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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require States to impose the same ballot access rules on all candidates in a general congressional election held in the State without regard to whether or not the candidates are nominees of a political party, and to require States to use a ballot for a general congressional election that requires a specific vote for a candidate for the office involved.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AMASH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To require States to impose the same ballot access rules on all candidates in a general congressional election held in the State without regard to whether or not the candidates are nominees of a political party, and to require States to use a ballot for a general congressional election that requires a specific vote for a candidate for the office involved.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Ballot Fairness Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. BALLOT FAIRNESS REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL**
4 **CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS.**

5 (a) **REQUIRING EQUIVALENT BALLOT ACCESS**
6 **RULES FOR ALL CANDIDATES IN GENERAL ELECTION.—**
7 A State shall impose the same requirements for appearing
8 on the ballot in a general congressional election held in
9 the State on all candidates in the election, without regard
10 to whether or not a candidate is the nominee of a political
11 party.

12 (b) **REQUIRING USE OF BALLOTS THAT REQUIRE**
13 **SPECIFIC VOTES FOR CANDIDATE.—**For the election of
14 a candidate in a general congressional election held in a
15 State, the State shall use a ballot that requires a specific
16 vote for that candidate for the office involved and that
17 does not permit the casting of a single vote for all can-
18 didates of the same political party for multiple elections.

19 (c) **DEFINITIONS.—**In this Act, the following defini-
20 tions apply:

21 (1) The term “general congressional election”
22 means a general election for the office of Senator or
23 Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commis-
24 sioner to, the Congress.

25 (2) The term “State” means each of the several
26 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth

1 of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United
2 States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the
3 Northern Mariana Islands.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with
5 respect to the regularly scheduled general congressional
6 election held in November 2020 and each succeeding gen-
7 eral congressional election.