

# ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 194

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle**

**SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress to appropriate additional federal funds for election security and voting equipment purposes.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/4/2018)**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress to  
2 appropriate additional federal funds for election security and  
3 voting equipment purposes.

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, Under the “Help America Vote Act of 2002,” Pub.L.107-  
6 252 (HAVA), since 2003 Congress has appropriated more than \$3.5  
7 billion in federal funds to modernize election administration in this  
8 country; and

9 **WHEREAS**, By 2016, the vast majority of these federal funds, or about  
10 \$3.28 billion, has been awarded to the states and territories as grants  
11 to replace outdated election machine technology with modern  
12 voting equipment, improve election administration, and meet other  
13 HAVA requirements for voting systems and voter access; and

14 **WHEREAS**, In 2018, Congress appropriated an additional \$380 million  
15 to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to award grants to the  
16 states and territories for various election security purposes  
17 including, but not limited to, ensuring that voting equipment  
18 produces a voter-verified paper record, implementing post-election  
19 audit systems, and upgrading voting equipment and systems to  
20 address vulnerabilities to cyber attacks; and

21 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey will receive about \$9.8 million of these 2018  
22 HAVA funds, which the State must match with \$487 thousand of  
23 its own funds, for a total of \$10.2 million; and

24 **WHEREAS**, While this new federal funding allocation is a step in the  
25 right direction, New Jersey and other states are finding that the  
26 costs of replacing the now outdated voting machines originally  
27 purchased in the early 2000s far outweigh the current allocation  
28 amount; and

29 **WHEREAS**, In this State, there is a need to replace the aging voting  
30 machines in most of its 21 counties with a modern voting system  
31 that produces a voter-verified paper record, protects against cyber  
32 attacks, and thereby increases voter confidence in the electoral  
33 process; and

34 **WHEREAS**, In the face of this pressing need to upgrade the election  
35 infrastructure in this State and across the United States, Congress  
36 should prioritize funding for election security and voting equipment  
37 purposes; now, therefore,

38  
39 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
40 *Jersey:*

41  
42 1. This House urges the United States Congress to appropriate  
43 additional federal funds under the Help America Vote Act to the  
44 states and territories for election security and voting equipment  
45 purposes.

46  
47 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
48 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the

1 President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and  
2 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and  
3 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of  
4 Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress  
5 elected from this State.

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STATEMENT

9

10 This resolution urges the United States Congress to appropriate  
11 additional federal funds to the states and territories for election  
12 security and voting equipment purposes.

13 From 2003 through 2016, Congress has appropriated more than  
14 \$3.5 billion in federal funds to modernize election administration in  
15 this country. Under the “Help America Vote Act of 2002” (HAVA),  
16 the vast majority of these federal funds has been awarded as grants  
17 to the states and territories to replace outdated election machine  
18 technology with modern voting equipment, improve election  
19 administration, and other required purposes. In 2018, Congress  
20 appropriated an additional \$380 million to the U.S. Election  
21 Assistance Commission to award grants to the states and territories  
22 to ensure that voting equipment produces a voter-verified paper  
23 record, implement post-election audit systems, and upgrade voting  
24 equipment and systems to address vulnerabilities to cyber attacks.  
25 New Jersey will receive about \$9.8 million of these 2018 HAVA  
26 funds, for a total of \$10.2 million after a \$487 thousand match  
27 amount is added by the State.

28 However, New Jersey and other states are finding that the costs  
29 of replacing the now outdated voting machines originally purchased  
30 in the early 2000s far outweigh the current allocation amount. In  
31 this State, there is a need to replace the aging voting machines in  
32 most of its 21 counties with a modern voting system that produces a  
33 voter-verified paper record, protects against cyber attacks, and  
34 thereby increases voter confidence in the electoral process.