

As Introduced

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

H. R. No. 22

Representative Ingram

**Cosponsors: Representatives West, Denson, Troy, Skindell, Leland, Sweeney,
Liston, Smith, K., Russo, Weinstein, Miller, A., Lightbody, Crawley, O'Brien,
Brown, Boggs, Howse, Crossman, Kelly, Miranda, Miller, J., Robinson, Hicks-
Hudson, Sobecki, Sheehy, Galonski**

A R E S O L U T I O N

To urge the Congress of the United States to enact 1
the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO:**

WHEREAS, Before enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 3
African Americans in the South faced tremendous obstacles to 4
voting, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and other 5
bureaucratic restrictions. Many also risked harassment, 6
intimidation, economic reprisals, and physical violence when 7
attempting to register or vote. As a result, very few African 8
Americans were registered voters, and African Americans had very 9
little, if any, political power, either locally or nationally; 10
and 11

WHEREAS, These numerous injustices existed despite the 12
fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the 13
United States, which prohibit states from making and enforcing 14
laws that abridge the privileges of citizens of the United 15
States, and deny the right of citizens to vote on account of 16

race, color, or previous condition of servitude; and 17

WHEREAS, American civil rights activists worked diligently 18
despite intimidation, danger, and uncertainty, towards passage 19
of the Voting Rights Act, which was designed to enforce those 20
rights guaranteed by the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to 21
the United States Constitution; and 22

WHEREAS, Congressional renewals of the Voting Rights Act 23
have been signed by Democrat and Republican Presidents; and 24

WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has, in numerous 25
decisions, upheld the Voting Rights Act, but in 2013 in *Shelby* 26
County v. Holder, ruled a portion of the Act as 27
unconstitutional; and 28

WHEREAS, In delivering the five to four majority opinion in 29
Shelby County v. Holder, Chief Justice John Roberts expressly 30
invited Congress to update the Act's protections based on 31
current conditions of discrimination; and 32

WHEREAS, Most recently, in 2019, the United States House of 33
Representatives, of the 116th Congress, passed H.R. 4, to amend 34
and renew the Voting Rights Act; and 35

WHEREAS, Following the passing of Representative John R. 36
Lewis, who played a pivotal role in bringing about the Voting 37
Rights Act in 1965, and who spoke forcefully for its renewal 38
before his death, the United States House of Representatives 39
passed a measure renaming H.R. 4, as the John R. Lewis Voting 40
Rights Act; and 41

WHEREAS, The United States Senate failed to act on the 42
legislation; and 43

WHEREAS, Since the *Shelby County v. Holder* ruling, while 44
Congress has failed to update the Voting Rights Act, many states 45
have enacted laws making it more difficult to register to vote 46
or to cast a ballot; and 47

WHEREAS, Countless thousands have been assembling and 48
marching through the streets of this nation to shine a light on 49
the racism and inequity that is still present in the United 50
States; now therefore be it 51

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of 52
Representatives of the 134th General Assembly of the State of 53
Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the Congress of the 54
United States to enact the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act, to 55
amend and renew the Voting Rights Act; and be it further 56

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 57
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 58
Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, 59
the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States 60
Senate, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and 61
the news media of Ohio. 62