119TH CONGRESS	\mathbf{C}	
1st Session		
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To prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. Alsobrooks introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

- 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. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Deceptive Practices
- 5 and Voter Intimidation Prevention Act of 2025".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress makes the following findings:
- 8 (1) The right to vote by casting a ballot for
- 9 one's preferred candidate is a fundamental right ac-
- 10 corded to United States citizens by the Constitution,
- and the unimpeded exercise of this right is essential
- to the functioning of our democracy.

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1	(2) Historically, certain citizens, especially ra-
2	cial, ethnic, and language minorities, were prevented
3	from voting because of significant barriers such as
4	literacy tests, poll taxes, and property ownership re-
5	quirements.
6	(3) Some of these barriers were removed by the
7	15th, 19th, and 24th Amendments to the Constitu-
8	tion.
9	(4) Despite the elimination of some of these
10	barriers to the polls, the integrity of today's elec-
11	tions is threatened by newer tactics aimed at sup-
12	pressing voter turnout. These tactics include "decep-
13	tive practices", which involve the dissemination of
14	false or misleading information intended to prevent
15	voters from casting their ballots, prevent voters from
16	voting for the candidate of their choice, intimidate
17	the electorate, and undermine the integrity of the
18	electoral process.
19	(5) Furthermore, since the decision in Shelby
20	County v. Holder in which the Supreme Court struck
21	down the coverage formula used by the Voting
22	Rights Act of 1965 to determine which States with
23	a history of racial discrimination must affirmatively
24	receive government permission before changing local

voting laws, there have been Federal court decisions

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finding or affirming that States or localities intentionally discriminated against African Americans and other voters of color.

- (6) Denials of the right to vote, and deceptive practices designed to prevent members of racial, ethnic, and language minorities from exercising that right, are an outgrowth of discriminatory history, including slavery. Measures to combat denials of that right are a legitimate exercise of congressional power under article I, section 4 and article II, section 1 of, and the 14th and 15th Amendments to, the United States Constitution.
- (7) For the last few decades, there have been a number of instances of deceptive or intimidating practices aimed towards suppressing minority access to the voting booth that demonstrates the need for strengthened protections.
- (8) In addition, in at least one instance in 1990, thousands of voters reportedly received post-cards providing false information about voter eligibility and warnings about criminal penalties for voter fraud. Most of the voters who received the postcards were African American.
- (9) During the 2004 elections, Native American voters in South Dakota reported being required to

1 provide photographic identification in order to vote, 2 despite the fact that neither State nor Federal law 3 required such identification. 4 (10) In the 2006 midterm elections, thousands 5 of Latino voters received mailings warning them in 6 Spanish that voting in a Federal election as an im-7 migrant could result in incarceration—despite the 8 fact that any immigrant who is a naturalized citizen 9 of the United States has the same right to vote as 10 any other citizen. 11 (11) In 2008, fliers were distributed in pre-12 dominantly African American neighborhoods falsely 13 warning that people with outstanding warrants or 14 unpaid parking tickets could be arrested if they 15 showed up at the polls on election day. In the same 16 year, there were reports of people receiving text mes-17 sages on election day asking them to wait until the 18 following day to vote. 19 (12) In 2012, there were reports of voters re-20 ceiving calls falsely informing them that they could 21 vote via telephone. 22 (13) On January 6, 2017, the Office of the Di-23 rector of National Intelligence published a report ti-24 tled "Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in

Recent U.S. Elections", noting that "Russian Presi-

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dent Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. Presidential election.".

Moscow's influence campaign followed a Russian messaging strategy that blends covert intelligence operation—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian Government agencies, State-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or "trolls". These influence operations included messaging that targeted African American voters with misinformation.

(14) On April 18, 2019, Special Counsel Robert Mueller released a report titled "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election", which concluded that "the Russian government interfered in the 2016 presidential election in sweeping and systematic fashion.". The report details that Russia interfered in the 2016 Presidential election principally through two operations: first, through a Russian government sponsored social media influence campaign, and second, by Russian intelligence "computer-intrusion" operations against those associated with both Presidential campaigns. The Mueller Report details how Russian agents intentionally targeted Black social justice groups and created fake accounts purporting

to represent Black social justice groups in order to
 spread disinformation and sow division.

