

S 1397

A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to provide for a national Federal write-in absentee ballot for domestic use.

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: May 9, 2019

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. (May 9, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1397>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 9, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 9, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 9, 2019
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 9, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 9, 2019
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		May 9, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 9, 2019
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 18, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 19, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Dec 4, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 9, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 3529	Related bill	Mar 18, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Summary (as of May 9, 2019)

This bill directs the Election Assistance Commission to create a national federal write-in absentee ballot that must be made available on the internet in a printable format.

States must permit certain individuals to use the ballot to cast a vote in any election for federal office. The individuals who qualify to use the ballot are those who

- reside in an area where a state of emergency has been declared by the state due to a natural disaster,
- expect to be absent from their jurisdiction on election day due to professional or volunteer service in response to a natural disaster or emergency,
- expect to be hospitalized on election day, or
- requested an absentee ballot but did not receive it in time for it to be counted in the election.

Actions Timeline

- **May 9, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 9, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.