

HR 6513

COCOA Act of 2024

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Nov 30, 2023

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 118-106.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 118-106. (Oct 4, 2024)

Law: 118-106 (Enacted Oct 4, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/6513>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Carey, Mike [R-OH-15]

Party: Republican • **State:** OH • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Morelle, Joseph D. [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Nov 30, 2023
Rep. Steil, Bryan [R-WI-1]	R · WI		Nov 30, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Committee on House Administration	House	Reported By	Jan 29, 2024
Rules and Administration Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Sep 25, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 4563	Text similarities	Jan 3, 2025: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 825.
118 HR 9779	Related bill	Sep 24, 2024: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
118 HR 4474	Text similarities	Jul 6, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
118 HR 4494	Text similarities	Jul 6, 2023: Referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Oversight and Accountability, Science, Space, and Technology, Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, 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.

Confirmation Of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024 or the COCOA Act of 2024

This act provides statutory authority for designated congressional election observers. *Designated congressional election observer* refers to an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate who is designated in writing by the chair or ranking minority member of the House Committee on House Administration or the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration to gather information with respect to an election, including in the event that the election is contested in the House or the Senate and for other purposes permitted by Article I, Section 5, clause 1 and Article I, Section 4, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

The act requires states to provide designated congressional election observers with full access to clearly observe all elements of administration procedures of federal elections, including access to any area in which a ballot is cast, processed, scanned, tabulated, canvassed, recounted, audited, or certified, including during pre- and post-election procedures.

The act prohibits such an observer from handling ballots or election equipment, advocating for a position or candidate, taking any action to reduce ballot secrecy or voter privacy, taking any action to interfere with the ability of a voter to cast a ballot or an election administrator to carry out the administrator's duties, or otherwise interfering with the election administration process.

The act specifies the conduct for which designated congressional election observers may be removed by election officials. In the event of removal, the election official must, within 24 hours of the observer's removal, provide written notice to the chair and ranking minority member of the House Committee on House Administration or the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 4, 2024:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 4, 2024:** Became Public Law No: 118-106.
- **Oct 1, 2024:** Presented to President.
- **Sep 25, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 25, 2024:** Mr. Steil moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H5791-5792)
- **Sep 25, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with 40 minutes of debate on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 6513.
- **Sep 25, 2024:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 25, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. H.R. 6513 - "An Act to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections." (consideration: CR H5800)
- **Sep 25, 2024:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413 - 1 (Roll no. 449). (text: CR H5791)
- **Sep 25, 2024:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 413 - 1 (Roll no. 449). (text: CR H5791)
- **Sep 25, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Senate Committee on Rules and Administration discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 24, 2024:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 10, 2024:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Mr. Steil moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5049-5051)
- **Sep 9, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 6513.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5049-5050)
- **Sep 9, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5049-5050)
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 29, 2024:** Reported by the Committee on House Administration. H. Rept. 118-361.
- **Jan 29, 2024:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 296.
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on House Administration.
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held
- **Nov 30, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.