A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend the District of Columbia Election Code of 1955 to expand the definition of the term qualified elector to include permanent residents for the purpose of local elections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. The District of Columbia Election Code of 1955, approved August 12, 1955 (69 Stat. 699; D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.01 et seq.), is amended as follows:

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

(1) Paragraph (2)(B) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) Is a citizen of the United States or, for the purposes of a local election, is a permanent resident of the United States;
(2) A New paragraph (28A) is added to read as follows:

“(30) “Local election” means

“(A) An election for:

“(i) Mayor;

“(ii) Chairman or member of the Council;

“(iii) Attorney General;

“(iv) Members of the State Board of Education;

“(v) Advisory neighborhood commissioner or

“(B) Any initiative, referendum, recall, or charter referendum on a District ballot.

(3) A new paragraph (31) is added to read as follows:


(b) Section 5(a) (D.C. Official Code § 1-1001.05(a)) is amended by adding a new paragraph (14A) to read as follows:

“(14A) Within 180 days of the effective date of the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2019, introduced on October 8, 2019 (Bill ____), issue rules as necessary to administer the provisions of the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2019, introduced on October 8, 2019 (Bill ____).”.

Sec. 4. Fiscal impact statement.

Sec. 5. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval of 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 § 1-206.22(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.