Mariana Islands.

“(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of this
section shall apply to materials sent by States and local
jurisdictions after the date that is 60 days after the date
of the enactment of this Act.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
to section 322, as added by section 5, the following new
item:

“Sec. 323. Use of prepaid self-sealing return envelopes.”.

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SEC. 7. DEVELOPMENT OF A SECURE FEDERAL PORTAL TO
ALLOW ELECTION OFFICIALS TO PROVIDE
VOTERS WITH UPDATES ON THEIR BALLOTS.

(a) Balloting Materials Status Update Service.—

(1) In General.—Not later than January 1, 2024, the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, in consultation with the Chair of the Election Assistance Commission, the Postmaster General, the Director of the General Services Administration, the Presidential designee, and State election officials, shall establish a balloting materials status update service to be used by States and local jurisdictions to inform voters on the status of voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, and absentee ballots.

(2) Information Tracked.—The balloting materials status update service established under paragraph (1) shall provide to a voter the following information with respect to that voter:

(A) In the case of balloting materials sent by mail, tracking information from the United States Post Office and the Presidential designee on balloting materials sent to the voter and, to the extent feasible, returned by the voter.
(B) The date on which any request by the voter for an application for voter registration or an absentee ballot was received.

(C) The date on which any such requested application was sent to the voter.

(D) The date on which any such completed application was received from the voter and the status of such application.

(E) The date on which any absentee ballot was sent to the voter.

(F) The date on which any absentee ballot was received by the voter.

(G) The date on which the post office processes the absentee ballot.

(H) The date on which post office delivered the absentee ballot to the election office.

(I) Whether such ballot was accepted and counted, and in the case of any ballot not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted.

(3) Method of Providing Information.—The balloting materials status update service established under paragraph (1) shall allow voters the option to receive the information described in para-
graph (2) through email (or other electronic means) or through the mail.

(4) Prohibition on fees.—The Director may not charge any fee to a State or jurisdiction for use of the balloting materials status update service in connection with any Federal, State, or local election.

(5) Authorization of appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director such sums as are necessary for purposes of carrying out this subsection.

(b) Required use for absent uniformed service voters and overseas voters.—

(1) In general.—Section 102(a) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20302(a)), as amended by section 4(b), is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (12) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(13) use the balloting materials status update service developed under section 7(a) of the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 to inform absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters on the status of voter registration applica-
tions, absentee ballot applications, and absentee ballots used in elections for Federal office.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 102 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20302) is amended by striking subsection (h).

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to elections for Federal office occurring after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency certifies that the service described in subsection (a) is operational.

(e) **REQUIRED USE UNDER HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 321(a) of the Help American Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 3, is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) use the balloting materials status update service developed under section 7(a) of the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 to provide eligible voters and qualified individuals (as defined in section 322(b) of this Act) information re-
regarding the status of voter registration applications, absentee ballot applications, and absentee ballots used in elections for Federal office, except that any State or jurisdiction which has developed a balloting materials status update system which meets the requirements of paragraph (2) of such section 7(a) (relating to information tracked) may continue to use such system.”

(2) Effective date.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to elections for Federal office occurring after the date that is 1 year after the date on which the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency certifies that the service described in subsection (a) is operational.

(d) Availability to Department of Defense.—The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency may make the balloting materials status update service available to the Department of Defense to administer and implement to absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters pursuant to the Uniformed Overseas and Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.).

(e) Reimbursements to States.—
(1) For use with respect to balloting materials of absent uniformed service voters and overseas voters.—

(A) In General.—The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 103C, as added by section 4(a), the following new section:

“SEC. 103D. REIMBURSEMENTS FOR USE OF BALLOTTING MATERIALS STATUS UPDATE SERVICE.

“(a) In General.—The Presidential designee shall make payments to each State and local jurisdiction equal to the costs to the State or local jurisdiction of using the balloting materials status update service under section 7(a) of the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 with respect to balloting materials of absent uniformed services and overseas voters.

“(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Presidential designee such sums as are necessary for carrying out this section, to remain available without fiscal year limitation.”.

(B) Conforming Amendment.—Section 101(b) of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (52 U.S.C. 20301(b)) is amended by striking “and” at the end of para-
graph (10), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (11) and inserting ‘‘; and’’, and by adding at the end the following new paragraph

“(12) make payments to States in accordance with section 103D.’’.

