

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JANUARY 27, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE WHITE HOUSE MADE PUBLIC TODAY THE
FOLLOWING LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT TO
THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Enclosed for your consideration and appropriate reference is proposed legislation entitled the "Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975."

This proposal would extend for an additional five years the basic provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. These provisions, including the requirement that certain States and political subdivisions submit to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the Attorney General any changes in voting laws, will be subject to expiration after August 6, 1975.

The proposal would also extend for an additional five years the provision which suspends the use of literacy tests and other similar prerequisites for voting in all states and subdivisions not subject to such suspension under section 4(a) of the 1965 Act.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 has been an extremely effective statute. Since its enactment, substantial progress has been made in safeguarding and furthering the right to vote. Nonetheless, our experience indicates the need to extend once more the key sections of the Act.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

The Honorable
The Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nelson A. Rockefeller
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

more

(OVER)

A BILL to extend the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that this Act may be cited as the "Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1975."

Sec. 2. Section 4(a) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 438; 42 U.S.C. 1973b(a)), as amended by the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970 (84 Stat. 315), is further amended by striking the words "ten years" wherever they appear in the first and third paragraphs and by substituting the words "fifteen years."

Sec. 3. Section 201(a) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa(a)), as added by the Voting Rights Act Amendments of 1970 (84 Stat. 315), is amended by striking "August 6, 1975" and substituting "August 6, 1980."

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