S 2971

Unhoused VOTE Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics
Introduced: Sep 28, 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 28, 2023)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2971

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]
Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 28, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 28, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 28, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 28, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5294	Identical bill	**Aug 25, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and the Judiciary, 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 28, 2023)

Unhoused Voter Opportunity Through Elections Act or the Unhoused VOTE Act

This bill expands voter registration and voting access for unhoused individuals.

The bill specifies that no state or political subdivision may deny or abridge the right of any U.S. citizen to vote because the citizen resides at or in a nontraditional abode.

Additionally, the bill requires jurisdictions that allow for ballot drop boxes to ensure that these drop boxes are available for in-person use and are accessible and clearly labeled.

If a state requires individuals to show proof of residence in order to vote in a federal election, then the state must accept the individual's written attestation of residence. A state may not prohibit an individual who is residing in a homeless shelter from using the shelter as the individual's residence for purposes of voting in a federal election.

The bill requires chief state election officials to conduct outreach to unhoused individuals.

The bill directs the Election Assistance Commission to (1) develop best practices for election officials regarding voter registration and voting access for unhoused individuals, and (2) make grants to eligible states and local governments for programs and activities to support access to voting for unhoused individuals.

The bill also revises the National Voter Registration Act of 1993, including by (1) treating emergency shelters as voter registration agencies, and (2) allowing an unhoused individual to use an unsheltered street location as the individual's place of residence for purposes of a voter registration application.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 28, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 28, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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