(C) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 103, as added by section 4(e), the following new item:

‘‘Sec. 103D. Reimbursements for use of balloting materials status update service.’’.

(2) FOR USE WITH RESPECT TO BALLOTING MATERIALS OF DOMESTIC VOTERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21001 et seq.), as amended by section 5(b), is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘PART 8—REIMBURSEMENTS FOR USE OF BALLOTING MATERIALS STATUS UPDATE SERVICE

‘‘SEC. 298. REIMBURSEMENTS FOR USE OF BALLOTING MATERIALS STATUS UPDATE SERVICE.

‘‘(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make payments to each State and local jurisdiction equal to the costs to the State or local jurisdiction of using the ballot material update service under section 7(a) of the Natural

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Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 with respect to balloting materials of voters (other than balloting materials of absent uniformed services and overseas voters for which the State is eligible for payment under section 103D of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) for which States or jurisdictions elect to use such tracking service.

“(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission such sums as are necessary for carrying out this section, to remain available without fiscal year limitation.”.

(B) Conforming Amendments.—

(i) Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922), as amended by section 5(b), is amended by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (5) the following new paragraph:

“(6) carrying out the duties described in part 8 (relating to balloting materials status update reimbursements);”.

(ii) The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item related to section 297 the following:
“PART 8—Reimbursements for Use of Balloting Materials Status Update Service

“Sec. 298. Reimbursements for use of balloting materials status update service.”

SEC. 8. NOTICE AND CURE PROCESS REQUIRED FOR MISMATCHED SIGNATURES ON MAIL-IN AND PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.

(a) In General.—Subtitle C of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 3 and amended by sections 5 and 6, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 324. SIGNATURE MISMATCH ON BALLOT SUBMITTED BY MAIL OR PROVISIONAL BALLOT.

“(a) COVERED STATE DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in this section, the term ‘covered State’ means a State in which, under State law, a ballot submitted by mail or a provisional ballot is not counted as a vote in an election for Federal office unless the State verifies the signature of the individual who submitted such ballot by comparing the signature on the envelope containing such ballot or a document accompanying such ballot and the signature of such individual on the official list of registered voters in the State or other official record, or other document.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN STATES.—Such term shall not include a State which conducted a
Federal election entirely through vote by mail prior to 2020.

“(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If an individual submits a ballot by mail or a provisional ballot in an election for Federal office in a covered State, and the appropriate State or local election official determines that a discrepancy exists between the signature on the envelope containing such ballot or a document accompanying such ballot used to verify the signature and the signature of such individual on the official list of registered voters in the State or other official record, or other document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters, such election official, prior to making a final determination as to the validity of such ballot, shall make a good faith effort to immediately notify such individual that—

“(A) a discrepancy exists between the signature on the envelope containing such ballot or a document accompanying such ballot used to verify the signature and the signature of such individual on the official list of registered voters in the State or other official record, or other document used by the State to verify the signatures of voters;
“(B) such individual may provide information to cure such discrepancy in accordance with the procedures established pursuant to subsection (c)(1)(A); and

“(C) if such discrepancy is not cured, such ballot will not be counted.

“(2) FORM OF NOTICE.—An election official shall provide the notice required by paragraph (1) by at least two of the following methods:

“(A) Regular mail.

“(B) Phone.

“(C) Electronic mail.

“(D) Text message.

“(3) NO EFFECT ON OTHER NOTICE REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.—In the case of an individual who submits a provisional ballot, the requirements of this subsection shall be in addition to the requirements applicable to such an individual under section 302(a).

“(c) OPPORTUNITY TO CURE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCEDURES.—A covered State shall establish uniform and non-discriminatory procedures—

“(A) to allow an individual to whom notice is provided under subsection (b)—
“(i) to provide confirmation or information to cure the discrepancy described in subsection (b)(1) through the same form in which the notice is provided pursuant to subsection (b)(1) by a date that is not less than 10 calendar days following the date on which the notice required under subsection (b) is given; and

“(ii) if such confirmation or information is rejected, to appeal the rejection;

“(B) that require that voters whose ballots are returned without signatures be notified and given an opportunity to provide a missing signature on a form proscribed by the State; and

“(C) ‘prior to the date of final certification of ballots in the election by such State, to provide such individual a final determination as to the validity of the ballot and whether the individual’s ballot was counted in the election.

