The attached material is cited in *Shelby County, Ala. V. Lynch*, No. 14-5138, slip op. at 8 (D.C. Cir. September 1, 2015); (citing Office of the Law revision Counsel, Editorial Reclassification available on 2/16/16 at http://uscode.house.gov/editorialreclassification/t52/index.html)

Archived by the Circuit Library on 2/16/16.
EDITORIAL RECLASSIFICATION
TITLE 52, UNITED STATES CODE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Provisions relating to voting and elections are being transferred from titles 2 and 42 into a new Title 52, Voting and Elections. The transfers are necessary and desirable to create a well organized, coherent structure for this body of law and to improve the overall organization of the United States Code. No statutory text is altered. The provisions are merely being relocated from one place to another in the Code.

The decision to transfer provisions in the United States Code is taken very seriously. After careful study, the Office of the Law Revision Counsel has concluded that certain organizational deficiencies in the Code must be corrected. The short-term inconvenience of adjusting to new Code citations is greatly outweighed by the benefit of making much needed long-term improvements in the organizational structure of the Code.

For the online version of the United States Code, the transfers will occur on September 1, 2014, after which the new Code citations should be used. For the printed version of the Code, the transfers will occur effective with supplement II of the 2012 edition.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR CHANGE

The United States Code is the official codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States organized into 51 broad subject matter titles. In 1926, when the organizational structure of the Code was initially established, no separate title for voting and elections was created. At that time, only two federal statutory provisions relating to voting and elections were in existence.

Since 1960, an extensive body of federal statutory law relating to voting and elections has been enacted, including title III of the Civil Rights Act of 1960, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

Upon enactment, each of these laws was incorporated into the existing structure of the Code in the most logical manner possible. However, as this body of law has grown and evolved, it has become increasingly apparent that a separate title is needed. Title 52, Voting and Elections, provides a well organized, coherent structure for this important body of law while simplifying the structure of titles 2 and 42.

MAJOR ACTIONS AND STATUS

The bill was introduced on June 18, 2015

RESOURCES FOR TRANSITION

(1) H.R. 2832
(2) Explanation
(3) Overview of Title 52, Voting and Elections
(4) Comprehensive Chart - old/new Code citations for all transferred provisions (PDF)
(5) Comprehensive Chart - old/new Code citations for all transferred provisions (HTML)
(6) Quick Chart for Voting Rights Act of 1965 - old/new Code citations

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Questions and comments about the editorial reclassification of title 52, United States Code, should be directed to:
Office of the Law Revision Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515