

## HR 1799

Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Mar 14, 2019

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. (May 3, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1799>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Sensenbrenner, F. James, Jr. [R-WI-5]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]	R · OK		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]	D · AZ		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Hurd, Will [R-TX-23]	R · TX		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Rice, Kathleen M. [D-NY-4]	D · NY		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Mar 14, 2019
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Apr 2, 2019
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Apr 9, 2019
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2019
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Sep 11, 2019
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Dec 6, 2019
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		Jul 22, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 3, 2019

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 4	Related bill	<b>Jul 27, 2020:</b> Pursuant to the provisions of H. Con. Res. 107, enrollment corrections on H.R. 4 have been made.
116 S 4263	Related bill	<b>Jul 22, 2020:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 S 561	Related bill	<b>Feb 26, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

### Summary (as of Mar 14, 2019)

#### Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2019

This bill establishes new criteria for determining which states and political subdivisions must obtain preclearance before changes to voting practices in these areas may take effect. (Preclearance is the process of receiving preapproval from the Department of Justice or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before making legal changes that would affect voting rights.)

A state and all of its political subdivisions shall be subject to preclearance of voting practice changes for a 10-year period if five or more voting rights violations occurred in the state during the previous 15 years, at least one of which was committed by the state itself. A political subdivision as a separate unit shall also be subject to preclearance for a 10-year period if, in the previous 15 years (1) three or more voting rights violations occurred there, or (2) one or more voting rights violations occurred there and the subdivision had minority voter turnout below certain thresholds.

A state or political subdivision that obtains a declaratory judgment that it has not used a voting practice to deny or abridge the right to vote shall be exempt from preclearance.

The bill expands the circumstances under which (1) a court may retain the authority to preclear voting changes made by a state or political subdivision, or (2) the Department of Justice may assign election observers.

States and political subdivisions must notify the public of changes to voting practices.

The bill revises the circumstances under which a court must grant preliminary injunctive relief in a challenge to voting practices.

### Actions Timeline

- **May 3, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Mar 14, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 14, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.