“(2) DEADLINE.— A voter has until the day before certification of election results to provide confirmation that the signature in question is their genuine signature. This confirmation can be provided orally, in writing, or electronically, including through
any of the forms described in subsection (b)(2). No separate oath or affirmation is required.

“(3) COUNTING OF VOTE.—A final determination with respect to the validity of a ballot in the case of a signature mismatch under this section shall be made by three election officials, at least one of whom is of an opposing party and, unless such election officials determine, taking into account any confirmation or information provided under the procedures established pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), through a unanimous vote and beyond a reasonable doubt that the ballot is not valid, such ballot shall be counted as a vote in that election.

“(d) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the end of a Federal election cycle, each chief State election official in a covered State shall submit to Congress a report containing the following information for the applicable Federal election cycle in the State:

“(A) The number of ballots invalidated due to a discrepancy under this section.

“(B) Description of attempts to contact voters to provide notice as required by this section.
“(C) Description of the cure process developed by such State pursuant to this section, including the number of ballots determined valid as a result of such process.

“(2) FEDERAL ELECTION CYCLE DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘Federal Election cycle’ means the period beginning on January 1 of any odd numbered year and ending on December 31 of the following year.

“(e) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall expand the research and develop best practices or guidelines for the acceptance, verification, and curing of signatures for mail-in ballots.

“(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the general election for Federal office held in 2020 and any subsequent election for Federal office.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 323, as added by section 6, the following new item:

“Sec. 324. Signature mismatch on ballot submitted by mail or provisional ballot.”.
SEC. 9. REQUIREMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by section 3 and amended by sections 5, 6, and 8, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 325. ACCEPTANCE OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.

“(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.—Each State and local jurisdiction shall—

“(1) accept and process voter registration applications submitted in person, by mail, or online at least 21 days prior to the date of an election for Federal office, except nothing this paragraph shall preclude a State or local jurisdiction from allowing for the acceptance and processing of voter registration applications submitted or received after such required period; and

“(2) ensure that any voter registration applications provided by the State permit the voter, at the time of submitted the application, to register to vote by mail in accordance with the requirements under section 321(c).

“(b) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply with respect to any State or local jurisdiction that allows—

“(1) voter registration during early voting; or
“(2) same day voter registration.

“(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply begin-
ginning on the date that is 60 days after the date of enact-
ment of the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act
of 2020.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating
to section 324, as added by section 8, the following new
item:

“Sec. 325. Acceptance of voter registration applications.”.

SEC. 10. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VOTERS RESIDING IN IN-
DIAN LANDS.

(a) ACCOMMODATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following requirements
shall apply with respect to the general election for
Federal office held in 2020 and any subsequent elec-
tion for Federal office:

(A) Given the widespread lack of residen-
tial mail delivery in Indian Country, an Indian
Tribe may designate buildings as ballot pickup
and collection locations at no cost to the Indian
Tribe. An Indian Tribe may designate one
building per precinct located within Indian
lands. The applicable State or political subdivi-
sion shall collect ballots from those locations.

The applicable State or political subdivision
shall provide the Indian Tribe with accurate
precinct maps for all precincts located within
Indian lands 60 days before any election.

(B) The State or political subdivision shall
provide mail-in and absentee ballots to each
registered voter residing on Indian lands in the
State or political subdivision without requiring
a residential address or a mail-in or absentee
ballot request.

(C) The address of a designated building
that is a ballot pickup and collection location
may serve as the residential address and mail-
ing address for voters living on Indian lands if
the tribally designated building is in the same
precinct as that voter. If there is no tribally
designated building within a voter’s precinct,
the voter may use another tribally designated
building within the Indian lands where the
voter is located. Voters using a tribally des-
ignated building outside of the voter’s precinct
may use the tribally designated building as a
mailing address and may separately designate
the voter’s appropriate precinct through a de-
scription of the voter’s address, as specified in
section 9428.4(a)(2) of title 11, Code of Federal Regulations

(D) In the case of a State or political subdivision that is a covered State or political subdivision under section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503), that State or political subdivision shall provide absentee or mail-in voting materials in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language, bilingual election voting assistance, and written translations of all voting materials in the language of the applicable minority group, as required by section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503) as amended by subsection (b).

