

HR 2090

Protecting America's Workers Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Apr 29, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. (Nov 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2090>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]

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

Cosponsors (36 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		May 12, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		May 12, 2015
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Sep 24, 2015
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Oct 1, 2015
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Oct 6, 2015
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11]	D · OH		Oct 7, 2015
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Oct 21, 2015
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jan 8, 2016
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		Feb 2, 2016
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2016
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Mar 2, 2016
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Green, Al [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]	D · WA		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Apr 27, 2016
Rep. Larson, John B. [D-CT-1]	D · CT		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		May 10, 2016
Rep. Grayson, Alan [D-FL-9]	D · FL		May 10, 2016
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		May 10, 2016
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		May 10, 2016
Rep. Visclosky, Peter J. [D-IN-1]	D · IN		May 10, 2016
Rep. Aguilar, Pete [D-CA-31]	D · CA		Jun 10, 2016
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]	D · WI		Jun 10, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 128	Related bill	Apr 29, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
114 S 1112	Related bill	Apr 28, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2477-2478)

Protecting America's Workers Act

Amends the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) to expand its coverage to federal, state, and local government employees.

Authorizes the Secretary of Labor, under specified conditions, to cede OSHA jurisdiction to another federal agency with respect to certain occupational standards or regulations for such agency's employees. Declares OSHA inapplicable to working conditions covered by the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977.

Increases protections for whistle blowers under OSHA.

Prescribes requirements relating to:

- a employer's duty to furnish a place of employment free from recognized hazards causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm that the employer creates or controls or in which the employer exposes any individual (not just an employer's employee) performing work there;
- the posting of employee rights;
- a site-controlling employer's duty to keep a site log for recordable injuries and illnesses of all employees, including employees of the site-controlling employer or others (including independent contractors) performing work there;
- employer reporting of employee work-related deaths or hospitalizations;
- a prohibition against employers adopting or implementing policies or practices that discourage or discriminate against employee reporting of work-related injuries or illnesses;
- a prohibition against the loss of wages or employee benefits due to an employee participating in a workplace inspection;
- investigations of incidents resulting in death or the hospitalization of two or more employees which occur in a place of employment; and
- a prohibition against the issuing, modifying, or settling of unclassified citations for occupational health and safety standard violations.

Continues requirements relating to: (1) the rights of an employee (including a former employee or family member in lieu of an employee) who has sustained a work-related injury or illness that is the subject of an inspection or investigation; (2) an employer's right to contest citations and penalties; and (3) periods permitted for an employer to correct serious, willful, or repeated violations pending an employer's contest to a citation and procedures for stays of the time period for abatement of those violations.

Increases civil and criminal penalties for certain OSHA violators.

States that pre-final order interest on any penalties owed shall begin to accrue on the date a party contests a citation, at an interest rate calculated at the current underpayment rate.

Prescribes requirements for the Secretary's evaluation of state occupational safety and health plans as well as workplace health hazard evaluations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Revises requirements for state plans for the development and enforcement of state occupational safety and health standards in lieu of applicable federal occupational safety and health standards. Requires the Secretary to approve plans

that provide for state consideration of repeated occupational safety and health violations committed by an employer within the state as well as those committed under other occupational safety and health plans in states where the Secretary has jurisdiction.

Requires a state that has an approved plan for the development and enforcement of occupational safety and health standards to amend its plan to conform to the requirements of this Act within 12 months after enactment of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
- **Apr 29, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 29, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.