

## S 1714

Miners Protection Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Jul 7, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Jul 7, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1714>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]

**Party:** Independent • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (26 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jul 16, 2015
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Sep 9, 2015
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Oct 8, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 3, 2015
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Nov 18, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Nov 18, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Nov 30, 2015
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 15, 2016
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		May 16, 2016
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		May 25, 2016
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 29, 2016
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Sep 20, 2016
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Sep 22, 2016
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Sep 28, 2016
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Sep 29, 2016
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Nov 17, 2016
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 30, 2016
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Dec 8, 2016
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Dec 9, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 7, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 3470	Related bill	<b>Nov 16, 2016:</b> Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 669.
114 HR 2403	Related bill	<b>Jun 10, 2015:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

## **Miners Protection Act of 2015**

This bill amends the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to address potential shortages in the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan for payment of health care benefits to retired coal miners by expanding the eligible uses of interest transferable to such plan from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, and supplemental payments from the General Fund of the Treasury. The calculation of such interest and payments shall be made by taking into account only those beneficiaries who are actually enrolled in the plan as of the enactment of this Act, as well as those retirees whose health care benefits, payable directly by an employer in the bituminous coal industry under a coal wage agreement, would be denied or reduced as a result of a bankruptcy proceeding commenced in 2012.

The bill requires the Department of the Treasury to transfer to the trustees of the 1974 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Pension Plan additional funds to pay pension benefits required under that plan, if the \$490 million cap on certain transfers to the UMWA Combined Benefit Fund and distributions to states and Indian tribes exceed the aggregate amount required to be transferred to them.

The bill also expands the annual reporting requirements of the trustees of the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan on plan solvency and value of plan assets.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 7, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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