

S 657

Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Mar 19, 2009

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 361.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 361. (Apr 29, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/657>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Feingold, Russell D. [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]	R · PA		Mar 19, 2009
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Sep 9, 2009
Sen. Kaufman, Edward E. [D-DE]	D · DE		Apr 29, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Apr 29, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 3054	Related bill	Jul 23, 2009: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2009 - Authorizes the presiding judge of a U.S. appellate court or U.S. district court to permit the photographing, electronic recording, broadcasting, or televising to the public of court proceedings over which that judge presides, except when such action would constitute a violation of the due process rights of any party.

Directs: (1) a district court, upon the request of any witness in a trial proceeding other than a party, to order the face and voice of the witness to be disguised or otherwise obscured to render the witness unrecognizable to the broadcast audience of the trial proceeding; and (2) the presiding judge in a trial proceeding to inform each witness who is not a party of the right to make such request.

Authorizes the Judicial Conference of the United States to promulgate advisory guidelines to which a presiding judge may refer in making decisions regarding the management and administration of photographing, recording, broadcasting, or televising described in this Act.

Requires the Judicial Conference of the United States to promulgate mandatory guidelines which a presiding judge must follow for obscuring certain vulnerable witnesses.

Prohibits broadcast of conferences between attorneys and clients.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 29, 2010:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Apr 29, 2010:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Leahy without amendment. Without written report.
- **Apr 29, 2010:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 361.
- **Mar 19, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 19, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.