

S 1252

LOVE Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 30, 2019

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Apr 30, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1252>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (21 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 30, 2019
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		May 6, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 10, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 30, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 3430	Related bill	Mar 10, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of Apr 30, 2019)

Lavender Offense Victim Exoneration Act of 2019 or the LOVE Act of 2019

This bill offers a formal apology from Congress for encouraging policies at the Department of State such as the *Lavender Scare*, which resulted in the wrongful termination of at least 1,000 people for alleged homosexuality.

The State Department and Foreign Service shall (1) review all employee terminations since January 1, 1950, to determine who was wrongfully terminated for their real or perceived sexual orientation; and (2) issue a public report on the findings. The State Department shall periodically report to Congress on recommendations for continued actions.

The State Department shall establish an independent Reconciliation Board to contact any employee (or a family member of a deceased employee) improperly terminated during the Lavender Scare and offer to change the employee's record to reflect such a finding. The board shall accept and review grievances from former employees who believe they were terminated due to sexual orientation.

The State Department shall establish a board of senior-level officials to address issues that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) Foreign Service employees and their families face. The board shall report to Congress comments on or recommendations for improving State Department policies to prevent sexual orientation discrimination.

The State Department shall report to Congress on (1) countries that do not issue spousal visas for Foreign Service employee spouses due to sexual orientation, and (2) recommendations on how to address the issue.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 30, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 30, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.