

S 2960

Expanding the VOTE Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Sep 27, 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. (Sep 27, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2960>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: MN • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 12, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 27, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5295	Identical bill	Aug 25, 2023: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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.

Summary (as of Sep 27, 2023)

Expanding the Voluntary Opportunities for Translations in Elections Act or the Expanding the VOTE Act

This bill expands access to voting materials for individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) requires covered states and political subdivisions to provide voting materials and other language assistance to persons who are American Indian, Asian American, Alaskan Natives, or of Spanish heritage and whose ability to speak or understand English limits electoral participation. A state or political subdivision that is subject to Section 203 is prohibited from providing English-only voting materials in an election. Among other requirements, this bill (1) requires the Department of Justice to issue a notice of prohibition, including the trigger threshold at which the prohibition applies, to certain states and political subdivisions; and (2) requires covered states and political subdivisions to provide written translations of all voting materials, with the consent of any applicable tribal government, to election workers.

Additionally, the bill requires the Election Assistance Commission to make incentive grants for states and political subdivisions to provide translated voting materials.

The bill also directs the Government Accountability Office to study and report on the impact of (1) reducing the threshold requirement under Section 203 of the VRA, and (2) expanding the definition of *language minorities* to include native speakers of additional languages.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 27, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
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