

S 193

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Taxation

Introduced: Jan 23, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jan 23, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/193>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

Party: Democratic • State: OH • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jan 23, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 24, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Taxation

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 605	Identical bill	Jan 23, 2017: Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Act

This bill directs the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to establish a Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Matching Grant Program (VITA grant program) for the development, expansion, or continuation of volunteer tax preparation programs to assist low-income taxpayers and members of underserved populations.

The program must be administered in the same manner as the Community Volunteer Income Tax Assistance matching grants demonstration program established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008.

The bill establishes the National Center to Promote Quality, Excellence, and Evaluation in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to:

- promote the adoption of a universally accessible volunteer training platform for the preparation of federal income tax returns,
- provide technical assistance to tax return preparation program managers,
- identify and disseminate best practices related to tax site management,
- support outreach and marketing efforts, and
- evaluate programs and activities funded under this bill.

The IRS must: (1) designate, through a competitive process, a lead national organization to carry out the purposes of the center; and (2) provide an annual grant to the organization. The lead national organization may provide subgrants to organizations to facilitate specialized technical assistance in reaching one or more underserved populations.

The bill amends the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973 and the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to authorize several national service programs to provide tax preparation assistance for low-income and older individuals and families.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 23, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 23, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.