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119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10699

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots in an election for Federal office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2026

Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Ms. SIMON, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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A BILL

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to require States to provide secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots in an election for Federal office, and for other purposes.

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 ''Dropbox Access Act''.

SEC. 2. REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE SECURED DROP BOXES FOR VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.

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

(1) by redesignating sections 305 and 306 as sections 306 and 307, respectively; and

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

"SEC. 305. USE OF SECURED DROP BOXES FOR VOTED ABSENTEE BALLOTS.

"(a) REQUIRING USE OF DROP BOXES.—In each county in the State, each State shall provide in-person, secured, and clearly labeled drop boxes at which individuals may, at any time during the period described in subsection (b), drop off voted absentee ballots in an election for Federal office.

"(b) MINIMUM PERIOD FOR AVAILABILITY OF DROP BOXES.—The period described in this subsection is, with respect to an election, the period which begins 45 days before the date of the election and which ends at the time the polls close for the election in the county involved.

"(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall ensure that the drop boxes provided under this section are accessible for use—

"(A) by individuals with disabilities, as determined in consultation with the protection and advocacy systems (as defined in section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002)) of the State; and

"(B) by individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.

"(2) DETERMINATION OF ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—For purposes of this subsection, drop boxes shall be considered to be accessible for use by individuals with disabilities if the drop boxes meet such criteria as the Attorney General may establish for such purposes.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—If a State provides a drop box under this section on the grounds of or inside a building or facility which serves as a polling place for an election during the period described in subsection (b), nothing in this subsection may be construed to waive any requirements regarding the accessibility of such polling place for the use

of individuals with disabilities or individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.

"(d) NUMBER OF DROP BOXES.—

"(1) FORMULA FOR DETERMINATION OF NUMBER.—The number of drop boxes provided under this section in a county with respect to an election shall be determined as follows:

"(A) In the case of a county in which the number of individuals who are residents of the county and who are registered to vote in the election is equal to or greater than 20,000, the number of drop boxes shall be a number equal to or greater than the number of such individuals divided by 20,000 (rounded to the nearest whole number).

"(B) In the case of any other county, the number of drop boxes shall be equal to or greater than one.

"(2) TIMING.—For purposes of this subsection, the number of individuals who reside in a county and who are registered to vote in the election shall be determined as of the 90th day before the date of the election.

"(e) LOCATION OF DROP BOXES.—The State shall determine the location of drop boxes provided under this

section in a county on the basis of criteria which ensure that the drop boxes are—

"(1) available to all voters on a non-discriminatory basis;

"(2) accessible to voters with disabilities (in accordance with subsection (c));

"(3) accessible by public transportation to the greatest extent possible;

"(4) available during all hours of the day; and

"(5) sufficiently available in all communities in the county, including rural communities and on Tribal lands within the county (subject to subsection (f)).

"(f) RULES FOR DROP BOXES ON TRIBAL LANDS.—In making a determination of the number and location of drop boxes provided under this section on Tribal lands in a county, the appropriate State and local election officials shall—

"(1) consult with Tribal leaders prior to making the determination; and

"(2) take into account criteria such as the availability of direct-to-door residential mail delivery, the distance and time necessary to travel to the drop box locations (including in inclement weather), modes of transportation available, conditions of

roads, and the availability (if any) of public transportation.

"(g) POSTING OF INFORMATION.—On or adjacent to each drop box provided under this section, the State shall post information on the requirements that voted absentee ballots must meet in order to be counted and tabulated in the election.

"(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2026 and each succeeding election for Federal office.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking "and 304" and inserting "304, and 305".

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

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 305 and 306 as relating to sections 306 and 307, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 304 the following new item:

"Sec. 305. Use of secured drop boxes for voted absentee ballots.".

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