

S 772

Democracy Restoration Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Mar 18, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 18, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/772>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

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

Cosponsors (17 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL] | D · IL | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT] | D · VT | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Reid, Harry [D-NV] | D · NV | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI] | D · RI | | Mar 18, 2015 |
| Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN] | D · MN | | May 7, 2015 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Apr 28, 2016 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | May 23, 2016 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Jul 12, 2016 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Jul 12, 2016 |
| Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI] | D · HI | | Jul 12, 2016 |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Jul 13, 2016 |
| Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA] | D · MA | | Sep 7, 2016 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Mar 18, 2015 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 114 S 1610 | Related bill | Jun 18, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S4302) |
| 114 HR 1459 | Identical bill | Apr 21, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. |
| 114 HR 1556 | Related bill | Apr 21, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. |
| 114 S 457 | Related bill | Feb 11, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |

Summary (as of Mar 18, 2015)

Democracy Restoration Act of 2015

Declares that the right of a U.S. citizen to vote in any election for federal office shall not be denied or abridged because that individual has been convicted of a criminal offense unless, at the time of the election, such individual is serving a felony sentence in a correctional institution or facility. Provides for enforcement of, and remedies for violations of, this Act.

Prohibits this Act from being construed to prohibit a state from enacting any state law that affords the right to vote in any election for federal office on terms less restrictive than those terms established by this Act. Declares that the rights and remedies established by this Act shall be in addition to all other rights and remedies provided by law and shall not supersede, restrict, or limit the application of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 or the National Voter Registration Act.

Sets forth requirements for state and federal notification of individuals of the restoration of their voting rights.

Prohibits any state, local government, or other person from receiving or using any federal funds to construct or improve a place of incarceration unless that person has in effect a program to notify each U.S. citizen incarcerated in that person's jurisdiction, upon release from such incarceration, of that individual's rights under this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 18, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 18, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.