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Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 26, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 26, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/556>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

Party: Republican • **State:** IA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Feb 26, 2019
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 26, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 1399	Identical bill	Apr 8, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Accountability Through Electronic Verification Act

This bill expands the E-Verify program by requiring all employers to use it, and permanently reauthorizes the program. Currently, E-Verify use is voluntary for most employers, although some states mandate its use.

All employers shall use E-Verify to confirm the identity and employment eligibility of all recruited, referred, or hired individuals, including current employees who were never verified under the program. Failure to use E-Verify shall create a rebuttable presumption that the employer is violating immigration law.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) shall generate weekly reports about individuals who have received a final non-confirmation of employment eligibility. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall use the report to enforce immigration laws.

DHS shall establish a program to help certain small businesses verify employee eligibility. DHS shall also update E-Verify's design to help prevent and detect fraud and identity theft.

The bill increases civil and criminal penalties for hiring unauthorized aliens. DHS shall debar repeat offenders and those criminally convicted from holding federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements.

The Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, and DHS shall jointly establish a program to share information to help identify unauthorized aliens.

The bill establishes the Employer Compliance Inspection Center within Homeland Security Investigations of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The center's duties include processing I-9 employment eligibility verification forms and ensuring compliance with employment eligibility laws.

DHS shall report to Congress on ways to simplify procedures relating to I-9 forms, and on whether the I-9 process should be eliminated.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 26, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 26, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.