

S 2231

Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Feb 1, 2006

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 1, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/2231>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Byrd, Robert C. [D-WV]

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

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 1, 2006
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Feb 1, 2006
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 2, 2006
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Feb 2, 2006
Sen. Obama, Barack [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 2, 2006
Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 6, 2006
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 6, 2006
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		Feb 6, 2006
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 7, 2006
Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 28, 2006
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 2, 2006
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		May 18, 2006
Sen. Santorum, Rick [R-PA]	R · PA		May 18, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 1, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 4695	Identical bill	May 1, 2006: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006 - Directs the Secretary of Labor to revise regulations prescribed pursuant to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to require coal mine operators to expeditiously provide notification of any accident where rescue and recovery work is necessary.

Requires the Secretary to revise regulations regarding mine rescue teams to: (1) address training and qualifications for team members, rescue equipment and technology, the structure and organization of teams, and the guidelines about liability and insurance issues; and (2) require that mine operators employ rescue teams to provide a rapid response and have a plan for coordination and communication between the rescue teams and local emergency response personnel.

Directs the Secretary to prescribe regulations to require: (1) each coal mine to maintain at strategic locations sufficient emergency supplies of air and self-contained breathing equipment, and independent means of communication with the surface, for people awaiting rescue; and (2) each operator to implement a communication and electronic tracking system to assist in rescue and to equip each person that enters a mine with certain communication and tracking devices.

Requires the Secretary to revise regulations in order to prohibit belt haulage entries from being used to ventilate active working places in any coal mine.

Directs the Secretary to prescribe regulations to establish minimum civil penalties for violations: (1) where the operator displays negligence or reckless disregard of a mandatory health or safety standard; and (2) of rescue notification requirements.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) establish an Office of Science and Technology Transfer within the Mine Safety and Health Administration to conduct research and development to apply advancing sciences and technologies to mines and miner health and safety; (2) review and revise mine health and safety standards with regard to implementing such technologies.

Establishes the position of Miner Ombudsman within the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Labor to be responsible for ensuring the safety of mines through information collection and sharing.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 1, 2006:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 1, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S449-451, S451)
- **Feb 1, 2006:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.