

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8821

To require the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to produce and make available at no cost to certain individuals in the United States an identification for the purpose of allowing such individuals to meet certain identification requirements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Mr. CASTEN (for himself, Ms. BUSH, Ms. BASS, and Mr. PAYNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform

A BILL

To require the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to produce and make available at no cost to certain individuals in the United States an identification for the purpose of allowing such individuals to meet certain identification requirements, and for other purposes.

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 “IDs for an Inclusive
5 Democracy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of
4 the Social Security Administration shall produce and
5 make available at no cost to individuals in the United
6 States who submit an application under subsection (f) an
7 identification pursuant to the requirements in the report
8 issued by the Task Force on Federal Identification Cards
9 under section 3(i) that can be presented by such individ-
10 uals to satisfy certain identification requirements.

11 (b) USE OF IDENTIFICATION.—With respect to an in-
12 dividual, the identification described in subsection (a) shall
13 be deemed sufficient to satisfy identification requirements
14 to the same extent and for the same purposes that any
15 driver’s license or identification card issued by a State is
16 accepted to satisfy such requirements.

17 (c) CONTENT OF IDENTIFICATION.—With respect to
18 an individual, the identification described in subsection (a)
19 shall include—

20 (1) the full name of the individual;

21 (2) the date of birth of the individual;

22 (3) the gender of the individual, which shall in-
23 clude an option for male, female, and X (rep-
24 resenting an unspecified or other gender identity), as
25 attested by the individual;

26 (4) a photograph of the individual;

1 (5) a unique identification number;

2 (6) the date the identification was issued to the
3 individual; and

4 (7) the date on which the identification is no
5 longer valid.

6 (d) SECURITY FEATURES OF IDENTIFICATION.—The
7 identification described in subsection (a) shall include—

8 (1) physical security features to make the iden-
9 tification resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, du-
10 plicating, and fraudulent use; and

11 (2) common machine-readable identity informa-
12 tion based on defined minimum data elements as de-
13 termined by the Task Force on Federal Identifica-
14 tion Cards established under section 3(a).

15 (e) PERIOD OF VALIDITY OF IDENTIFICATION.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
17 graph (2), with respect to an individual, the identi-
18 fication described in subsection (a) shall be valid for
19 the 10-year period which begins on the date the
20 identification is issued by the Commissioner of the
21 Social Security Administration to the individual.

22 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN INDIVID-
23 UALS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), in the case
24 of an individual with a valid identification—

1 (A) who is under the age of 18, such iden-
2 tification shall only be valid during the period
3 beginning on the date the identification is
4 issued to the individual and ending on the date
5 the individual reaches the age of 18, after
6 which the individual may submit an application
7 for a renewal under subsection (f)(2); and

8 (B) who reaches 65 years of age or older
9 during the period the identification is valid, the
10 identification of such individual shall be deemed
11 valid upon the expiration of the 10-year validity
12 period for such identification without requiring
13 a renewal of such identification.

14 (f) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—To receive an identification
16 under this section, an individual who is at least 14
17 years of age or older shall submit an application at
18 such time and containing such information as the
19 Task Force on Federal Identification Cards estab-
20 lished under section 3(a) determines appropriate.

21 (2) RENEWAL APPLICATION.—To receive a re-
22 newal of the identification described in subsection
23 (a), an individual shall submit an application at such
24 time and containing such information as the Task
25 Force on Federal Identification Cards established

1 under section 3(a) determines appropriate, except
2 that an individual shall not be required to provide
3 documents that include the personally identifiable in-
4 formation of such individual unless any of such per-
5 sonally identifiable information has changed with re-
6 spect to the most recent application submitted by
7 the individual.

8 (g) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—Not later than
9 6 months before the date the identification is made avail-
10 able to individuals under subsection (a), the Commissioner
11 of the Social Security Administration shall develop and
12 implement a campaign to educate the public with respect
13 to the identification described in subsection (a), including
14 how an individual can receive and use such an identifica-
15 tion to satisfy certain identification requirements.

16 (h) POSTAL SERVICE APPLICATION PROCESS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Post-
19 master General of the United States Postal Service
20 shall, in consultation with the Commissioner of the
21 Social Security Administration, develop and imple-
22 ment a process pursuant to the requirements of
23 paragraph (2) that enables individuals to apply for
24 the identification described in subsection (a) through
25 the United States Postal Service, including a process

1 with respect to an application for a first-time identi-
2 fication and a renewal of such identification, which
3 shall be modeled after the process with respect to
4 applications for a passport through the Postal Serv-
5 ice.

