

## S 1419

Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jun 22, 2017

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

CR S3733-3734) (Jun 22, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1419>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

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

**Cosponsors** (49 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 22, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 22, 2017
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 9, 2018
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Mar 12, 2018
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Aug 15, 2018

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 22, 2017

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3239	Related bill	Aug 3, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
115 HR 2978	Identical bill	Jul 17, 2017: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E999-1000)

## **Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2017**

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.

Any state (and all of its political subdivisions) shall be subject to certain 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).

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 as specified.

This bill prescribes transparency requirements regarding any changes to specified matters.

Department of Justice authority to assign observers receives new extensions.

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**

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- **Jun 22, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 22, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3733-3734)