S 160

District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Congress
Introduced: Jan 6, 2009
Current Status: Held at the desk.
Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Mar 2, 2009)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/160

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]
Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (19 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jan 6, 2009
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jan 7, 2009
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Jan 7, 2009
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jan 7, 2009
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jan 12, 2009
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 11, 2009
Sen. Voinovich, George V. [R-OH]	R · OH		Feb 11, 2009
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 23, 2009
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		Feb 23, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 24, 2009
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Feb 12, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Congress

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 665	Related bill	**Jun 12, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
111 HR 157	Related bill	**Mar 2, 2009:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 8.
111 SJRES 11	Related bill	**Feb 25, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2488)

Summary (as of Feb 26, 2009)

Title I: District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 - District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 - (Sec. 2) Considers the District of Columbia a congressional district for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives.

Declares that the District shall not be considered a state for purposes of representation in the Senate.

Applies to the District in the same manner as it applies to a state the federal law providing for the 15th and subsequent decennial censuses and for apportionment of Representatives in Congress. Limits the District to one Member under any reapportionment of Members.

Modifies the formula regarding the number of presidential electors to subject it to the 23rd amendment to the Constitution in the case of the District.

(Sec. 3) Increases membership of the House from 435 to 437 Members.

Provides for a reapportionment of Members resulting from such increase.

Requires: (1) the President to submit to Congress a revised version of the most recent statement of such apportionment reflecting that the District of Columbia is entitled to one Representative and identifying Utah as the other state entitled to one Representative; and (2) the Clerk of the House, upon receipt of such revision, to make such identifications to the Speaker of the House.

(Sec. 4) Requires the additional Representative to which the state of Utah is entitled to be elected pursuant to a redistricting plan enacted by the state.

(Sec. 6) Repeals provisions of: (1) the District of Columbia Delegate Act establishing the office of District of Columbia Delegate to the House of Representatives; and (2) the District of Columbia Statehood Constitution Convention Initiative of 1979 providing for election of a Representative for the District.

Makes conforming amendments to the District of Columbia Elections Code of 1955.

(Sec. 8) Sets forth procedures for expedited judicial review of any action brought to challenge the constitutionality of any provision of this Act or any amendment made by it.

Grants Members of Congress the right to intervene or file legal pleadings or briefs either in support of or opposition to the position of a party in any action in which the constitutionality of any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act is challenged.

Authorizes any Member of Congress to bring such an action.

(Sec. 9) Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take action to encourage and promote diversity in communication media ownership and to ensure that broadcast station licenses are used in the public interest.

(Sec. 10) Denies the FCC authority to require broadcasters to present opposing viewpoints on controversial issues of public importance, commonly referred to as the Fairness Doctrine.

Title II: Second Amendment Enforcement Act - Second Amendment Enforcement Act - (Sec. 203) Amends specified law prohibiting the killing of wild birds and wild animals in the District of Columbia to declare that nothing in it or any other provision of law shall authorize or be construed to permit the Council, the Mayor, or any governmental or regulatory authority of the District to prohibit, constructively prohibit, or unduly burden the ability of persons otherwise not prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law from acquiring, possessing in their homes or businesses, or using for sporting, self-protection or other lawful purposes, any firearm neither prohibited by federal law nor subject to the National Firearms Act. Denies the District any authority to enact laws or regulations that discourage or eliminate the private ownership or use of firearms.

Declares that nothing in such prohibitions shall be construed to prohibit the District from regulating or prohibiting the carrying of firearms by a person, either concealed or openly, other than at the person's dwelling place, place of business, or on other land possessed by the person.

(Sec. 204) Amends the Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975 (FCRA) to repeal the definition of a machine gun as any firearm which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily converted or restored to shoot semiautomatically, more than 12 shots without manual reloading. (Thus repeals the ban on semiautomatic weapons.)

