

S 2308

Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006

**Congress:** 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Feb 16, 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 16, 2006)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/2308>

Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Byrd, Robert C. [D-WV]	D · WV		Feb 16, 2006
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Feb 16, 2006
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Feb 16, 2006
Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 16, 2006
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 16, 2006
Sen. Santorum, Rick [R-PA]	R · PA		Feb 16, 2006
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 7, 2006
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		May 18, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 16, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Mine Safety and Health Act of 2006 - Amends the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to impose additional health and safety requirements for all coal or other mines, including regarding: (1) the strategic location of an oxygen station; (2) wireless emergency tracking devices; (3) wireless communication devices; (4) restricting communications relating to a rescue operation only to individuals participating in the rescue; and (5) secondary telephone service.

Requires interviews of miners regarding an accident or occurrence without the presence of the mine operator.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to: (1) establish rules for conducting investigations of mine accidents; and (2) report to specified congressional committees within 30 days of completing an investigation.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) conduct a quarterly review of a mine operator's ventilation system, methane and dust control plan, and roof control plan; and (2) contact an operator who has received a citation within 24 hours to ensure that steps are being taken to correct the safety violation.

Requires the Secretary to establish a central communications emergency call center for all coal and other mine operations.

Imposes increased penalties for flagrant violations of mine safety standards, for failure to promptly report mine disasters, and for habitual violators of mine safety standards. Imposes additional user fees on mine operators who incur such penalties and dedicates such fees for equipment, training, and other expenses relating to mine safety.

Requires all miners to receive training in the proper usage of wireless communications devices. Requires rescue workers to participate in unannounced emergency rescue drills at an operating mine at least twice a year.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 16, 2006:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S1429-1430)
- **Feb 16, 2006:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.