

S 750

Fair Elections Now Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Apr 6, 2011

Current Status: Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Hearings

Latest Action: Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Hearings held. (Apr 12, 2011)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/750>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Apr 6, 2011
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		May 23, 2011
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Dec 15, 2011
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jan 30, 2012
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 26, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Hearings By (subcommittee)	Apr 12, 2011
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 6, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 1404	Related bill	Apr 6, 2011: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

Summary (as of Apr 6, 2011)

Fair Elections Now Act - Amends the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA) with respect to: (1) eligibility and qualifying contribution requirements and benefits of fair elections financing of Senate election campaigns, (2) establishment of a Fair Elections Fund, (3) eligibility for Fund allocations, (4) contribution and expenditure requirements, (5) a public debate requirement, (6) certification of whether or not a federal election candidate is a participating candidate, (7) benefits for participating candidates, (8) 500% matching payments to candidates for certain small dollar contributions, (9) political advertising vouchers, (10) establishment of a Fair Elections Oversight Board, (11) civil penalties for violation of contribution and expenditure requirements, (12) prohibition of joint fundraising committees with any political committee other than a candidate's authorized committee, and (13) an exception to a specified limitation on coordinated expenditures by political party committees with participating candidates for any expenditure from a qualified political party-participating candidate coordinated expenditure fund.

Amends the Communications Act of 1934 to: (1) prohibit the preemption of the use of a broadcasting station by a legally qualified Senate candidate who has purchased and paid for such use, (2) revise Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authority to revoke licenses for broadcasting stations who fail to provide access to Senate candidates, and (3) revise the formula for determining reduced broadcast rates for participating candidates in certain circumstances.

Directs the FCC to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a standardized form to be used by broadcasting stations to record and report the purchase of advertising time by or on behalf of a candidate for nomination for election, or for election, to federal elective office.

Amends FECA to: (1) empower the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari to appeal a civil action; (2) require all designations, statements, and reports required to be filed under FECA to be filed directly with the FEC, and in computer-accessible electronic form; and (3) reduce from 48 to 24 hours after their receipt the deadline for the FEC to make designations, statements, reports, or notifications available to the public in the FEC office and on the Internet.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 12, 2011:** Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Hearings held.
- **Apr 7, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2262-2263)
- **Apr 6, 2011:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 6, 2011:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2202-2208)