

S 263

Servicemembers Access to Justice Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jan 15, 2009

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-81.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-81. (Apr 29, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/263>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 15, 2009
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 24, 2009
Sen. Burris, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 22, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Apr 29, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 1474	Identical bill	Apr 27, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Servicemembers Access to Justice Act of 2009 - Waives a state's sovereign immunity with respect to the enforcement of uniformed services members' employment or reemployment rights or benefits under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

Makes unenforceable agreements between an employer and employee requiring arbitration of disputes arising under USERRA. Provides exceptions. Requires the validity and enforceability of such an agreement to be determined by a court (as opposed to the arbitrator).

Provides increased liquidated damages, and authorizes punitive damages, against state or private employer violations of USERRA. Provides a right to a jury trial in such cases.

Requires (under current law, authorizes) the award of attorney fees in actions to enforce USERRA.

Defines "successor in interest" for USERRA purposes.

Prohibits wage discrimination against members covered under USERRA.

Requires (under current law, authorizes) a court to use equitable relief, including injunctions and restraining orders when appropriate, for USERRA violations.

Amends the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to require federal procurement contracts to include a notice that the contractor may have USERRA obligations.

Requires a Comptroller General study on the effectiveness of federal education and outreach programs on employer obligations under USERRA.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 29, 2009:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-81.
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 15, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.