

## S 1580

### Protecting America's Workers Act

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Aug 5, 2009

**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. (Aug 5, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1580>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]

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

### Cosponsors (24 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT]	D · CT		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Harkin, Tom [D-IA]	D · IA		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Aug 5, 2009
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Sep 10, 2009
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Dec 7, 2009
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [I-CT]	ID · CT		Apr 30, 2010
Sen. Burris, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 14, 2010
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 18, 2010

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 5, 2009

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2067	Identical bill	<b>Apr 28, 2010:</b> Subcommittee Hearings Held.

## Summary (as of Aug 5, 2009)

Protecting America's Workers Act - Amends the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) to expand its coverage to federal, state, and local government employees.

Authorizes the Secretary of Labor, under specified conditions, to cede OSHA jurisdiction to another federal agency with respect to certain occupational standards or regulations for such agency's employees. Declares OSHA inapplicable to working conditions covered by the Federal Mine Safety and Heath Act of 1977.

Sets forth increased protections for whistle blowers under OSHA.

Sets forth provisions relating to: (1) the posting of employee rights; (2) a prohibition against the adoption or implementation of policies or practices by employers that discourage the reporting of work-related injuries or illnesses or that discriminate or provide for adverse action against any employee for reporting such injury or illness; (3) a prohibition against the loss of wages or employee benefits as a result of an employee participating in or aiding workplace inspections; (4) investigations of incidents in a place of employment resulting in a death or the hospitalization of two or more employees; (5) a prohibition against designating a citation for an occupational health and safety standard violation as an unclassified citation; (6) the rights of an employee who has sustained a work-related injury or illness that is the subject of an investigation; (7) an employer's right to contest citations and penalties; (8) the Secretary's assertion of an employer's failure to correct a serious hazard during an employer's contest to a citation; and (9) employee objections to modifications of citations.

Increases civil and criminal penalties for certain OSHA violators.

Requires a state that has an approved plan for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards to amend its plan to conform to the requirements of this Act within 12 months after enactment of this Act.

## Actions Timeline

- **Aug 5, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 5, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S8867)
- **Aug 5, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.