

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 51

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

BY FORD

A Resolution urging Congress to take action to renew certain portions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

WHEREAS, 2005 marks the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1973, et seq., and the beginning of debate concerning the renewal of temporary provisions that expire in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is widely viewed as the nation's most effective civil rights legislation, by removing barriers to voting for millions of Americans and enabling large numbers of minorities to register and vote and to have a meaningful voice concerning election of local, state, and federal officeholders; and

WHEREAS, critical portions of the Act will expire in 2007; and

WHEREAS, 42 U.S.C. § 1973c of the Act requires certain covered states and political subdivisions to obtain federal or judicial preapproval or "preclearance" of any voting law changes or practices before those changes and practices can legally take effect; and

WHEREAS, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973a, 1973d, 1973e, 1973f, and 1973k, contain the federal examiner and observer provisions, which allow federal employees to observe polling place and vote-counting activities and serve to document and deter inappropriate conduct; and

WHEREAS, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973aa and 1973b require

HR 51

1 bilingual voting assistance for language minority
2 communities in certain jurisdictions; and

3 WHEREAS, the foundation of our democratic form of
4 government is the right to vote and voting is the most
5 important tool Americans have to influence the
6 policies the government adopts that affect every
7 aspect of our lives; and

8 WHEREAS, even in the 21st century, there continue
9 to be incidents which demonstrate the need for the
10 reauthorization of these provisions and continued
11 enforcement of the Act itself; NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
13 That the Iowa House of Representatives urges the
14 United States Congress to take action to preserve and
15 strengthen democracy in America by reauthorizing the
16 provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is the intent of
18 the Iowa House of Representatives that a copy of this
19 Resolution be transmitted to the members of Iowa's
20 congressional delegation.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30