

HR 885

Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Feb 11, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. (Mar 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/885>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]

Party: Republican • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (111 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Clyburn, James E. [D-SC-6]	D · SC		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Dent, Charles W. [R-PA-15]	R · PA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Gibson, Christopher P. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Hoyer, Steny H. [D-MD-5]	D · MD		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Lewis, John [D-GA-5]	D · GA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Feb 11, 2015
Resident Commissioner Pierluisi, Pedro R. [D-PR-At Large]	D · PR		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		Feb 12, 2015
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]	D · AZ		Feb 13, 2015
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Mar 3, 2015
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Reed, Tom [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Mar 13, 2015
Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26]	R · FL		Mar 13, 2015
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Mar 13, 2015
Rep. Kirkpatrick, Ann [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Mar 13, 2015
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Mar 13, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Mar 13, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Dold, Robert J. [R-IL-10]	R · IL		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Lowey, Nita M. [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Mar 16, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Mar 17, 2015
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Mar 17, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 17, 2015
Rep. Kelly, Robin L. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Mar 17, 2015
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. Grayson, Alan [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Scott, David [D-GA-13]	D · GA		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]	D · CA		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		May 8, 2015
Rep. Takai, Mark [D-HI-1]	D · HI		May 13, 2015
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		May 26, 2015
Rep. Murphy, Patrick [D-FL-18]	D · FL		Jun 10, 2015
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jun 10, 2015
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Jun 16, 2015
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		Jun 23, 2015
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Sarbanes, John P. [D-MD-3]	D · MD		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Jul 8, 2015
Rep. Carney, John C., Jr. [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Jul 13, 2015
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Jul 23, 2015
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. Dingell, Debbie [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14]	R · IL		Jul 29, 2015
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Cummings, Elijah E. [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Sep 10, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Sep 17, 2015
Rep. Edwards, Donna F. [D-MD-4]	D · MD		Sep 17, 2015
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Sep 17, 2015
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Sep 17, 2015
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Sep 18, 2015
Rep. Gutierrez, Luis V. [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]	D · CA		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Rigell, E. Scott [R-VA-2]	R · VA		Oct 5, 2015
Rep. Heck, Denny [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Oct 22, 2015
Rep. Rush, Bobby L. [D-IL-1]	D · IL		Nov 5, 2015
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Nov 5, 2015
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]	D · CA		Dec 15, 2015
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Feb 24, 2016
Rep. Maloney, Sean Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Feb 24, 2016
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Feb 25, 2016
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]	D · PA		Mar 22, 2016
Rep. Foster, Bill [D-IL-11]	D · IL		Apr 13, 2016
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Apr 18, 2016
Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2]	R · ID		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		May 18, 2016
Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]	D · CA		Jun 7, 2016
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Jul 14, 2016
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Jolly, David W. [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Perlmutter, Ed [D-CO-7]	D · CO		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Nov 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2867	Related bill	Jun 15, 2016: Motion to Discharge Committee filed by Mr. Aguilar. Petition No: 114-4. (Discharge petition text with signatures.)

Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2015

Amends the Voting Rights Act of 1965 with respect to the requirement that a federal court retain jurisdiction for an appropriate period to prevent commencement of new devices to deny or abridge the right to vote. Expands the types of violations triggering the authority of a court to retain such jurisdiction to include certain violations of the Act as well as violations of any federal voting rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.

Excludes from the list of violations triggering jurisdiction retention authority any voting qualification or prerequisite which results in a denial or abridgement of the right to vote that is based on the imposition of a requirement that an individual provide a photo identification as a condition of receiving a ballot for voting in a federal, state, or local election.

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

Subjects to the requirements for making such a determination any state (and all of its political subdivisions) during a calendar if five or more voting rights violations occurred in the state during the previous 15 years, at least one of which was committed by the state itself (as opposed to a political subdivision within it).

Specifies application of such new coverage requirements to any specific political subdivision if: (1) three or more voting rights violations occurred in it during the previous 15 calendar years; or (2) one or more voting rights violations occurred in it during the previous 15 calendar years and the subdivision had persistent, extremely low minority turnout during that period.

Provides that, if a state obtains a declaratory judgment that it has not used a device to deny or abridge the right to vote, the requirements for a new declaratory judgment generally will not apply, unless the new coverage requirements of this Act apply to the state solely on the basis of voting rights violations occurring after the declaratory judgment was issued.

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.

Modifies authority to assign observers, including authorizing the assignment of observers to enforce bilingual election requirements.

Revises requirements for injunctive relief, including its scope and the persons authorized to seek relief as well as the grounds for granting it.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Feb 11, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 11, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.