



SAVE Act

Securing America's Voting Equipment Act of 2017

U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, introduced bipartisan legislation to protect American election systems from foreign interference. The Securing America's Voting Equipment (SAVE) Act would help safeguard voting systems, registration data, and ballots from theft, manipulation, and malicious computer hackers.

The SAVE Act does not aim to tell states how to conduct its elections or what policies, procedures, or equipment is best. Rather, the bill is designed to facilitate information sharing with the states, provide guidelines for how best to securing election systems, and allow states to access funds to develop their own solutions to the threats posed to the elections.

The SAVE Act would:

- Authorize the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) to provide a security clearance to the chief state election official of each state and one designee.
- Authorize the DNI to share appropriate classified information to the states related to threats to voting systems and the election process.
- Designate voting systems as critical infrastructure for the purposes of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Authorize the development of a threat assessment by the DHS on the physical and electronic risks to voting systems, and to develop best practices to address these risks.
- Authorize a grant program for states to upgrade their voting systems to ensure the integrity of the physical, electronic, and administrative components of the voting system based upon the threat assessment.
- Create a "Cooperative Hack the Election" program to partner with vendors to discover new threats to electronic voting systems
- Mandate an audit by the Comptroller General to ensure that elections held using equipment using the grants have been conducted in a manner consistent with the program.

Information with State Election Officials

The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) will sponsor a security clearance to each Chief State Election Official responsible for the administration and certification of federal elections, and one designee, within each State.

The DNI will share all appropriate classified information related to threats to election systems, election processes, and the integrity and security of such with the Chief State Election Officials, and their designees, possessing the appropriate security clearances.

Preserving the Security and Independence of State Run Election Systems

Permanently designates State election systems as critical infrastructure pursuant to 42 USC § 5195c(e). Designates both the DHS and the Electoral Assistance Commission (EAC) as the two federal sector specific agencies (SSAs) responsible for working with Chief State Election Officials to promote and ensure the security and resilience of State election systems.

The DHS shall conduct a study in conjunction with Chief State Election Officials, and the SSAs to assess threats to physical and electronic to all election systems and make recommendations of best practices to address these threats.

Authorizes critical infrastructure grants for states to upgrade their elections systems and administration. Grants are provided to States to develop their own solutions to ensure the protection and integrity of the physical, electronic, and administrative components of their electoral systems. States will submit to the DHS grant applications explaining how they will update and secure their election machines, voter tally systems, voter registration databases, and administration procedures from electronic and physical threats. Applications must include plans for pre- and post- election security and accuracy audits, and for including methods for preserving a durable record of votes cast. Applications must include how States will address the threats with best practices presented in the threat report, or outline how their chosen solution will meet or exceed the best practices.

Cooperative Hack the Election Program

The DHS shall conduct a “Cooperative Hack the Election Program” to encourage entrants to hack into non-active State election systems to discover vulnerabilities of such systems. The goal of the program is to strengthen electoral systems from outside interference by encouraging entrants to work cooperatively with election system vendors to penetrate inactive voting and voter registration systems to discover vulnerabilities of, and develop defenses for, such systems. The contest will award competitors for the discovery of the most significant vulnerabilities of such systems; and share all discovered vulnerabilities with the relevant vendors of the systems

Voting System Integrity Audit

The Comptroller General of the United States shall perform robust audits of State election systems every 4 years to ensure that elections using equipment upgraded with fund under critical infrastructure grants have been conducted in a manner consistent with the goals of the grants.