

S 1176

EMPOWER Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Apr 30, 2015

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. (Apr 30, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1176>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 20, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 18, 2016
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 13, 2016
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 30, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 3250	Related bill	Jul 14, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
114 HR 2143	Related bill	Apr 30, 2015: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
114 HR 424	Related bill	Jan 21, 2015: Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Empowering Mass Participation to Offset the Wealthy's Electoral Role Act of 2015 or the EMPOWER Act of 2015

Amends the Internal Revenue Code and the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to revise the system of public financing for presidential primary and general elections occurring after January 1, 2016.

Increases the amount of matching funds for presidential primaries from a one-to-one match to a six-to-one match for contributions of \$250 or less from individuals, with a limit on aggregate individual contributions of \$1,000. Limits the total amount of payments to a presidential primary candidate to \$300 million. Provides for an inflation adjustment to matching contributions beginning after 2015.

Requires presidential primary candidates who opt to participate in the public financing system to certify to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) that they have raised \$25,000 (currently, \$5,000) in each of 20 states, with individual contributions limited to \$250. Requires such candidates to commit to accept public financing in both the primary and general elections.

Prohibits presidential primary candidates or their authorized committees from accepting contributions or bundled contributions (i.e., combining small contributions into one large contribution) from lobbyists or political action committees (PACs).

Eliminates expenditure limitations for presidential primary and general elections.

Changes the period for payment of matching funds to presidential primary candidates from January 1 of the election year to six months prior to the date of the earliest state primary election.

Revises financing provisions for general elections to: (1) limit individual contributions to participating candidates to \$1,000; and (2) extend matching payments to general elections at a six-to-one rate for contributions of \$250 or less, to a maximum amount of \$300 million in total matching payments to a publicly-financed general election candidate.

Increases to \$100 million the limit on coordinated spending by a national party and its presidential candidate in a general election campaign.

Establishes a uniform date for the release of payments to eligible general election candidates.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 30, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.