

S 538

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the authorities and responsibilities of convening authorities in taking actions on the findings and sentences of courts-martial.

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Mar 12, 2013

Current Status: Committee on Armed Services. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-320.

Latest Action: Committee on Armed Services. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-320. (Jun 4, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/538>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | May 9, 2013 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | May 13, 2013 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | May 14, 2013 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Armed Services Committee | Senate | Hearings By (full committee) | Jun 4, 2013 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 113 HR 2016 | Related bill | Jun 20, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel. |
| 113 S 967 | Related bill | Jun 4, 2013: Committee on Armed Services. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-320. |

Amends the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to require a convening authority (the official acting on the sentence of a court-martial), when taking any action other than approving a sentence, to prepare a written justification of such action which shall be made part of the record of the court-martial.

Prohibits a convening authority (or person acting in such capacity) from: (1) dismissing or setting aside a finding of guilty, or (2) reducing a finding of guilty to a finding of guilty to a lesser included offense. Repeals an inconsistent UCMJ provision.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 4, 2013:** Committee on Armed Services. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-320.
- **Mar 12, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 12, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (consideration: CR S5461)