(2) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this section alters the ability of an individual voter residing on Indian lands to request a ballot in a manner available to all other voters in the State.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) INDIAN.—The term “Indian” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).
(B) Indian Lands.—The term “Indian lands” includes—

(i) any Indian country of an Indian Tribe, as defined under section 1151 of title 18, United States Code;

(ii) any land in Alaska owned, pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), by an Indian Tribe that is a Native village (as defined in section 3 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)) or by a Village Corporation that is associated with an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 3 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 1602));

(iii) any land on which the seat of the Tribal Government is located; and

(iv) any land that is part or all of a Tribal designated statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, or is part or all of an Alaska Native village statistical area associated with an Indian Tribe, as defined by the Census Bureau for the purposes of the most recent decennial census.

(C) Indian Tribe.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term “Indian Tribe.”

(D) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “Tribal Government” means the recognized governing body of an Indian Tribe.

(4) ENFORCEMENT.—

(A) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for such declaratory or injunctive relief as is necessary to carry out this subsection.

(B) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

(i) A person or Tribal Government who is aggrieved by a violation of this subsection may provide written notice of the violation to the chief election official of the State involved.

(ii) An aggrieved person or Tribal Government may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive relief with respect to a violation of this subsection, if—
(I) that person or Tribal Government provides the notice described in clause (i); and

(II)(aa) in the case of a violation that occurs more than 120 days before the date of an election for Federal office, the violation remains and 90 days or more have passed since the date on which the chief election official of the State receives the notice under clause (i); or

(bb) in the case of a violation that occurs 120 days or less before the date of an election for Federal office, the violation remains and 20 days or more have passed since the date on which the chief election official of the State receives the notice under clause (i).

(iii) In the case of a violation of this section that occurs 30 days or less before the date of an election for Federal office, an aggrieved person or Tribal Government may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court for declaratory or injunctive
relief with respect to the violation without providing notice to the chief election official of the State under clause (i).

(b) BILINGUAL ELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3)(C), by striking “1990” and inserting “2010”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) PROVISION OF VOTING MATERIALS IN THE LANGUAGE OF A MINORITY GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Whenever any State or political subdivision subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) of this section provides any registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots, it shall provide them in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language.

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) In the case of a minority group that is not American Indian or Alaska Native and the language of that minority
group is oral or unwritten, the State or political subdivision shall only be required to furnish, in the covered language, oral instructions, assistance, translation of voting materials, or other information relating to registration and voting.

“(ii) In the case of a minority group that is American Indian or Alaska Native, the State or political subdivision shall only be required to furnish in the covered language oral instructions, assistance, or other information relating to registration and voting, including all voting materials, if the Tribal Government of that minority group has certified that the language of the applicable American Indian or Alaska Native language is presently unwritten or the Tribal Government does not want written translations in the minority language.

“(3) Written translations for election workers.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the State or political division may be required to provide written translations of voting materials, with the consent of any applicable Indian Tribe, to election workers to ensure that the translations from English
to the language of a minority group are complete, accurate, and uniform.”.

SEC. 11. REIMBURSEMENTS TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLYING WITH NATURAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY BALLOT ACT OF 2020 WITH RESPECT TO 2020 GENERAL ELECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21001 et seq.), as amended by section 7(e), is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

“PART 9—REIMBURSEMENT TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLYING WITH NATURAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY BALLOT ACT OF 2020 WITH RESPECT TO 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

SEC. 299. REIMBURSEMENTS TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLYING WITH NATURAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY BALLOT ACT OF 2020 WITH RESPECT TO 2020 GENERAL ELECTION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall make payments to each State equal to the costs incurred by the State (and local jurisdictions within the State) in complying with the following requirements with respect to the 2020 general election occurring on November 3, 2020:
“(1) Costs of establishing contingency plans pursuant to section 2 of the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020, including initiatives to recruit pollworkers pursuant to subsection (b) of such section.

“(2) Costs of establishing a system for voters to submit an online request for an absentee ballot pursuant to section 2(c) of such Act

“(3) Costs of implementing requirements with respect to availability of voting prior to election day pursuant to section 321 of this Act.

