

S 2566

Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Feb 23, 2016

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 23, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2566>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 23, 2016
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 23, 2016
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 1, 2016
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 14, 2016
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 20, 2016
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Apr 21, 2016
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Apr 21, 2016
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 28, 2016
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		May 11, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 23, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5578	Related bill	Oct 7, 2016: Became Public Law No: 114-236.
114 HR 5571	Related bill	Jun 30, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act

This bill amends the federal criminal code to establish statutory rights for sexual assault survivors, including the right to: (1) receive a forensic medical examination at no cost, (2) have a sexual assault evidence collection kit (i.e., rape kit) preserved for the maximum applicable statute of limitations, (3) receive written notification prior to destruction or disposal of a rape kit, and (4) be informed of the rights and policies under this section.

Additionally, it makes statutory crime victims' rights applicable to sexual assault survivors.

The bill amends the Victims' Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 to include information about sexual assault services, programs, and providers in the description of services provided to victims.

The bill amends the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 to authorize the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Office of Justice Programs to make grants to states to develop sexual assault survivors' rights and policies and to disseminate written notice of such rights and policies to medical centers, hospitals, forensic examiners, sexual assault service providers, law enforcement agencies, and other state entities.

DOJ and the Department of Health and Human Services must establish a joint working group to develop, coordinate, and disseminate best practices regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors and the preservation of forensic evidence.

It expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) DOJ should discourage prosecutions of sexual assault survivors for minor offenses (e.g., underage alcohol consumption), particularly if the evidence of such offense is discovered through a medical forensic examination, and (2) survivors should be informed that they will not be prosecuted for minor offenses discovered through a medical forensic examination.

For purposes of this bill, the term "sexual assault survivor" includes a deceased victim of sexual assault.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 23, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 23, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.