

## S 1738

### Safer Communities Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Crime and Law Enforcement

**Introduced:** Jul 9, 2015

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

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jul 9, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1738>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

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

## Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 9, 2015

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3926	Related bill	Nov 6, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
114 S 2192	Related bill	Oct 21, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
114 HR 2994	Related bill	Jul 29, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
114 S 1588	Related bill	Jun 16, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
114 HR 1217	Related bill	Mar 31, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
114 HR 731	Related bill	Mar 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
114 HR 1211	Related bill	Mar 6, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

## **Safer Communities Act of 2015**

This bill provides grants to expand mental health crisis assistance programs, to support comprehensive school mental health programs, and to enhance mental health and substance abuse needs of prison inmates.

The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to expand research on violence associated with mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

It requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to expand the National Violent Death Reporting System to all 50 states and to research the causes, mechanisms, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of injuries from gun violence.

The bill states that no provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act prohibits physicians from asking patients about guns in their homes, speaking to a patient about gun safety, or reporting a patient's threat of violence.

It amends the Gun Control Act of 1968 to specify that the term "committed to a mental institution" applies to involuntary inpatient or outpatient treatment.

The bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to permit the Department of Justice (DOJ) to award grants to states to remove firearms from individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others.

DOJ must promptly notify law enforcement agencies when a prohibited person attempts to purchase a firearm.

The bill replaces statutory references to persons "adjudicated as a mental defective" with persons "adjudicated as ineligible due to disqualifying mental status."

It amends the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007 to:

- establish procedures to restore firearm ownership rights after a mental health adjudication or commitment,
- require an annual report on record submissions due to domestic violence misdemeanor convictions,
- authorize state grants to improve the automation and transmittal of mental health and criminal history records, and
- require quarterly updates to federal agency record submissions.

The bill reauthorizes the National Criminal History Records Improvement Program for FY2016-FY2019.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jul 9, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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