

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 897

To authorize a project to demonstrate the feasibility of voting by telephone.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 5 (legislative day, APRIL 19), 1993

Mr. BINGAMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To authorize a project to demonstrate the feasibility of voting by telephone.

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

3 **SECTION 1. PHONE VOTING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that perfecting
5 voting by phone would greatly enhance voter participation,
6 and the national laboratories have the technology to mon-
7 itor the results of telephone voting and to ensure the secu-
8 rity of the process.

9 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Federal Elec-
10 tions Commission shall make a grant to a consortium de-
11 scribed in subsection (d) for the purpose of conducting a

1 project to demonstrate the feasibility of voting by tele-
2 phone.

3 (c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—A demonstration
4 project under subsection (b) shall explore the following
5 areas of interest:

6 (1) Ensuring that each voter votes only once
7 and that the vote is tallied, stored, and reported cor-
8 rectly.

9 (2) Ensuring the anonymity of the voter by
10 means of a confidential but simple method to iden-
11 tify each voter.

12 (3) Ensuring that the system cannot be
13 accessed by outsiders or insiders for the purpose of
14 changing votes.

15 (4) Ensuring that the system remains accessible
16 and secure to callers throughout the voting period.

17 (5) Ensuring the encryption of voters' choices
18 to minimize fraud.

19 (6) Exploring future security options, such as
20 the use of voice biometrics for voter identification.

21 (7) Studying the effect of telephone voting on
22 participation rates.

23 (d) CONSORTIUM.—A consortium is described in this
24 subsection if it is a consortium that includes a State gov-
25 ernment and 1 or more of the national laboratories.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out this
3 Act.

○