(15) Social media makes the mass dissemination of misleading information easy and allows perpetrators to target particular audiences with precision. One analysis documented hundreds of messages on Facebook and Twitter designed to discourage or prevent people from voting in the 2018 election. In 2016, these false statements were extremely prevalent with both domestic and foreign actors. Russian operatives engaged in a concerted disinformation and propaganda campaign over the internet that aimed, in part, to suppress voter turnout, especially among Black voters. These efforts by the Russian Government continued and became more aggressive in the 2020 election cycle.

(16) In 2023, Douglass Mackey was convicted for his role in the conspiracy to interfere with potential voters' right to vote in the 2016 Presidential election, in violation of section 241 of title 18, United States Code. The Department of Justice alleged that Mackey conspired with other influential Twitter users and with members of private online groups to use social media platforms, including Twitter, to disseminate fraudulent messages that en-

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couraged supporters of Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to "vote" via text message or social media. However, in 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit reversed Mackey's conviction on the ground that prosecutors had not proven that his deceptive conduct was part of a conspiracy. This ruling underscores the need for Congress to update the law to more effectively protect against voter suppression through deceptive practices, regardless of whether it is accomplished through a conspiracy or by one bad actor alone.

(17) During the 2020 Presidential election, Texas voters received robocalls stating that the Democratic primary would be taking place after its actual date. In the same year, communities of color in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, and New York were targeted by robocalls sharing false information about how their data would be shared if they voted by mail. Widespread disinformation was targeted at Latino communities in Florida and other States, particularly through social media.

(18) During the 2020 Presidential election, voters in some precincts faced voter intimidation during early voting and on election day. The Election Protection hotline received nearly 32,000 calls on elec-

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tion day. Reports from the Voting Rights Defender and Prepared to Vote project teams and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., showed that minority voters were disproportionately impacted by voter intimidation. Incidents included 3,000,000 robocalls telling people to stay home on election day and armed people at polling sites on election day in Florida, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Additionally, election officials, volunteers, and electors faced unprecedented intimidation including doxxing, death threats, and other intimidating communication. (19) Those responsible for these and similar efforts should be held accountable, and civil and criminal penalties should be available to punish anyone who seeks to keep voters away from the polls by providing false information. (20) Moreover, the Federal Government should help correct such false information in order to assist voters in exercising their right to vote without confusion and to preserve the integrity of the electoral process. (21) The Federal Government has a compelling

(21) The Federal Government has a compelling interest in "protecting voters from confusion and undue influence" and in "preserving the integrity of

1	its election process". Burson v. Freeman, 504 U.S.
2	191, 199 (1992).
3	(22) The First Amendment does not preclude
4	the regulation of some intentionally false speech,
5	even if it is political in nature. As the Supreme
6	Court of the United States has recognized, "[t]hat
7	speech is used as a tool for political ends does not
8	automatically bring it under the protective mantle of
9	the Constitution. For the use of the known lie as a
10	tool is at once at odds with the premises of demo-
11	cratic government and with the orderly manner in
12	which economic, social, or political change is to be
13	effected Hence the knowingly false statement
14	and the false statement made with reckless disregard
15	of the truth, do not enjoy constitutional protection.".
16	Garrison v. Louisiana, 379 U.S. 64, 75 (1964).
17	SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON DECEPTIVE COMMUNICATIONS
18	REGARDING FEDERAL ELECTIONS.
19	(a) Prohibition.—Subsection (b) of section 2004 of
20	the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)) is amended—
21	(1) by striking "No person" and inserting the
22	following:
23	"(1) IN GENERAL.—No person"; and
24	(2) by adding at the end the following new
25	paragraphs:

1	"(2) Prohibition on deceptive communica-
2	TIONS REGARDING FEDERAL ELECTIONS.—
3	"(A) False statements.—No person,
4	whether acting under color of law or otherwise,
5	shall, within 60 days before an election de-
6	scribed in paragraph (4), by any means, includ-
7	ing by means of written, electronic, or tele-
8	phonic communications, communicate or cause
9	to be communicated information described in
10	subparagraph (C), or produce information de-
11	scribed in subparagraph (C) with the intent
12	that such information be communicated, if such
13	person—
14	"(i) knows such information to be ma-
15	terially false; and
16	"(ii) has the intent to impede or pre-
17	vent another person from exercising the
18	right to vote in an election described in
19	paragraph (4).
20	"(B) Use of generative artificial in-
21	TELLIGENCE.—No person, whether acting
22	under color of law or otherwise, shall use an ar-
23	tificial intelligence system, including a genera-
24	tive artificial intelligence system, to produce in-
25	formation described in subparagraph (C) within

