

HR 2867

Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jun 24, 2015

Current Status: Motion to Discharge Committee filed by Mr. Aguilar. Petition No: 114-4. (<http://clerk.house>

Latest Action: Motion to Discharge Committee filed by Mr. Aguilar. Petition No: 114-4. (<http://clerk.house.gov/114/lrc/pd/petitions/DisPet0004.xml> "Discharge petition" text with signatures.) (Jun 15, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2867>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sewell, Terri A. [D-AL-7]

Party: Democratic • **State:** AL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (179 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Sánchez, Linda T. [D-CA-38]	D · CA		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jun 24, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 25, 2015
Del. Plaskett, Stacey E. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Butterfield, G. K. [D-NC-1]	D · NC		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Carney, John C., Jr. [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]	D · SC		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Edwards, Donna F. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Fattah, Chaka [D-PA-2]	D · PA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Hahn, Janice [D-CA-44]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Hoyer, Steny H. [D-MD-5]	D · MD		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Israel, Steve [D-NY-3]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jun 25, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lawrence, Brenda L. [D-MI-14]	D · MI		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Pelosi, Nancy [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Waters, Maxine [D-CA-43]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Levin, Sander M. [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Takai, Mark [D-HI-1]	D · HI		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Jul 8, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Jul 8, 2015
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]	D · NY		Jul 8, 2015
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Jul 10, 2015
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jul 16, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Murphy, Patrick [D-FL-18]	D · FL		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Sep 16, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Eddie Bernice [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Sep 16, 2015
Rep. Neal, Richard E. [D-MA-1]	D · MA		Sep 16, 2015
Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Sep 17, 2015
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Oct 20, 2015
Rep. Speier, Jackie [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Oct 20, 2015
Rep. Becerra, Xavier [D-CA-34]	D · CA		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Heck, Denny [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]	D · MD		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Brown, Corrine [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Nov 2, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Rangel, Charles B. [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Nov 3, 2015
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Nov 3, 2015
Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Nov 3, 2015
Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]	D · WA		Nov 3, 2015
Rep. Capps, Lois [D-CA-24]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Farr, Sam [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Nov 30, 2015
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Nov 30, 2015
Rep. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Nov 30, 2015
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Nov 30, 2015
Rep. Velazquez, Nydia M. [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Nov 30, 2015
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Feb 23, 2016
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]	D · PA		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2016

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]	D · OR		Apr 12, 2016
Rep. Grayson, Alan [D-FL-9]	D · FL		May 10, 2016
Rep. Loebssack, David [D-IA-2]	D · IA		May 10, 2016
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		May 10, 2016
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Jun 9, 2016
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jun 9, 2016
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Jun 10, 2016
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jun 16, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jun 16, 2016
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jun 16, 2016
Rep. Kennedy, Joseph P., III [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jun 22, 2016
Rep. Graham, Gwen [D-FL-2]	D · FL		Nov 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 9, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 1659	Identical bill	Jun 24, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S4604-4606)
114 HR 885	Related bill	Mar 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2015

This bill amends the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to allow a representative official of an Indian tribe, with authorization from the governing body of the tribe, to request one or more polling places to be located on tribal lands. The state or political subdivision shall provide each requested polling place at no expense to the Indian tribe if certain criteria are met.

A federal court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce constitutional voting guarantees, but also certain violations of the Act as well as of any federal prohibition against discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, for an appropriate period to prevent commencement of new devices to deny or abridge the right to vote.

Requirements are revised for determining which states and political subdivisions are or are not covered by criteria for declaratory judgments that they have not used devices to deny or abridge the right to vote.

Any state (and all of its political subdivisions) shall be subject to such requirements for a 10-year period if:

- 15 or more voting rights violations occurred there during the previous 25 years; or
- 10 or more violations occurred during the previous 25 years, at least one of which was committed by the state itself (as opposed to a political subdivision within it).

Any specific political subdivision of a state shall also be subject to those requirements for a 10-year period if 3 or more violations occurred in it during the previous 25 calendar years.

A state or political subdivision that obtains a declaratory judgment that it has not used a device to deny or abridge the right to vote shall be exempt from such requirements unless new violations occur after the declaratory judgment was issued.

Each state and each political subdivision shall: (1) identify any newly enacted or adopted law, regulation, or policy that includes a voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or a voting-related standard, practice, or procedure (covered practice); and (2) ensure that no such covered practice is implemented unless or until the state or political subdivision complies with certain preclearance requirements.

This bill prescribes transparency requirements, including reasonable public notice, regarding any changes to: (1) voting prerequisites, standards, or procedures; (2) polling place resources; or (3) demographics and electoral districts.

Department of Justice authority to assign observers receives new extensions, including authority to assign observers to enforce bilingual election requirements.

Courts shall grant preliminary injunctive relief if a complainant raises a serious question whether the challenged covered practice violates the Act or the Constitution and, on balance, the hardship imposed upon the defendant by the relief will be less than the hardship on the plaintiff if the relief were not granted.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 15, 2016:** Motion to Discharge Committee filed by Mr. Aguilar. Petition No: 114-4. (<http://clerk.house.gov/114/lrc/pd/petitions/DisPet0004.xml>)>Discharge petition text with signatures.)
- **Jul 9, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jun 24, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 24, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.