“(4) Costs associated with purchasing additional and upgrading high speed ballot printers, inserters, ballot sorters, envelope extractors, and scanners to send and process absentee ballots and costs associated with purchasing ballot drop boxes.

“(5) Costs associated with the development or purchase, implementation, and use of technology to allow election officials to electronically verify a voter’s signature on a ballot envelope against a voter’s signature on file without physically handling the envelope, provided that the technology is not connected to the internet.

“(6) Costs associated with the use of downloadable and printable ballots by qualified indi-
viduals under section 103C the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

“(7) Costs associated with developing or purchasing secure accessible remote ballot marking systems for use by voters with disabilities, provided that such systems do not cause the voter’s ballot selections to be transmitted over the internet and do not allow for the electronic submission of a marked ballot.

“(8) Costs associated with developing or purchasing and implementing signature verification software.

“(9) Costs for providing return envelopes and the postage associated with such envelopes pursuant to section 323 of this Act.

“(b) PRIMARY ELECTIONS.—

“(1) PAYMENTS TO STATES.—In addition to any payments under subsection (a), the Commission shall make payments to each State equal to any costs that the State (and local jurisdictions within the State) incurs in voluntarily electing to comply with and implementing the provisions of, and amendments made by, the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 with respect to the 2020 primary election in the State.
“(2) **State party-run primaries.**—The Commission shall make payments to State parties for costs incurred by such parties to send absentee ballots and return envelopes with prepaid postage to eligible voters participating in such primaries during 2020.

“(c) **Authorization of Appropriations.**—

“(1) **In general.**—There are authorized to be appropriated for payments under this section any sums necessary to reimburse states for costs described in subsections (a) and (b) with respect to the 2020 general election occurring on November 3, 2020.

“(2) **Availability of funds.**—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this subsection shall remain available without fiscal year limitation.

“(d) **Insufficient funds.**—If the amount appropriated under subsection (b) is less than the aggregate costs incurred by all States for the activities described in subsections (a)(1) and (b) for any period, the amount of payment made under each such subsection to each State shall not exceed the amount which bears the same ratio to the aggregate amount of costs described in such subsection for such State for such period as—
“(1) the voting age population of the State (as reported in the most recent decennial census); bears to

“(2) the total voting age population of all States (as reported in the most recent decennial census).

“(e) PASS-THROUGH OF FUNDS TO LOCAL JURISDICTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—If a State receives a payment under this section for costs that include costs incurred by a local jurisdiction within the State, the State shall pass through to such local jurisdiction or Tribal government a portion of such payment that is equal to the amount of the costs incurred by such local jurisdiction.

“(2) INSUFFICIENT FUNDS.—If a State receives a payment for a period under this section that, as a result of the application of subsection (d), is less than the aggregate amount of costs described in subsections (a) and (b) for such State for such period, than the portion of such payment that the State is required to pass through to a local jurisdiction or Tribal government under paragraph (1) shall not exceed the amount which bears the same ratio to the
total amount of costs incurred by such local jurisdiction or Tribal government for such period as—

“(A) the amount of the payment received by the State under this section for the period;

“(B) the aggregate amount of costs described in subsection (a) and (b) for such State for such period.

“(f) LIMITATION.—No funds may be provided to a State under this section for costs attributable to the electronic return of marked ballots by any voter.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 202 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922), as amended by section 7(e), is amended by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively, and by inserting after paragraph (6) the following new paragraph:

“(7) carrying out the duties described in part 9 (relating to reimbursements to States for costs of complying with the Natural Disaster and Emergency Ballot Act of 2020 with respect to the 2020 general election);”.
(2) The table of contents for such Act is amended by inserting after the item related to section 297 the following:

"PART 9—REIMBURSEMENT TO STATES FOR COSTS OF COMPLYING WITH NATURAL DISASTER AND EMERGENCY BALLOT ACT OF 2020 WITH RESPECT TO 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

"Sec. 299. Reimbursements to states for costs of complying with natural disaster and emergency ballot act of 2020 with respect to 2020 general election."

SEC. 12. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

(a) In general.—In addition to any funds otherwise appropriated to the Election Assistance Commission for fiscal year 2020, there is authorized to be appropriated $3,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 in order for the Commission to provide additional assistance and resources to States for improving the administration of elections.

(b) Availability of funds.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this subsection shall remain available without fiscal year limitation.