



**U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1335 East West Highway, Suite 4300
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

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1 ELECTION REFORM PROGRAM
2 Notwithstanding section 104(c)(2)(B) of the Help
3 America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20904(c)(2)(B)),
4 \$380,000,000 is provided to the Election Assistance Com-
5 mission for necessary expenses to make payments to
6 States for activities to improve the administration of elec-
7 tions for Federal office, including to enhance election tech-
8 nology and make election security improvements, as au-
9 thorized by sections 101, 103, and 104 of such Act: Pro-
10 vided, if that each reference to the "Administrator of Gen-
11 eral Services" or the "Administrator" in sections 101 and
12 103 shall be deemed to refer to the "Election Assistance
13 Commission": Provided further, That each reference to
14 "\$5,000,000" in section 103 shall be deemed to refer to
15 "\$3,000,000" and each reference to "\$1,000,000" in sec-
16 tion 103 shall be deemed to refer to "\$600,000": Provided
17 further, if that not later than 45 days after the date of en-
18 actment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission
19 shall make the payments to states under this heading:
20 Provided further, that not later than two years after re-
21 ceiving a payment under this heading, a state shall make
22 available funds for such activities in an amount equal to

23 5 percent of the total amount of the payment made to
24 the State under this heading.

DIVISION E - FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The joint explanatory statement accompanying this division is approved and indicates congressional intent. Unless otherwise noted, the language set forth in House Report 115-234 carries the same weight as language included in this joint explanatory statement and should be complied with unless specifically addressed to the contrary in this joint explanatory statement. While some language is repeated for emphasis, it is not intended to negate the language referred to above unless expressly provided herein.

Reports. -Where the House or Senate has directed submission of a report, that report is to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate. Agencies funded by this Act that currently provide separate copies of periodic reports and correspondence to the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Subcommittees on Financial Services and General Government are directed to use a single cover letter jointly addressed to the chairs and ranking members of the Committees and Subcommittees of both the House and the Senate. To the greatest extent feasible, agencies should include in the cover letter a reference or hyperlink to facilitate electronic access to the report and provide the documents by electronic mail delivery. These measures will help reduce costs, conserve paper, expedite agency processing, and ensure that consistent information is conveyed concurrently to the majority and minority committee offices of both chambers of Congress.

ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The bill provides \$10,100,000 for salaries and expenses of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). This includes \$1,500,000 to be transferred to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). As in previous years, within 30 days of the transfer to NIST, NIST shall provide to EAC and the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate a detailed expenditure plan. Both EAC and NIST shall establish priorities for the work jointly in order to meet timelines.

As in previous years, the Director (or designee) of NIST shall provide to the Executive Director (or Acting) of the EAC a detailed expenditure plan for the transferred funds within 30 days of the transfer to NIST.

ELECTION REFORM PROGRAM

The bill provides \$380,000,000 to the Election Assistance Commission to make payments to states for activities to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements, as authorized under sections 101, 103, and 104 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (P.L. 107-252). Consistent with the requirements of HAVA, states may use this funding to: replace voting equipment that only records a voter's intent electronically with equipment that utilizes a voter-verified paper record; implement a post-election audit system that provides a high-level of confidence in the accuracy of the final vote tally; upgrade election-related computer systems to address cyber vulnerabilities identified through DHS or similar scans or assessments of existing election systems; facilitate cybersecurity training for the state chief election official's office and local election officials; implement established cybersecurity best practices for election systems; and fund other activities that will improve the security of elections for federal office.