

Eighty-ninth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Began and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the fourth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and sixty-five*

An Act

To enforce the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States,
and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act shall
be known as the "Voting Rights Act of 1965".*

Sec. 2. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard,
practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or
political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of
the United States to vote on account of race or color.

Sec. 3. (a) Whenever the Attorney General institutes a proceeding
under any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amend-
ment in any State or political subdivision the court shall authorize
the appointment of Federal examiners by the United States Civil
Service Commission in accordance with section 6 to serve for such
period of time and for such political subdivisions as the court shall
determine is appropriate to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth
amendment (1) as part of any interlocutory order if the court deter-
mines that the appointment of such examiners is necessary to enforce
such guarantees or (2) as part of any final judgment if the court finds
that violations of the fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief
have occurred in such State or subdivision: *Provided*, That the court
need not authorize the appointment of examiners if any incidents of
denial or abridgement of the right to vote on account of race or color
(1) have been few in number and have been promptly and effectively
corrected by State or local action, (2) the continuing effect of such
incidents has been eliminated, and (3) there is no reasonable proba-
bility of their recurrence in the future.

(b) If in a proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under
any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in
any State or political subdivision the court finds that a test or device
has been used for the purpose or with the effect of denying or abridg-
ing the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account
of race or color, it shall suspend the use of tests and devices in such
State or political subdivisions as the court shall determine is appro-
priate and for such period as it deems necessary.

(c) If in any proceeding instituted by the Attorney General under
any statute to enforce the guarantees of the fifteenth amendment in
any State or political subdivision the court finds that violations of the
fifteenth amendment justifying equitable relief have occurred within
the territory of such State or political subdivision, the court, in
addition to such relief as it may grant, shall retain jurisdiction for
such period as it may deem appropriate and during such period no
voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice,
or procedure with respect to voting different from that in force or
effect at the time the proceeding was commenced shall be enforced,
unless and until the court finds that such qualification, prerequisite,
standard, practice, or procedure does not have the purpose and will
not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on
account of race or color: *Provided*, That such qualification, pre-
requisite, standard, practice, or procedure may be enforced if the
qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice, or procedure has been
submitted by the chief legal officer or other appropriate official of
such State or subdivision to the Attorney General and the Attorney
General has not interposed an objection within sixty days after such

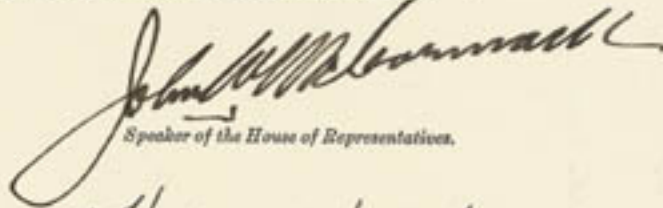


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Sec. 17. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to deny, impair, or otherwise adversely affect the right to vote of any person registered to vote under the law of any State or political subdivision.

Sec. 18. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 19. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of the provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected thereby.


Speaker of the House of Representatives.


Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate

APPROVED

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