

S 1388

Federal Election Administration Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jul 10, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. (Jul 10, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1388>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • State: AZ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 10, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 10, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 2709	Identical bill	Jul 10, 2003: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

Federal Election Administration Act of 2003 - Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to create a new independent establishment, the Federal Election Administration (FEA), replacing the Federal Election Commission (FEC), with enhanced authority to enforce Federal campaign finance laws, while leaving reporting and disclosure provisions largely the same. Gives the FEA exclusive jurisdiction with respect to the civil enforcement of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act, and the Presidential Primary Matching Payment Account Act.

Requires under this new system for the Administration to be composed of three members, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as the Chair of the Administration, while the two other members are prohibited from being affiliated with the same political party. Requires the Chair to be appointed for a term of ten years, while the two other members shall be appointed for a term of six years, with one of the initial members appointed for a term of three years. Imposes on members a general one-term limitation. Bars present and former FEC members and others from the regulated community as well as individuals employed in certain executive branch positions from serving as FEA members.

Requires enforcement proceedings for violations of campaign finance laws to be conducted before administrative law judges. Allows any final determination made by an administrative law judge to be appealed to the FEA for final agency action, subject to judicial review. Includes under the enhanced authority of the FEA to enforce Federal campaign laws the authority to impose civil penalties, issue cease-and-desist orders, and to report apparent violations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. Allows the FEA to conduct audits and field examinations of campaign committees.

Directs the Comptroller General to conduct: (1) an examination of the enforcement of Federal campaign finance laws by the Attorney General for a report to the Attorney General and Congress; and (2) an ongoing study on the level of funding that constitutes an adequate level of resources for the FEA to competently execute its responsibilities, for reports to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Congress.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 10, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 10, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR 7/11/2003 S9246-9247)
- **Jul 10, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.