

S 1391

Election Mail Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: May 1, 2023

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. (May 1, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1391>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 1, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 2987	Identical bill	Apr 27, 2023: Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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.

Election Mail Act

This bill addresses the delivery and processing of election mail for federal elections, including by establishing certain standards for mail-in ballots.

Specifically, the bill requires the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to

- ensure (to the maximum extent practicable) same-day processing of mail-in ballots,
- postmark each ballot,
- carry election mail (e.g., voter registration applications and mail-in ballots) as first-class mail that is free of postage,
- appoint an election mail coordinator at each area office and district office, and
- consult annually with Indian tribes regarding barriers to voting for eligible voters living on Indian lands.

The bill prohibits the USPS, within 120 days of a federal election, from making any operational change that would restrict the prompt and reliable delivery of election mail.

Each state and jurisdiction must provide with each mail-in ballot a return envelope with an intelligent mail barcode. This requirement does not apply to a state or jurisdiction that uses an alternative system that enables voters to track the ballot through the mail.

The bill requires election officials to count mail-in ballots that are postmarked by election day and arrive within seven days after the election.

Actions Timeline

- **May 1, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 1, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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