

S 1472

Protecting American Votes and Elections Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: May 15, 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 15, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1472>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 15, 2019
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 15, 2019
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 15, 2019
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 15, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 15, 2019
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		May 15, 2019
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		May 15, 2019
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 15, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		May 15, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 15, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 15, 2019
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 15, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		May 15, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 15, 2019
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 4, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 15, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 2754	Identical bill	May 15, 2019: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

Summary (as of May 15, 2019)

Protecting American Votes and Elections Act of 2019

This bill addresses the security of federal elections, including by requiring paper ballots, requiring audits of election results, and establishing requirements for election cybersecurity.

The bill provides requirements for ballots. Voting systems must use a paper ballot that is verifiable by a voter before being cast and these ballots must be retained for recounts or audits. During a recount, ballots must be counted by hand.

States and jurisdictions must perform an audit of an election that must include a manual adjudication of voter intent from some or all of the ballots cast. The audit results must meet specified statistical requirements and must be published before such election is certified.

The bill provides a private right of action for any person aggrieved by a violation of voting system or audit requirements.

The Election Assistance Commission must provide funds to states

- to replace paperless voting systems to comply with requirements of the bill,
- for the acquisition of accessible ballot marking devices for voters with disabilities,
- for certain ballot design and printing costs, and
- for certain election audit costs.

The bill also directs the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency within in the Department of Homeland Security to set mandatory election cybersecurity standards, including those regarding optical scanning devices, ballot marking devices, election management systems, voter registration websites, and election results systems.

Actions Timeline

- **May 15, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 15, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.