1	60 days before an election described in para-
2	graph (4) if such person—
3	"(i) has the intent to use the system
4	to produce false information; and
5	"(ii) has the intent to use the system
6	to impede or prevent another person from
7	exercising the right to vote in an election
8	described in paragraph (4).
9	"(C) Information described.—Informa-
10	tion is described in this subparagraph if such
11	information is regarding—
12	"(i) the time, place, or manner of
13	holding any election described in para-
14	graph (4); or
15	"(ii) the qualifications for or restric-
16	tions on voter eligibility for any such elec-
17	tion, including—
18	"(I) any criminal, civil, or other
19	legal penalties associated with voting
20	in any such election; or
21	"(II) information regarding a
22	voter's registration status or eligi-
23	bility.
24	"(3) Hindering, interfering with, or pre-
25	VENTING VOTING OR REGISTERING TO VOTE.—No

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person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intentionally hinder, interfere with, or prevent another person from voting, registering to vote, or aiding another person to vote or register to vote in an election described in paragraph (4), including by operating a polling place or ballot box that falsely purports to be an official location established for such an election by a unit of government. "(4) Election described.—An election described in this paragraph is any general, primary, runoff, or special election held solely or in part for the purpose of nominating or electing a candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Commissioner from a Territory or possession. "(5) Definitions.— "(A) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term 'artificial intelligence' has the meaning given the term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15) U.S.C. 9401). "(B) GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTEL-LIGENCE.—The term 'generative artificial intelligence' means the class of artificial intelligence

1	models that emulate the structure and charac-
2	teristics of input data in order to generate de-
3	rived synthetic content. This can include im-
4	ages, videos, audio, text, and other digital con-
5	tent.".
6	(b) Private Right of Action.—
7	(1) In general.—Subsection (c) of section
8	2004 of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(c))
9	is amended—
10	(A) by striking "Whenever any person"
11	and inserting the following:
12	"(1) In general.—Whenever any person"; and
13	(B) by adding at the end the following new
14	paragraph:
15	"(2) Civil action.—Any person aggrieved by a
16	violation of this section may institute a civil action
17	for preventive relief, including an application in a
18	United States district court for a permanent or tem-
19	porary injunction, restraining order, or other order
20	In any such action, the court, in its discretion, may
21	allow the prevailing party a reasonable attorney's fee
22	as part of the costs.".
23	(2) Conforming amendments.—Section 2004
24	of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101) is
25	amended—

1	(A) in subsection (e), by striking "sub-
2	section (c)" and inserting "subsection (c)(1)";
3	and
4	(B) in subsection (g), by striking "sub-
5	section (e)" and inserting "subsection (e)(1)".
6	(c) Criminal Penalties.—
7	(1) Deceptive acts.—Section 594 of title 18,
8	United States Code, is amended—
9	(A) by striking "Whoever intimidates" and
10	inserting "(a) In General.—Whoever intimi-
11	dates'';
12	(B) by striking "at any election" and in-
13	serting "at any general, primary, runoff, or spe-
14	cial election"; and
15	(C) by adding at the end the following new
16	subsections:
17	"(b) Deceptive Acts.—
18	"(1) False statements regarding federal
19	ELECTIONS.—
20	"(A) Prohibition.—It shall be unlawful
21	for any person, whether acting under color of
22	law or otherwise, within 60 days before an elec-
23	tion described in subsection (d), by any means,
24	including by means of written, electronic, or tel-
25	ephonic communications, to communicate or

1	cause to be communicated information de-
2	scribed in subparagraph (B), or produce infor-
3	mation described in subparagraph (B) with the
4	intent that such information be communicated,
5	if such person—
6	"(i) knows such information to be ma-
7	terially false; and
8	"(ii) has the intent to impede or pre-
9	vent another person from exercising the
10	right to vote in an election described in
11	subsection (d).
12	"(B) Information described.—Infor-
13	mation is described in this subparagraph if such
14	information is regarding—
15	"(i) the time or place of holding any
16	election described in subsection (d); or
17	"(ii) the qualifications for or restric-
18	tions on voter eligibility for any such elec-
19	tion, including—
20	"(I) any criminal, civil, or other
21	legal penalties associated with voting
22	in any such election; or
23	"(II) information regarding a
24	voter's registration status or eligi-
25	bility.

