

S 4

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Oct 5, 2021

Current Status: Motion by Senator Schumer to reconsider the vote by which cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 4 was

Latest Action: Motion by Senator Schumer to reconsider the vote by which cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 4 was not invoked (Record Vote No. 459) entered in Senate. (Nov 3, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

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

Cosponsors (48 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Oct 5, 2021

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Oct 5, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 5, 2021

Committee Activity

No committee referrals or activity are recorded for this bill.

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 5008	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
117 HR 5746	Related bill	Jan 19, 2022: Motion to proceed to consideration of the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 5746 (Record Vote No. 9) withdrawn in Senate.
117 S 2928	Related bill	Oct 4, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
117 HR 4	Related bill	Sep 14, 2021: Received in the Senate.
117 S 2702	Related bill	Aug 10, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021

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

The bill also includes provisions related to federally protected activities at polling places and voting access on tribal lands.

A state and all of its political subdivisions shall be subject to preclearance of voting practice changes for a 10-year period if

- 15 or more voting rights violations occurred in the state during the previous 25 years; or
- 10 or more violations occurred during the previous 25 years, at least 1 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 three or more voting rights violations occurred there during the previous 25 years.

States and political subdivisions that meet certain thresholds regarding minority groups must preclear covered practices before implementation, such as changes to methods of election and redistricting.

Further, states and political subdivisions must notify the public of changes to voting practices.

Next, the bill authorizes DOJ to require states or political subdivisions to provide certain documents or answers to questions for enforcing voting rights.

The bill also outlines factors courts must consider when hearing challenges to voting practices, such as the history of official voting discrimination in the state or political subdivision.

In addition, the bill (1) includes certain protections for election workers, polling places, and election infrastructure; and (2) expands voting access on tribal lands.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 3, 2021:** Cloture on the motion to proceed to the measure not invoked in Senate by Yea-Nay Vote. 50 - 49. Record Vote Number: 459. (CR S7701)
- **Nov 3, 2021:** Motion by Senator Schumer to reconsider the vote by which cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 4 was not invoked (Record Vote No. 459) entered in Senate.
- **Nov 1, 2021:** Motion to proceed to consideration of measure made in Senate. (CR S7535)
- **Nov 1, 2021:** Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the measure presented in Senate. (CR S7535)
- **Oct 6, 2021:** Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 143.
- **Oct 5, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Oct 5, 2021:** Introduced in the Senate. Read the first time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under Read the First Time. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S6916)