

HR 6088

Deepfakes in Federal Elections Prohibition Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Mar 4, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration. (Mar 4, 2020)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6088

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]

Party: Democratic • State: MA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]	D · TN		Mar 4, 2020
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Mar 4, 2020
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Mar 4, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Committee on House Administration	House	Referred To	Mar 4, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 4617	Related bill	Oct 28, 2019: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Deepfakes in Federal Elections Prohibition Act

This bill prohibits the distribution of certain deceptive audio or visual media (i.e., deepfakes) within 60 days of a federal election and establishes criminal penalties for related violations.

The bill generally prohibits individuals, political committees, and other entities from distributing with actual malice any materially deceptive audio or visual media of a candidate within 60 days of a federal election with the intent to (1) injure the candidate's reputation, or (2) deceive a voter into voting for or against the candidate.

Such prohibition does not apply to (1) audio or visual media containing certain disclosures (e.g., verbal or written statements); or (2) certain entities, such as radio or television broadcasting stations that broadcast such media with disclosures as part of a bona fide newscast.

Additionally, the bill establishes a new criminal offense related to the distribution of materially deceptive audio or visual media prior to a federal election. A violator is subject to a fine, up to 5 years in prison, or both.

It also permits a candidate whose voice or likeness appears in such deceptive audio or visual media to bring a civil action for damages.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 4, 2020:** Introduced in House
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