S 1431

Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics
Introduced: Jul 9, 2009
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 9, 2009)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1431

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]
Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Specter, Arlen [D-PA]	D · PA		Dec 18, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 9, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2894	Identical bill	**Jun 19, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation.

Summary (as of Jul 9, 2009)

Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2009 - Amends the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) to revise requirements for the audit capacity of voting systems, particularly those for a permanent paper record.

Requires the voting system to require the use of an individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballot of the voter's vote that shall be marked and made available for inspection by the voter before the voter's vote is cast and counted, and which shall be counted by hand or read by an optical scanner or other counting device. Requires the voting system to provide the voter with an opportunity to correct any system-made error in the voter-verified paper ballot before it is permanently preserved.

Requires each paper ballot used to be: (1) suitable for a manual audit; and (2) counted by hand in any recount or audit conducted with respect to any federal election.

Sets forth a special rule for treatment of disputes when paper ballots have been shown to be compromised.

Requires the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to make grants to eligible entities to study, test, and develop accessible ballot voting, verification, and casting mechanisms and devices and best practices to enhance the accessibility of paper ballot voting and verification mechanisms for individuals with disabilities, for voters whose primary language is not English, and for voters with difficulties in literacy.

Specifies additional voting system requirements and prohibitions.

Requires the NSF Director to make grants to eligible entities to conduct research on the development of election-dedicated voting system software.

Makes available additional funding to enable states to meet the costs of the requirements imposed by this Act.

Provides for complaints to the Attorney General by persons aggrieved by violations of HAVA.

Requires each state to administer audits of federal election results, without advance notice to the precincts selected, consisting of random hand counts of the voter-verified paper ballots. Makes an exception from this requirement for elections in which the winning candidate had no opponent or received 80% or more of the vote total.

Prescribes requirements for determination of the number of ballots counted under the audit.

Prescribes the process for administering audits.

Requires the Election Auditor of a state, as soon as practicable after the completion of an audit, to submit the results to the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) for publication.

Prohibits certification of the results of any election until completion of audits.

Provides for payments to states for the costs of conducting audits.

Exempts from this Act any election for which a recount under state law will commence before certification of the election results.

Repeals the EAC's exemption from certain federal government contracting requirements.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 9, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 9, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.