1	"(2) Penalty.—Any person who violates para-
2	graph (1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned
3	for not more than 1 year, or both.
4	"(c) Hindering, Interfering With, or Pre-
5	VENTING VOTING OR REGISTERING TO VOTE.—
6	"(1) Prohibition.—It shall be unlawful for
7	any person, whether acting under color of law or
8	otherwise, to corruptly hinder, interfere with, or pre-
9	vent another person from voting, registering to vote
10	or aiding another person to vote or register to vote
11	in an election described in subsection (d).
12	"(2) Penalty.—Any person who violates para-
13	graph (1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned
14	for not more than 1 year, or both.
15	"(d) Election Described.—An election described
16	in this subsection is any general, primary, runoff, or spe-
17	cial election held solely or in part for the purpose of nomi-
18	nating or electing a candidate for the office of President
19	Vice President, Presidential elector, Senator, Member of
20	the House of Representatives, or Delegate or Resident
21	Commissioner to the Congress.".
22	(2) Sentencing guidelines.—
23	(A) REVIEW AND AMENDMENT.—Not later
24	than 180 days after the date of enactment of
25	this Act, the United States Sentencing Commis-

1 sion, pursuant to its authority under section 2 994 of title 28, United States Code, and in ac-3 cordance with this section, shall review and, if appropriate, amend the Federal sentencing 4 5 guidelines and policy statements applicable to 6 persons convicted of any offense under section 7 594 of title 18, United States Code, as amend-8 ed by this section. 9 (B) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States 10 Sentencing Commission may amend the Federal 11 Sentencing Guidelines in accordance with the 12 procedures set forth in section 21(a) of the Sen-13 tencing Act of 1987 (28 U.S.C. 994 note) as 14 though the authority under that section had not 15 expired. 16 (3) Payments for refraining from vot-17 ING.—Subsection (c) of section 11 of the Voting 18 Rights Act of 1965 (52 U.S.C. 10307) is amended 19 by striking "either for registration to vote or for vot-20 ing" and inserting "for registration to vote, for vot-21 ing, or for not voting". 22 SEC. 4. CORRECTIVE ACTION. 23 (a) Corrective Action.— 24 (1) In General.—If the Attorney General re-25 ceives a credible report that materially false informa-

tion has been or is being communicated in violation
of section 2004(b)(2) of the Revised Statutes (52
U.S.C. 10101(b)(2)), as added by section 3(a), and
if the Attorney General determines that State and
local election officials have not taken adequate steps
to promptly communicate accurate information to
correct the materially false information, the Attor-
ney General shall, pursuant to the written proce-
dures and standards under subsection (b), commu-
nicate to the public, by any means, including by
means of written, electronic, or telephonic commu-
nications, accurate information designed to correct
the materially false information.
(2) Communication of corrective informa-
TION.—Any information communicated by the Attor-
ney General under paragraph (1)—
(A) shall—
(i) be accurate and objective;
(ii) consist of only the information
necessary to correct the materially false in-
formation that has been or is being com-
municated; and
(iii) to the extent practicable, be by a
means that the Attorney General deter-
mines will reach the persons to whom the

1	materially false information has been or is
2	being communicated; and
3	(B) shall not be designed to favor or dis-
4	favor any particular candidate, organization, or
5	political party.
6	(b) Written Procedures and Standards for
7	Taking Corrective Action.—
8	(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days
9	after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney
10	General shall publish written procedures and stand-
11	ards for determining when and how corrective action
12	will be taken under this section.
13	(2) Inclusion of appropriate deadlines.—
14	The procedures and standards under paragraph (1)
15	shall include appropriate deadlines, based in part on
16	the number of days remaining before the upcoming
17	election.
18	(3) Consultation.—In developing the proce-
19	dures and standards under paragraph (1), the Attor-
20	ney General shall consult with the Election Assist-
21	ance Commission, State and local election officials,
22	civil rights organizations, voting rights groups, voter
23	protection groups, and other interested community
24	organizations.

