

S 574

Plain Writing Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Mar 11, 2009

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 222.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 222. (Dec 9, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/574>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 11, 2009
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 11, 2009
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Mar 11, 2009
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Mar 11, 2009
Sen. Voinovich, George V. [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 11, 2009
Sen. Burris, Roland [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 23, 2009
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 31, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 9, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 946	Related bill	Oct 13, 2010: Became Public Law No: 111-274.

Plain Writing Act of 2009 - Requires each executive agency to use plain writing in every document (other than a regulation) issued to the public, including documents and other text released in electronic form.

Requires the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance on implementing such requirements to agencies as a circular. Authorizes agencies, pending issuance of such guidance, to follow the writing guidelines developed by the Plain Language Action and Information Network or their own guidance as long as it is consistent with such guidelines.

Requires each agency head to report to specified congressional committees on how the agency intends to: (1) communicate the requirements of this Act to employees; (2) train employees in plain writing; (3) meet the plain writing requirement; (4) ensure ongoing compliance with this Act; and (5) designate a senior official to be responsible for implementing this Act. Requires: (1) agency heads to report on compliance to OMB; and (2) OMB to report on the progress of agencies to such committees.

Declares that: (1) there shall be no judicial review of compliance with this Act; and (2) no provision of this Act shall be construed to create any enforceable right or benefit.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 9, 2009:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Lieberman with an amendment. With written report No. 111-102.
- **Dec 9, 2009:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 222.
- **Apr 1, 2009:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment favorably.
- **Mar 11, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3032)
- **Mar 11, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3032-3033)

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