

Collection

[HOUSE BILL No. .]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 28, 1863.

A BILL

To be entitled An Act to provide certain regulations for holding elections for representatives in the Congress of the Confederate States.

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That,*
2 in the several States of the Confederate States of America, the
3 regulations for holding elections for representatives in the Con-
4 gress of the Confederate States shall be as follows :

5 I. Such elections shall be held in all States wherein no pro-
6 vision exists by law fixing the time for holding the same, on the
7 first Wednesday in November next, and in each second year
8 thereafter.

9 II. Elections shall be so held by the officers, authorities or
10 persons appointed or provided by the laws of the several States
11 for the purpose of holding such elections and at the places so
12 provided, or, if no provision has been made or shall be made there-
13 for, then by the State authority, officers or persons, who, at

14 time, are authorized to hold elections for members of the most
15 numerous branch of the State Legislature.

16 III. Such elections shall be conducted according to the mode
17 prescribed by the laws of the several States, except so far as the
18 same are modified by this act.

19 IV. In such elections every citizen of the Confederate States
20 who has not forfeited his citizenship by electing to adhere to the
21 government of the United States, who shall be qualified to vote
22 for a member of the most numerous branch of the State Legisla-
23 ture of the State wherein he resides, shall be entitled to vote at
24 the place or places in his State at which he would be entitled to
25 vote in an election for such member of such Legislature.

26 V. But, in case such citizen shall be in the military service of
27 the Confederate States, or in case he shall be driven from his home
28 by the occupation of his country by the public enemy, or the
29 movements of his troops, or in case the elections cannot be held at
30 the usual places of holding the same, by reason of such occupation
31 or movements, then such citizen shall be allowed to vote at the
32 places in such State hereinafter provided, or in the camps of the
33 army.

34 VI. In every State in which elections are to be held for the
35 Congressional Districts separately, polls shall be opened by the
36 officers, authorities or persons, authorized to hold such election,
37 at the court house of each county for each Congressional district,

38 from which the vote of any citizen, entitled to vote under this
39 act, shall be offered; and the returning officers shall make dupli-
40 cate returns of the votes of such citizens from other districts
41 to the Governor of the State within three days after such election.

42 VII. In every State in which, under the provisions of the
43 act of the present Congress, such election shall be held by general
44 ticket, such citizen may vote at any place of voting in such
45 State.

46 VIII. In every case in which the State governments have
47 failed to provide for elections to be held in the camps of the army,
48 such elections for representatives shall be held therein as fol-
49 lows :

50 IX. In every army corps, division or command, the colonel
51 of each regiment, or other officer in command thereof, or the
52 officer in command of any less body on detached service, shall
53 appoint two judges and three clerks to open and hold such elec-
54 tion, who shall hold the same, and make out the poll-books and
55 returns, under the same rules and regulations as if the same
56 were opened and held at the usual place of holding the same in
57 the State from which such regiment or command came, and in
58 case such election shall be by general ticket, shall allow all per-
59 sons entitled, to vote therein. But if the same shall be by dis-
60 tricts, then such judges and clerks shall keep separate poll books
61 and make separate returns for each district. Or such command-

62 ing officer may appoint such judges and clerks for each district
63 or so many as may be deemed convenient and proper.

64 X. The returns of such elections in camps shall be forwarded
65 by the several commanding officers appointing the judges and
66 clerks as aforesaid, to the highest officer in grade, and the senior
67 of the grade from the State for which the same is held, in the en-
68 campment or army in which the same is held, whose duty it shall
69 be at once to forward the same to the Governor of the State, or
70 the same may, if more convenient, be forwarded by such com-
71 manding officer directly to such Governor.

72 XI. In case the exigencies of the public service prevent the
73 holding the elections in camp under this act, or under any State
74 law passed for that purpose, at the time provided by law, the
75 same may be held at any time within ten days after the prevent-
76 ing cause may cease, the time for holding the same to be fixed by
77 the officer authorized to appoint the judges and clerks.

78 XII. Such officer shall be authorized to administer the proper
79 oaths to the judges and clerks, or they may administer the same
80 to each other.

81 XIII. Every person concerned in holding such elections in
82 any State or camp, shall take an oath to support the constitution
83 of Confederate States, and to discharge his duty in holding such
84 election lawfully and impartially.