

S 481

Democracy Restoration Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Feb 25, 2021

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 25, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/481>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

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

Cosponsors (29 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 25, 2021
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 29, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		May 11, 2021
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 13, 2022
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 14, 2022
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Jul 19, 2022
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 20, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 25, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4020	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
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 2747	Related bill	Oct 20, 2021: Motion by Senator Schumer to reconsider the vote by which cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2747 was not invoked (Record Vote No. 420) entered in Senate.
117 HR 2358	Related bill	Oct 19, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
117 S 954	Related bill	Mar 24, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
117 HR 1	Related bill	Mar 11, 2021: Received in the Senate.

Summary (as of Feb 25, 2021)

Democracy Restoration Act of 2021

This bill addresses the voting rights of individuals convicted of a criminal offense and the restoration of their voting rights.

First, the bill declares that the right of a U.S. citizen to vote in any election for federal office shall not be denied or abridged because that individual has been convicted of a criminal offense unless, at the time of the election, such individual is serving a felony sentence. Further, the bill provides for enforcement of, and remedies for violations of, the bill.

In addition, it sets forth requirements for state and federal notification of individuals of the restoration of their voting rights.

Finally, the bill prohibits federal funding of construction or improvement of a place of incarceration unless U.S. citizens incarcerated in that jurisdiction are notified, upon release, of their voting rights.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 25, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 25, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.