Redefines "machine gun" as any firearm which shoots, is designed to shoot, or may be readily restored to shoot automatically, more than one shot without manual reloading by a single function of the trigger. Includes the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machine gun, and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.

(Sec. 205) Repeals the District's: (1) registration requirement for possession of firearms; and (2) requirement that licensed firearms dealers keep records of ammunition received into inventory and ammunition sold or transferred.

Maintains the current ban on the possession and control of a sawed-off shotgun, machine gun, or short-barreled rifle.

(Sec. 206) Amends FCRA to allow an individual to possess ammunition in the District if the individual owns (currently, holds the valid registration certificate for) a firearm of the same gauge or caliber as such ammunition. (In effect, repeals the handgun ammunition ban.)

(Sec. 207) Repeals the requirement that firearms in the possession of individuals (other than law enforcement personnel) must be kept unloaded, disassembled, or with the trigger locked, unless the firearm is kept at an individual's place of business, or while being used for lawful recreational purposes within the District of Columbia.

(Sec. 208) Eliminates criminal penalties for: (1) possessing an unregistered firearm; or (2) carrying a pistol whether loaded or unloaded in one's dwelling house, place of business, or on land possessed by such person. Makes conforming amendments to the District of Columbia Code.

(Sec. 210) Amends the federal criminal code to make it lawful for any licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or licensed collector to sell or deliver a handgun to a District resident if such licensee's place of business is located in Maryland or Virginia.

(Sec. 211) Repeals the Firearms Registration Act of 2008 and the Firearms Registration Emergency Amendment Act of 2008, as passed by the District of Columbia.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 2, 2009:** Received in the House.
- **Mar 2, 2009:** Held at the desk.
- **Feb 27, 2009:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Feb 26, 2009:** Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S2507-2542)
- **Feb 26, 2009:** The committee substitute as amended agreed to by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S2538)
- **Feb 26, 2009:** Cloture motion on the measure withdrawn by unanimous consent in Senate. (consideration: CR S2525)
- **Feb 26, 2009:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 61 - 37. Record Vote Number: 73.(text: CR S2538-2541)
- **Feb 26, 2009:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Yea-Nay Vote. 61 - 37. Record Vote Number: 73. (text: CR S2538-2541)
- **Feb 25, 2009:** Considered by Senate. (consideration: CR S2434-2461)
- **Feb 25, 2009:** Point of order that the measure violates the Constitution raised in Senate.
- **Feb 25, 2009:** By a decision of the Senate the point of order that the measure violates the Constitution was not well taken by Yea-Nay Vote. 36 - 62. Record Vote Number: 67.
- **Feb 25, 2009:** Cloture motion on the measure presented in Senate. (consideration: CR S2461; text: CR S2461)
- **Feb 24, 2009:** Motion to proceed to measure considered in Senate. (consideration: CR S2390-2398)
- **Feb 24, 2009:** Cloture on the motion to proceed to the bill invoked in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 62 - 34. Record Vote Number: 65. (consideration: CR S2397-2398; text: CR S2397)
- **Feb 24, 2009:** Motion to proceed to consideration of measure agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S2398)
- **Feb 24, 2009:** Measure laid before Senate by motion. (consideration: CR S2398-2399; text of measure as reported in Senate: CR S2398-2399)
- **Feb 23, 2009:** Motion to proceed to measure considered in Senate. (consideration: CR S2353-2360)
- **Feb 13, 2009:** Motion to proceed to consideration of measure made in Senate. (consideration: CR S2347)
- **Feb 13, 2009:** Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the bill presented in Senate. (consideration: CR S2347; text: CR S2347)
- **Feb 13, 2009:** Motion to proceed to consideration of measure withdrawn in Senate by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S2347)
- **Feb 12, 2009:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Lieberman with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Feb 12, 2009:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 23.
- **Feb 11, 2009:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 6, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 6, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S141-142)
- **Jan 6, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S142-143)

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