

## S 3725

VoteSafe Act of 2020

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** May 13, 2020

**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 13, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3725>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]

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

### Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 14, 2020
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 14, 2020
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 14, 2020
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		May 14, 2020
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		May 14, 2020
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		May 14, 2020
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 14, 2020
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 14, 2020
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 14, 2020
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 14, 2020
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 14, 2020
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 14, 2020
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		May 14, 2020
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 14, 2020
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		May 14, 2020
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 14, 2020
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 14, 2020
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Jul 21, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 13, 2020

## Subjects & Policy Tags

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### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 7068	Related bill	<b>Jun 1, 2020:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
116 HR 6807	Related bill	<b>May 12, 2020:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

### Summary (as of May 13, 2020)

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#### VoteSafe Act of 2020

This bill expands vote-by-mail and early in-person voting during the 2020 federal elections. It also directs polling places to follow certain guidance related to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) preparedness.

Specifically, each state and local jurisdiction must permit no-excuse mail-in absentee voting. Among other things, each state and jurisdiction must (1) provide a mail-in ballot with prepaid return postage to each registered voter who requests such a ballot, (2) allow voters to submit online ballot requests, (3) allow voters to cure certain signature discrepancies, and (4) provide secured drop-off boxes from 45 days before the date of the election.

Each state and local jurisdiction must maintain an early in-person voting period of at least 20 days.

Additionally, each state must establish a plan to ensure that polling places are implementing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention related to COVID-19 preparedness. Among other requirements, each plan must (1) keep as many voting locations open as possible, (2) prepare polling locations to implement social distancing protocols, (3) provide sufficient quantities of hygiene and cleaning supplies at polling locations, and (4) provide hazard pay and protective equipment to poll workers.

The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) must make a payment, within 30 days, to each state to carry out these requirements.

Finally, the EAC must make payments to eligible states to carry out certain activities related to in-person voting, such as ensuring that elections are accessible to individuals with disabilities and implementing curbside voting.

#### Actions Timeline

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- **May 13, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 13, 2020:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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