

Artistic Property, and the Chairman of the Maryland Committee for the Humanities.

Signed May 20, 1982.

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No. 8

(House Joint Resolution No. 5)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

The 1965 Voting Rights Act

FOR the purpose of requesting the President of the United States and the Congress to extend the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The General Assembly of Maryland and the people of Maryland believe that the 1965 Voting Rights Act was a monumental achievement that extended the voting franchise to all the citizens of America.

Although the turbulent days that surrounded the enactment of the Act have passed, the need to ensure that every American has the right to participate in the electoral process is still present.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act will expire in August of 1982 if it is not extended. Extension of the Act will continue to ensure that discriminatory practices, such as literacy tests and poll taxes, are prohibited under Section 4 of the Act, which bans literacy tests nationwide.

It has been established that the pre-clearance provisions of Section 5 are still necessary to protect voters against potentially discriminatory voting procedures by requiring that proposed changes in the voting laws of certain jurisdictions be reviewed and cleared by federal officials before these laws may become effective.

~~Continued--protection--also--is--needed--for---language minorities---who---are---currently---covered---until---1985---by provisions-of-the-Act--requiring--certain--state--and--local jurisdictions--to--provide--assistance--to--voters--not--literate or-fluent-in-English.~~

The 1965 Voting Rights Act will clarify Section 2 by amending it to expressly provide that a violation of the Act can be proved by demonstrating discriminatory results rather than by establishing or proving the discriminatory intent of an action; now, therefore, be it