

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBERS FELICIA A. MOORE, KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS, CLETA WINSLOW, NATALYN ARCHIBONG, KWANZA HALL, H. LAMAR WILLIS, C. T. MARTIN, MICHEAL J. BOND, ALEX WAN, CARLA SMITH, IVORY L. YOUNG, JR. AND JOYCE SHEPERD URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO REDEFINE THE COVERAGE FORMULA OF SECTION 4 OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Review List:

Atlanta City Council	Completed	09/04/2013 8:02 PM
Finance/Executive Committee	Pending	

HISTORY:

09/03/13	Atlanta City Council	REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION
----------	----------------------	----------------------------

RESULT:	REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION
----------------	-----------------------------------

RESULT:	REFERRED WITHOUT OBJECTION
----------------	-----------------------------------

Certified by Presiding Officer	Certified by Clerk
Mayor's Action <i>See Authentication Page Attachment</i>	

**A RESOLUTION
BY**

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCILMEMBERS FELICIA A. MOORE, KEISHA LANCE BOTTOMS, CLETA WINSLOW, NATALYN ARCHIBONG, KWANZA HALL, H. LAMAR WILLIS, C. T. MARTIN, MICHEAL J. BOND, ALEX WAN, CARLA SMITH, IVORY L. YOUNG, JR. AND JOYCE SHEPERD URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY TO REDEFINE THE COVERAGE FORMULA OF SECTION 4 OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) was enacted in 1965, largely in response to the March 7, 1965 unprovoked attack by Alabama state troopers on peaceful voting-rights marchers in Selma, Alabama, an event commonly known as “Bloody Sunday”; and

WHEREAS, the VRA prohibits states and their political subdivisions from imposing voting qualifications, prerequisites to voting, or other standard, practices or procedures that deny or abridge the right of any United States citizen to vote, on the basis of race or color; and

WHEREAS, the VRA established federal oversight of the administration of elections for states and local governments with a history of discriminator voting practices, requiring such covered jurisdictions to obtain advance approval (preclearance) of all proposed changes to voting standards or practices in those jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the preclearance provision of the VRA consists of two parts: (1) Section 4 of the VRA sets forth the formula that is used to determine which state and local governments must comply with the preclearance requirement; and (2) Section 5 of the VRA is the provision requiring those governments to obtain preclearance for voting changes; and

WHEREAS, the protection of voting rights that was afforded by Section 5 of the VRA has been hampered by the United States Supreme Court decision issued on June 25, 2013 in Shelby County v. Holder, finding the formula prescribed in Section 4 of the VRA, unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, although Section 5 of the VRA survives, in light of the Shelby County case, it has no actual effect unless and until the United States Congress enacts new law setting forth which government entities should be covered by Section 5 of the VRA; and

WHEREAS, the Atlanta City Council recognizes the continued importance and need for the federal Voting Rights Act to be fully effective to protect citizens’ fundamental right to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that the United States Congress is hereby urged to act expeditiously to redefine the coverage formula of section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 regarding which state and local governments must comply with the preclearance requirement of the of the law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to those members of the United States Congressional delegation of the House and Senate who represent all or any part of the City of Atlanta.