

HR 8873

Presidential Election Reform Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Sep 19, 2022

Current Status: Received in the Senate.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate. (Sep 22, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8873>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cheney, Liz [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Sep 19, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Committee on House Administration	House	Referred To	Sep 19, 2022
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 19, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HRES 1372	Procedurally related	Sep 21, 2022: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Presidential Election Reform Act

This bill revises the process of casting and counting electoral votes for presidential elections.

The bill specifies that the choice of electors must occur in accordance with the laws of the state enacted prior to election day.

Next, the bill specifies that the voting time for a state's presidential election may only be extended due to a catastrophic event. *Catastrophic event* means a major natural disaster, act of terrorism, or widespread power outage if it (1) prevents a substantial portion of a state's electorate from casting a ballot on election day, or (2) causes a substantial number of ballots already cast in a state to be destroyed or rendered unreadable.

Additionally, the bill requires each state's governor to certify the appointment of electors for the state. Further, the bill provides for expedited judicial review for an action brought by an aggrieved presidential or vice-presidential candidate with respect to the issuance or transmission of a certificate of appointment.

The bill revises the framework for the joint session of Congress to count electoral votes and make a formal declaration of which candidates have been elected President and Vice President. Among other changes, the bill (1) specifies that the role of the presiding officer (the Vice President or, in the absence of the Vice President, the President pro tempore) during the joint session shall be ministerial in nature, and (2) raises the objection threshold in Congress to at least one-third of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 22, 2022:** Received in the Senate.
- **Sep 21, 2022:** Rule H. Res. 1372 passed House.
- **Sep 21, 2022:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 1372. (consideration: CR H8032-8048)
- **Sep 21, 2022:** Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 8873 with 1 hour of general debate. Resolution also provides one motion to recommit.
- **Sep 21, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with one hour of debate on H.R. 8873.
- **Sep 21, 2022:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule.
- **Sep 21, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 229 - 203 (Roll No. 449). (text: CR H8032-8036)
- **Sep 21, 2022:** On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 229 - 203 (Roll No. 449). (text: CR H8032-8036)
- **Sep 21, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 20, 2022:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 1372 Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 8873 with 1 hour of general debate. Resolution also provides one motion to recommit.
- **Sep 19, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 19, 2022:** Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.