

## S 954

Voter Empowerment Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Mar 24, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration. (Mar 24, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/954>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Mar 24, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 24, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2358	Related bill	<b>Oct 19, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
117 S 2093	Related bill	<b>Sep 15, 2021:</b> Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the measure withdrawn by unanimous consent in Senate. (CR S6516-6517)
117 S 1	Related bill	<b>Aug 11, 2021:</b> Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 123.
117 HR 3867	Related bill	<b>Jun 15, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.
117 HR 1245	Related bill	<b>Apr 28, 2021:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
117 HR 1	Related bill	<b>Mar 11, 2021:</b> Received in the Senate.
117 S 481	Related bill	<b>Feb 25, 2021:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
117 HR 1274	Related bill	<b>Feb 24, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 1278	Related bill	<b>Feb 24, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 1059	Related bill	<b>Feb 15, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 827	Related bill	<b>Feb 4, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.
117 HR 775	Related bill	<b>Feb 3, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 776	Related bill	<b>Feb 3, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 639	Related bill	<b>Feb 1, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 640	Related bill	<b>Feb 1, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 641	Related bill	<b>Feb 1, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 576	Related bill	<b>Jan 28, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
117 HR 65	Related bill	<b>Jan 4, 2021:</b> Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.

## **Voter Empowerment Act of 2021**

This bill expands voter registration and voting access.

Specifically, the bill expands voter registration by requiring states to (1) make available online voter registration, (2) establish automatic voter registration systems, (3) permit same-day voter registration, and (4) accept voter registration applications from individuals under age 18.

Further, the bill limits removing voters from voter rolls and prohibits interference with voter registration or voting.

Next, the bill requires states to allow individuals with disabilities to use absentee registration procedures and to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections.

The bill also prohibits voter caging (the practice of sending mail to addresses on voter rolls, compiling a list of the undeliverable mail, and using the list to remove registered voters from voter rolls).

Next, the bill expands voting access by requiring states to allow early voting and voting by mail without additional conditions. It also requires states to provide secured drop boxes at which individuals may drop off their completed absentee ballots.

In addition, the bill declares that the right of a U.S. citizen to vote in any federal election 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.

Finally, the bill permanently reauthorizes the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). It also directs the EAC to make grants to states for specified activities, including to implement automatic voter registration systems.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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