6 (2) PROCESS REQUIREMENTS.—The process de-
7 veloped under paragraph (1) shall include, with re-
8 spect to an individual, an option to—

9 (A) receive full service at a post office loca-
10 tion, including by providing photography serv-
11 ices at no cost to the individual;

12 (B) submit an application online through
13 the website of the Postal Service;

14 (C) mail a written application described in
15 subsection (f) through the mail service of the
16 Postal Service at no cost to the individual; and

17 (D) with respect to an approved identifica-
18 tion of an individual, receive such identification
19 through mail service to the individual’s address
20 or a post office location, at the option of the in-
21 dividual.

22 (i) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
23 “State” means each of the several States, the District of
24 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United

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

3 **SEC. 3. TASK FORCE ON FEDERAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Task
5 Force on Federal Identification Cards (in this section re-
6 ferred to as the “Task Force”) for the purpose of deter-
7 mining the requirements to produce and make available
8 the identification described in section 2(a).

9 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-
10 posed of at least 9 members as follows:

11 (1) The Commissioner of the Social Security
12 Administration.

13 (2) At least 1 representative from the Election
14 Assistance Commission.

15 (3) At least 1 representative from the Domestic
16 Policy Council.

17 (4) At least 1 representative from the United
18 States Postal Service.

19 (5) At least 1 representative from the Con-
20 sumer Financial Protection Bureau.

21 (6) At least 1 representative from the Depart-
22 ment of Housing and Urban Development.

23 (7) At least 1 representative from the Depart-
24 ment of Education.

1 (8) At least 1 representative from the Depart-
2 ment of Labor.

3 (9) At least 1 representative from the Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs.

5 (10) The Commissioner of the Social Security
6 Administration, in collaboration with the representa-
7 tives described in paragraphs (2) through (9), may
8 appoint such other individuals with relevant exper-
9 tise or experience as the Task Force shall determine
10 appropriate and the Task Force shall, with respect
11 to any such appointees, make efforts to ensure that
12 populations that have been disproportionately af-
13 fected by the lack of access to identification are rep-
14 resented.

15 (c) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—All appoint-
16 ments to the Task Force shall be made not later than 8
17 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (d) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Task Force
19 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-
20 ment.

21 (e) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION OF FEDERAL
22 EMPLOYEES.—Members of the Task Force who are full-
23 time officers or employees of the United States may not
24 receive additional pay, allowances, or benefits by reason
25 of their service on the Task Force.

1 (f) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Except as provided in sub-
2 section (e), each member shall receive travel expenses, in-
3 cluding per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with
4 applicable provisions under subchapter I of chapter 57 of
5 title 5, United States Code.

6 (g) SUPPORT STAFF; ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.—

7 (1) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Commissioner of the
8 Social Security Administration, any representatives
9 from the Election Assistance Commission, and any
10 representatives from the Domestic Policy Council
11 shall provide support staff for the Task Force.

12 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.—Upon the re-
13 quest of the Task Force, the Commissioner of the
14 Social Security Administration, any representatives
15 from the Election Assistance Commission, and any
16 representatives from the Domestic Policy Council
17 shall provide any information, administrative serv-
18 ices, and supplies that such Commissioner and rep-
19 resentatives jointly consider necessary for the Task
20 Force to carry out its duties under this section.

21 (h) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY
22 COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act
23 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force.

24 (i) REPORT ON REQUIREMENTS FOR PRODUCING
25 AND MAKING IDENTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE.—

1 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
2 date of the enactment of this Act, the Task Force
3 shall issue a report regarding the requirements to
4 produce and make available the identification de-
5 scribed in section 2(a).

6 (2) PROHIBITING UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE
7 OF INFORMATION.—The Task Force shall include in
8 the report issued under this subsection a require-
9 ment that the Commissioner of Social Security and
10 the Postmaster General shall establish procedures to
11 prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any informa-
12 tion obtained with respect to individuals who seek
13 assistance in obtaining the identification described in
14 section 2(a).

15 (j) DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY BEST PRAC-
16 TICES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, the Task Force shall develop and publish
18 recommendations for voluntary best practices for non-
19 profit organizations and entities that provide services to
20 vulnerable populations with respect to how such organiza-
21 tions and entities can assist individuals to obtain the iden-
22 tification described in section 2(a), which shall include—

23 (1) recommendations with respect to how such
24 organizations and entities can provide full service to
25 individuals to obtain such identification; and

1 (2) recommendations to minimize the barriers
2 faced by such individuals, including individuals from
3 groups which have been disproportionately affected
4 by the lack of access to identification, in obtaining
5 documentation of the information necessary to ob-
6 tain the identification.

7 (k) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate
8 on the date the identification is made available to individ-
9 uals under section 2(a).

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
12 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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