

S 1285

Fair Elections Now Act

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: May 3, 2007

Current Status: Committee on Rules and Administration. Hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Rules and Administration. Hearings held. (Jun 20, 2007)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/senate-bill/1285>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

Party: Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		May 3, 2007
Sen. Obama, Barack [D-IL]	D · IL		May 3, 2007
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		May 3, 2007
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 15, 2007
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 15, 2007
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 15, 2007
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Jun 15, 2007
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 15, 2007
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jun 15, 2007

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 20, 2007

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 HR 7022	Related bill	Sep 23, 2008: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
110 HR 1614	Related bill	Mar 21, 2007: Referred to the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet.
110 S 936	Related bill	Mar 20, 2007: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3372-3381)

Fair Elections Now Act - Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) with respect to: (1) eligibility and qualifying contribution requirements, seed money limits, and benefits of fair elections financing of Senate election campaigns; (2) establishment of a Senate Fair Elections Fund; (3) eligibility for Fund allocations as well as such allocations; (4) a seed money contribution requirement; (5) contribution and expenditure requirements; (6) certification of whether or not a federal election candidate is a participating candidate; (7) benefits for participating candidates; (8) payment of fair fight funds; (9) administration of the Senate Fair Elections System; (10) reporting requirements for nonparticipating candidates; (11) modification of electioneering communication reporting requirements; and (12) the limitation on coordinated expenditures by political party committees with participating candidates.

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 with respect to the deposit of proceeds from recovered spectrum auctions

Establishes the Fair Elections Review Commission.

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to: (1) entitle participating candidates to receive specified reduced broadcast rates in certain circumstances; and (2) provide for political advertisement vouchers for them.

Directs the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to charge non-public broadcast stations a spectrum use fee, which shall be deposited into the Senate Fair Elections Fund.

Amends federal postal law to prohibit franked mass mailings by Members of Congress (except public meeting notices) during the 90 days before primary and general election periods, unless they are not candidates for re-election.

Amends FECA to: (1) empower the FEC to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for a proceeding on certiorari; (2) revise requirements for filing with the FEC by Senate candidates; and (3) reduce from 48 to 24 hours the deadline for electronic filing with the FEC of reports by each political committee of contributions received within 90 days before an election.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 20, 2007:** Committee on Rules and Administration. Hearings held.
- **May 3, 2007:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 3, 2007:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5571-5580)