1	(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
2	are authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General
3	such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subtitle.
4	SEC. 5. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.
5	(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after
6	each general election for Federal office, the Attorney Gen-
7	eral shall submit to Congress a report compiling all allega-
8	tions received by the Attorney General of deceptive prac-
9	tices described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section
10	2004(b) of the Revised Statutes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as
11	added by section 3(a), relating to the general election for
12	Federal office and any primary, runoff, or a special elec-
13	tion for Federal office held in the 2 years preceding the
14	general election.
15	(b) Contents.—
16	(1) In General.—Each report submitted
17	under subsection (a) shall include—
18	(A) a description of each allegation of a
19	deceptive practice described in subsection (a),
20	including the geographic location, racial and
21	ethnic composition, and language minority-
22	group membership of the persons toward whom
23	the alleged deceptive practice was directed;
24	(B) the status of the investigation of each
25	allegation described in subparagraph (A);

1	(C) a description of each corrective action
2	taken by the Attorney General under section
3	4(a) in response to an allegation described in
4	subparagraph (A);
5	(D) a description of each referral of an al-
6	legation described in subparagraph (A) to other
7	Federal, State, or local agencies;
8	(E) to the extent information is available,
9	a description of any civil action instituted under
10	section 2004(c)(2) of the Revised Statutes (52
11	U.S.C. $10101(c)(2)$), as added by section $3(b)$,
12	in connection with an allegation described in
13	subparagraph (A); and
14	(F) a description of any criminal prosecu-
15	tion instituted under subsection (b) or (c) of
16	section 594 of title 18, United States Code, as
17	amended by section 3(c), in connection with the
18	receipt of an allegation described in subpara-
19	graph (A) by the Attorney General.
20	(2) Exclusion of Certain Information.—
21	(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General
22	shall not include in a report submitted under
23	subsection (a) any information protected from
24	disclosure by rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of

1	Criminal Procedure or any Federal criminal
2	statute.
3	(B) Exclusion of Certain other in-
4	FORMATION.—The Attorney General may deter-
5	mine that the following information shall not be
6	included in a report submitted under subsection
7	(a):
8	(i) Any information that is privileged
9	(ii) Any information concerning an
10	ongoing investigation.
11	(iii) Any information concerning a
12	criminal or civil proceeding conducted
13	under seal.
14	(iv) Any other nonpublic information
15	that the Attorney General determines the
16	disclosure of which could reasonably be ex-
17	pected to infringe on the rights of any in-
18	dividual or adversely affect the integrity of
19	a pending or future criminal investigation.
20	(c) Report Made Public.—On the date that the
21	Attorney General submits the report under subsection (a)
22	the Attorney General shall also make the report publicly
23	available through the internet and other appropriate
24	means.

1	SEC. 6. PRIVATE RIGHTS OF ACTION BY ELECTION OFFI
2	CIALS.
3	Subsection (c)(2) of section 2004 of the Revised Stat-
4	utes (52 U.S.C. 10101(b)), as added by section 3(b), is
5	amended—
6	(1) by striking "Any person" and inserting the
7	following:
8	"(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person"; and
9	(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10	paragraph:
11	"(B) Intimidation, etc.—
12	"(i) In General.—A person ag-
13	grieved by a violation of subsection (b)(1)
14	shall include, without limitation, an officer
15	responsible for maintaining order and pre-
16	venting intimidation, threats, or coercion
17	in or around a location at which voters
18	may cast their votes.
19	"(ii) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—If the At-
20	torney General receives a credible report
21	that conduct that violates or would be rea-
22	sonably likely to violate subsection (b)(1)
23	has occurred or is likely to occur, and it
24	the Attorney General determines that
25	State and local officials have not taken
26	adequate steps to promptly communicate

1	that such conduct would violate subsection
2	(b)(1) or applicable State or local laws, the
3	Attorney General shall communicate to the
4	public, by any means, including by means
5	of written, electronic, or telephonic commu-
6	nications, accurate information designed to
7	convey the unlawfulness of proscribed con-
8	duct under subsection (b)(1) and the re-
9	sponsibilities of and resources available to
10	State and local officials to prevent or cor-
11	rect such violations.".
12	SEC. 7. MAKING INTIMIDATION OF TABULATION, CANVASS,
13	AND CERTIFICATION EFFORTS A CRIME.
13 14	AND CERTIFICATION EFFORTS A CRIME. Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act
14	Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act
14 15	Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act (52 U.S.C. 20511) is amended—
141516	Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act (52 U.S.C. 20511) is amended— (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at
14151617	Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act (52 U.S.C. 20511) is amended— (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end; and
14 15 16 17 18	Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act (52 U.S.C. 20511) is amended— (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end; and (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 15 16 17 18 19	Section 12(1) of the National Voter Registration Act (52 U.S.C. 20511) is amended— (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end; and (2) by adding at the end the following new sub- paragraph: