

## S 2238

### SAFE Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jul 23, 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. (Jul 23, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2238>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (16 total)

| Cosponsor                         | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]            | D · OR        |      | Jul 23, 2019 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]   | D · CT        |      | Jul 30, 2019 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]        | D · OH        |      | Jul 30, 2019 |
| Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]         | D · HI        |      | Jul 30, 2019 |
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]    | D · CO        |      | Aug 1, 2019  |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]     | D · MA        |      | Aug 1, 2019  |
| Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]     | D · CA        |      | Sep 18, 2019 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]         | D · OR        |      | Sep 18, 2019 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]    | D · IL        |      | Sep 26, 2019 |
| Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]   | I · ME        |      | Dec 16, 2019 |
| Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]           | D · MN        |      | Jul 28, 2020 |
| Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]            | D · NM        |      | Jul 29, 2020 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]       | D · NJ        |      | Aug 6, 2020  |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA        |      | Aug 6, 2020  |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]      | D · HI        |      | Aug 6, 2020  |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]      | I · VT        |      | Aug 6, 2020  |

### Committee Activity

| Committee                          | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Rules and Administration Committee | Senate  | Referred To | Jul 23, 2019 |

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

| Bill        | Relationship | Last Action   |
|-------------|--------------|---|
| 116 HR 2722 | Related bill | <b>Jun 28, 2019:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. |
| 116 S 2053  | Related bill | <b>Jun 28, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.                            |

## Summary (as of Jul 23, 2019)

### Securing America's Federal Elections Act or the SAFE Act

This bill addresses election security through grant programs and requirements for voting systems and paper ballots.

The bill establishes requirements for voting systems, including that systems (1) use individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballots; (2) make a voter's marked ballot available for inspection and verification by the voter before the vote is cast; (3) ensure that individuals with disabilities are given an equivalent opportunity to vote, including with privacy and independence, in a manner that produces a voter-verified paper ballot; (4) be manufactured in the United States; and (5) meet specified cybersecurity requirements, including the prohibition of the connection of a voting system to the internet.

The National Science Foundation must award grants to study, test, and develop accessible voter-verified paper ballot voting and best practices to enhance the accessibility of such voting for individuals with disabilities, for voters whose primary language is not English, and for voters with difficulties in literacy.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) must award grants to states to replace certain voting systems, carry out voting system security improvements, acquire accessible ballot-marking devices for voters with disabilities, and design and print ballots.

States must carry out postelection risk-limiting audits for all federal elections, funded by the EAC.

The EAC must (1) establish mandatory cybersecurity requirements for systems used in federal elections, and (2) provide for the testing and certification of voting system hardware and software.

### Actions Timeline

- **Jul 23, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 23, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.