

S 1437

Voter Empowerment Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jun 26, 2017

**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. (Jun 26, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1437>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

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

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 26, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 5, 2017
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		May 8, 2018
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jul 24, 2018
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Aug 22, 2018
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 14, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 26, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 3116	Related bill	<b>Jun 21, 2018:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
115 S 3049	Related bill	<b>Jun 12, 2018:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
115 HR 3343	Related bill	<b>Jul 20, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
115 HR 3300	Related bill	<b>Jul 19, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
115 HR 12	Identical bill	<b>Jul 14, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
115 HR 1044	Related bill	<b>Feb 14, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
115 S 360	Related bill	<b>Feb 13, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
115 HR 944	Related bill	<b>Feb 7, 2017:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

## Voter Empowerment Act of 2017

### *Voter Registration Modernization Act of 2017*

This bill amends the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require states to make available online voter registration.

The federal criminal code is amended to prohibit hindering, interfering with, or preventing voter registration.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 is amended to require states to promote access to voter registration and voting for individuals with disabilities.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) must support pilot programs enabling individuals with disabilities to register and vote at their residences.

The bill reauthorizes support for state and local governments to ensure voting access for individuals with disabilities.

States must notify individuals convicted of a criminal offense under state law, upon release or upon sentence to probation, of their right to vote in federal elections.

### *Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2017*

This bill revises auditing requirements for voting systems.

Voting systems must use individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots.

The National Science Foundation must support the study and development of accessible ballot voting and best practices to enhance the accessibility of voting for certain individuals.

With exceptions, states must audit federal election results.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act is amended to extend the guarantee of voting residency to family members of absent military personnel.

The EAC must support poll-worker recruitment and training and develop materials for a model program.

The Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 is amended to prohibit a chief state election administration official, unless the official or a family member is a candidate, from taking part in political management or in a political campaign for federal office over which the official has supervisory authority.

The EAC is reauthorized and its exemption from certain contracting requirements is repealed.

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## Actions Timeline

- **Jun 26, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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