A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to expand voting rights to residents incarcerated for felony convictions.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2019".
Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 669; D.C. Official Code § 1–1001.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2(2) (D.C. Official Code § 1–1001.02(2)) is amended as follows:

(1) Subparagraph (C) is amended by striking the semicolon and inserting the phrase “; and” in its place.

(2) Subparagraph (D) is repealed;

(b) Section 5 (D.C. Official Code § 1–1001.05) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a) is amended by adding new paragraphs (12A) and (12B) to read as follows:

“(12A) Notify a resident incarcerated for a felony of the resident’s right to vote upon receiving notice from the Superior Court of the District of Columbia or from the District Court for the District of Columbia pursuant to section 7 of this act;

“(12B) Endeavor to provide incarcerated residents a voter guide pursuant to paragraph (12) of this subsection;”.

(2) A new subsection (m) is added to read as follows:

“(m) By June 1, 2023, the Board shall submit a report to the Council that shall include:

“(1) An analysis of the implementation of the Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2019, as introduced on June 4, 2019, and any challenges that are identified during implementation;

“(2) Any policy recommendations of the Board to ensure that all incarcerated residents have a meaningful opportunity to vote.”.

(c) Section 7(k) (D.C. Official Code § 1–1001.07(k)) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase “upon notification of a registrant’s incarceration for a conviction of a felony,”.
(2) A new paragraph (4A) is added to read as follows:

"(4A) Upon the applicability date of the Restore the Vote Amendment Act of 2019, as introduced on June 4, 2019, the Board shall contact the Federal Bureau of Prisons ("BOP") on a monthly basis to request the name, location of incarceration, and contact information for each District resident incarcerated by the BOP."

Sec. 3. Applicability.

This act shall apply as of January 1, 2021.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.


Sec. 5. Effective date.

The act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973, (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.