

Critical Election Infrastructure Act of 2009 (Introduced in House)

HR 253 IH

111th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. R. 253

To direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to carry out election administration improvement plans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 7, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to carry out election administration improvement plans.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Critical Election Infrastructure Act of 2009'.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

- (1) Roughly 130 million votes were cast in the United States in the November 2008 general election, representing over 61 percent of the Nation's population.
- (2) Hundreds of thousands of individuals were forced to wait in lines for 5 hours or longer in order to cast their votes, both during early voting periods and on Election Day.
- (3) Hundreds of jurisdictions lacked the necessary equipment and personnel to speedily and efficiently meet the needs of such large turnout.

SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATES FOR ELECTION ADMINISTRATION IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) Grants Authorized- The Election Assistance Commission (hereafter referred to as the 'Commission') shall make grants to eligible States to carry out election administration improvement plans.

(b) Plans Described- For purposes of this Act, an election administration improvement plan is a plan established by a State to promote efficiency and fairness in the operation of polling places at which individuals cast ballots in elections for Federal office held in the State (including early voting sites), which may include the acquisition of additional voting systems and equipment, improved training of election administration officials, and the allocation of additional election administration officials to polling places serving greater numbers of voters.

(c) Eligibility- A State is eligible to receive a grant under this Act if it submits to the Commission (at such time and in such form as the Commission may require) an application containing--

(1) the State's election administration improvement plan;

(2) a description of how the State will use the funds provided under the grant to carry out the plan; and

(3) such other information and certifications as the Commission may require.

(d) Amount of Grant- The amount of the grant made to an eligible State under this Act shall be determined by the Commission, taking into account the contents of application submitted by the State under subsection (c), the amount of funds available for grants to all States, and such other factors as the Commission considers appropriate.

(e) State Defined- In this Act, the term 'State' includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the United States Virgin Islands.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) In General- There are authorized to be appropriated for grants under this Act \$250,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2012.

(b) Continuing Availability of Funds- Any amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this section shall remain available until expended.

END

CRS SUMMARY AS OF:

1/7/2009--Introduced.

Critical **Election** Infrastructure Act of 2009 - Directs the **Election** Assistance Commission (EAC) to make grants to eligible states to carry out **election** administration improvement plans to promote efficiency and fairness in the operation of polling places in federal **elections** (including early voting sites), which may include: (1) acquisition of additional voting systems and equipment; (2) improved training of **election** administration officials; and (3) allocation of additional **election** administration officials to polling places serving greater numbers of voters.